

persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Title: Specified Risk Materials—Transport Documentation.

OMB Control Number: 0583–NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by ensuring that meat products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. FSIS is requiring official slaughter establishments that transport carcasses or parts of cattle that contain vertebral columns from cattle 30 months of age and older to another federally-inspected establishment for further processing and to maintain records that verify that the official establishment that received the carcasses or parts removed and properly disposed of the portions of the vertebral column designated as specified risk materials (SRMs).

Need and Use of the Information: FSIS will collect information that requires establishments that transport carcasses or parts from cattle 30 months or older for further processing will have to maintain records that verify that the receiving establishment removed and properly disposed of the SRMs.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 70.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 700.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E7–22566 Filed 11–16–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Annual List of Newspapers To Be Used by the Alaska Region for Publication of Legal Notices of Proposed Actions and Legal Notices of Decisions Subject to Administrative Appeal Under 36 CFR 215

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the

Alaska Region will use to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215 and to publish legal notices for public comment on actions subject to the notice and comment provisions of 36 CFR part 215, as updated on June 4, 2003. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notice of actions subject to public comment and decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215, thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision or proposed action, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers begins on January 1, 2008. This list of newspapers will remain in effect until it is superseded by a new list, published in the **FEDERAL REGISTER**.

ADDRESSES: Robin Dale, Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; Forest Service, Alaska Region; P.O. Box 21628; Juneau, Alaska 99802–1628.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robin Dale; Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; (907) 586–9344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice provides the list of newspapers that Responsible Officials in the Alaska Region will use to give notice of decisions subject to notice, comment, and appeal under 36 CFR part 215. The timeframe for comment on a proposed action shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the proposed action in the newspapers of record identified in this notice. The timeframe for appeal under 36 CFR part 215 shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record identified in this notice.

The newspapers to be used for giving notice of Forest Service decisions in the Alaska Region are as follows:

Alaska Regional Office

Decision of the Alaska Regional Forester: Juneau Empire, published daily except Saturday and official holidays in Juneau, Alaska; and the Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Chugach National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor and the Glacier and Seward District Rangers: Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Decisions of the Cordova District Ranger: Cordova Times, published weekly in Cordova, Alaska.

Tongass National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor and the Craig, Ketchikan/Misty, and Thorne Bay District Rangers: Ketchikan Daily News, published daily except Sundays and official holidays in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Decisions of the Admiralty Island National Monument Ranger, the Juneau District Ranger, the Hoonah District Ranger, and the Yakutat District Ranger: Juneau Empire, published daily except Saturday and official holidays in Juneau, Alaska.

Decisions of the Petersburg District Ranger: Petersburg Pilot, published weekly in Petersburg, Alaska.

Decisions of the Sitka District Ranger: Daily Sitka Sentinel, published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and official holidays in Sitka, Alaska.

Decisions of the Wrangell District Ranger: Wrangell Sentinel, published weekly in Wrangell, Alaska.

Supplemental notices may be published in any newspaper, but the timeframes for making comments or filing appeals will be calculated based upon the date that notices are published in the newspapers of record listed in this notice.

Dated: November 5, 2007.

Denny Bschor,

Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 07–5704 Filed 11–16–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Stanislaus National Forest, CA; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Stanislaus National Forest (STF) will prepare an environmental impact statement disclosing the impacts of the following proposed actions:

1. Add approximately 126.2 miles of existing unauthorized routes to the National Forest System (NFS) of trails open to public wheeled motorized use.
2. Add approximately 0.03 miles of unauthorized routes to the NFS of roads open to public wheeled motorized use.
3. Convert approximately 16.3 miles of existing NFS roads to NFS trails open to public wheeled motorized use.

4. Change approximately 11.6 miles of existing NFS roads closed to public wheeled motorized use to NFS roads open to public wheeled motorized use.

5. Change approximately 24.5 miles of existing NFS roads open to public wheeled motorized use to NFS roads closed to public wheeled motorized use.

6. Change approximately 73.7 miles of existing NFS roads open to highway legal vehicles only to NFS roads open to all public wheeled motorized use.

7. Change approximately 214.2 miles of existing NFS roads open to all public wheeled motorized use to NFS roads open to highway legal vehicles only.

8. Prohibit public motorized travel off of designated NFS roads and trails except where: (a) traveling up to 100 feet off of designated NFS roads and NFS trails for direct access to campsites, parking, woodcutting, or gathering forest products provided that no resource damage occurs and such access is not otherwise prohibited, totaling approximately 2,272.9 miles or, (b) allowed by permit or other authorization, totaling 1.0 miles.

9. Provide for certain seasonal closures to wheeled motorized travel on NFS roads and trails to protect resources, totaling approximately 837.5 miles.

DATES: Comments on the proposed action should be submitted within 45 days of the date of publication of this Notice of Intent. Completion of the draft environmental impact statement is expected in May 2008 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in October 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Stanislaus National Forest, Attn: Motorized Travel; 19777 Greenley Road; Sonora, CA 95370. Electronic comments, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-stanislaus@fs.fed.us with Subject: Motorized Travel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Warren, Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road; Sonora, CA 95370; phone: (209) 532-3671 ext. 321; e-mail: swarren@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General Background

Over the past few decades, the availability and capability of motorized vehicles, particularly off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) has increased tremendously. Nationally, the number of OHV users has climbed sevenfold in the past 30 years, from approximately 5 million in 1972 to 36 million in 2000. The ten states with the largest

populations also have the most OHV use. California has 4.5 million OHV recreationists, accounting for almost 11% of the U.S. total (Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the United States, Regions, and States: A National Report from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE); Cordell, Betz, and Owens, June 2005). There were 786,914 ATVs and OHV motorcycles registered in 2004, up 330% since 1980. Annual sales of ATVs and OHV motorcycles in California were the highest in the U.S. for the last 5 years. Four-wheel drive vehicle sales had also increased by 1500% to 3,046,866 from 1989 to 2002 in California.

On August 11, 2003, the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service entered into a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. That MOI set in motion a region-wide effort to "designate OHV roads, trails, and any specifically defined open areas for motorized wheeled vehicles on maps of the 19 National Forests in California by 2007." On November 9, 2005, the Forest Service published final travel management regulations in the **Federal Register** (FR Vol. 70, No. 216–Nov. 9, 2005, pp 68264–68291). This final Travel Management Rule requires designation of those roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use on National Forests. Designations will be made by class of vehicle and, if appropriate, by time of year. The final rule prohibits the use of motor vehicles off the designated system as well as use of motor vehicles on routes and in areas that are not designated.

Unmanaged Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use has resulted in unplanned roads and trails; erosion, watershed and habitat degradation; and impacts to cultural resource sites. Compaction and erosion are the primary effects of OHV use on soils. Riparian areas and aquatic dependent species are particularly vulnerable to OHV use. Unmanaged recreation, including impacts from OHVs, is one of "Four Key Threats Facing the Nation's Forests and Grasslands." (USDA Forest Service, June 2004).

Forest Background

In accordance with the MOI, the STF completed an inventory of motorized use on NFS lands in 2005 and identified approximately 270 miles of unauthorized routes. The STF then used an interdisciplinary process to conduct travel analysis that included working

with the public to determine whether any of the inventoried motorized routes should be proposed for addition to the STF transportation system. Roads and trails that are currently part of the STF transportation system and are open to wheeled motorized vehicle travel will be designated for such use as described below under the Proposed Action. The proposed action focuses only on the prohibition of wheeled motorized vehicle travel off designated routes and needed changes to the STF transportation system, including the addition of unauthorized routes to the STF transportation system and changes to existing motor vehicle restrictions.

The proposed action is being carried forward in accordance with the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR Part 212). Following a decision on this proposal, the STF will publish a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) identifying all STF roads and trails that are designated for motor vehicle use. The MVUM shall specify the classes of vehicles and, if appropriate, the times of year for which use is designated.

Purpose and Need for Action

Recent travel analysis identified a need to make changes to the NFS of roads and motorized trails. These needs include:

1. There is a need for regulation of unmanaged wheeled motorized vehicle travel by the public. Currently, wheeled motorized vehicle travel by the public is not prohibited off designated routes. As a result, motorized vehicle users have created numerous unauthorized routes. The number of such routes continues to grow each year with unaddressed environmental impacts and safety concerns. The Travel Management Rule, 36 CFR Part 212, provides policy for ending this trend of unauthorized route proliferation and managing the Forest transportation system in a sustainable manner through designation of motorized NFS roads, trails and areas, and the prohibition of cross-country travel.

2. There is a need for limited changes to the National Forest Transportation System to:

2.1 Provide a diversity of wheeled motorized recreation opportunities (4WD, motorcycles, ATVs, passenger vehicles, etc.).

2.2 Provide wheeled motorized access to dispersed recreation opportunities such as camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, etc.

2.3 Protect FS administrative sites and protect hydropower facilities.

It is Forest Service policy to provide a diversity of road and trail opportunities for experiencing a variety

of environments and modes of travel consistent with the National Forest recreation role and land capability (FSM 2353.03(2)). In meeting these needs the proposed action must also achieve the following purposes:

- a. Avoid impacts to cultural resources.
- b. Provide for public safety.
- c. Provide for a diversity of recreational opportunities.
- d. Assure adequate access to public and private lands.
- e. Provide for adequate maintenance and administration of designations based on availability of resources and funding to do so.
- f. Minimize damage to soil, vegetation and other forest resources.
- g. Avoid harassment of wildlife and significant disruption of wildlife habitat.
- h. Minimize conflicts between wheeled motor vehicles and existing or proposed recreational uses of NFS lands.
- i. Minimize conflicts among different classes of wheeled motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or neighboring federal lands.
- j. Assure compatibility of wheeled motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, etc.
- k. Honor valid existing rights of use and access (rights-of-way).

Proposed Action

Based on the stated purpose and need for action, and as a result of the travel analysis process, the STF proposes to change the use of 324 miles of NFS roads and add approximately 142.5 miles to its NFS motorized trails. These changes would adjust the total NFS roads to approximately 3,415 miles and the total NFS motorized trails to 186.2 miles. The proposed action includes the following items:

1. Add approximately 126.2 miles of existing unauthorized routes to the National Forest System (NFS) of trails open to public wheeled motorized use.
2. Add approximately 0.03 miles of unauthorized routes to the NFS of roads open to public wheeled motorized use.
3. Convert approximately 16.3 miles of existing NFS roads to NFS trails open to public wheeled motorized use.
4. Change approximately 11.6 miles of existing NFS roads closed to public wheeled motorized use to NFS roads open to public wheeled motorized use.
5. Change approximately 24.5 miles of existing NFS roads open to public wheeled motorized use to NFS roads closed to public wheeled motorized use.
6. Change approximately 73.7 miles of existing NFS roads open to highway legal vehicles only to NFS roads open to all public wheeled motorized use.

7. Change approximately 214.2 miles of existing NFS roads open to all public wheeled motorized use to NFS roads open to highway legal vehicles only.

8. Prohibit public motorized travel off of designated NFS roads and trails except where: (a) Traveling up to 100 feet off of designated NFS roads and NFS trails for direct access to campsites, parking, woodcutting, or gathering forest products provided that no resource damage occurs and such access is not otherwise prohibited, totaling approximately 2,272.9 miles or, (b) allowed by permit or other authorization, totaling 1.0 miles.

9. Provide for certain seasonal closures to wheeled motorized travel on NFS roads and trails to protect resources, totaling approximately 837.5 miles.

Maps and tables describing in detail both the STF transportation system and the proposed action can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/projects/ohv>. In addition, maps and tables will be available for viewing at: Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370; Calaveras Ranger District, PO Box 500 (Highway 4), Hathaway Pines, CA 95233; Groveland Ranger District, 24545 Highway 120, Groveland, CA 95321; Mi-Wuk Ranger District, PO Box 100 (24695 Highway 108), Mi-Wuk Village, CA 95346, and Summit Ranger District, #1 Pinecrest Lake Road, Pinecrest, CA 95364.

Responsible Official

Tom Quinn, Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The project area is forestwide (outside of Wilderness and other non-motorized areas). The responsible official will decide whether to adopt and implement the proposed action, an alternative to the proposed action, or take no action to make changes to the existing Stanislaus National Forest Transportation System and prohibit cross country wheeled motorized vehicle travel by the public off the designated system. Previous NEPA decisions that addressed motorized use of NFS roads and trails on three areas on the Forest: The Summit Ranger District, the Interface Trails, and the Granite Watershed Enhancement Project on Groveland, are not being reconsidered at this time.

Once the decision is made, the Stanislaus National Forest will publish a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) identifying the roads, trails and areas that are designated for motor vehicle

use. The MVUM shall specify the classes of vehicles and, if appropriate, the times of year for which use is designated.

Scoping Process

Public participation is important at numerous points during the analysis. The Forest Service seeks information, comments, and assistance from the federal, state, and local agencies and individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Comments on the proposed action should be submitted within 60 days of the date of publication of this Notice of Intent. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by approximately May 2008. EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will extend 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the management of the Stanislaus National Forest participate at that time.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in October 2008. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision. Substantive comments are defined as "comments within the scope of the proposed action, specific to the proposed action, and have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider" (36 CFR 215.2). Only those who submit comment during the comment period on the draft EIS are eligible to appeal the subsequent decision under the 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. A draft EIS will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft environmental impact statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21.

Dated: November 13, 2007.

Tom Quinn,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E7-22571 Filed 11-16-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Forest Service

Extension of Certain Timber Sale Contracts; Finding of Substantial Overriding Public Interest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of contract extensions.

SUMMARY: On November 2, 2007, the Chief of the Forest Service determined there is Substantial Overriding Public Interest in extending certain National Forest System timber sale contracts for up to one year, subject to a maximum total contract length of 10 years. Pursuant to the November 2, 2007, finding, timber sale contracts awarded prior to January 1, 2007, are eligible for extension and deferral of periodic payment due dates for up to one year. This finding does not apply to (1) contracts that have been or are currently eligible to be extended under market related contract term addition (MRCTA) contract provisions, except sales using the Hardwood Lumber index that were awarded after December 31, 2005, (2) salvage sale contracts that were sold with the objective of harvesting deteriorating timber, (3) contracts the Forest Service determines are in urgent need of harvesting due to deteriorating timber conditions that have developed following award of the contract, or (4) contracts that are in breach. To receive an extension, purchasers must make a written request to the appropriate Contracting Officer. Purchasers also must agree to release the Forest Service from all claims and liability if a contract extended pursuant to the November 2, 2007, finding is suspended, modified, or terminated in the future.

The intended effect of the Substantial Overriding Public Interest finding and contract extensions is to minimize contract defaults, mill closures, and company bankruptcies. The Government benefits if defaulted timber sale contracts, mill closures, and bankruptcies can be avoided by granting extensions. Having numerous, economically viable, timber sale purchasers increases competition for National Forest System timber sales, results in higher prices paid for such timber, and allows the Forest Service to provide a continuous supply of timber to the public in accordance with Forest Service authorizing legislation. See Act of June 4, 1897 (Ch. 2, 30 Stat. 11 as amended, 16 U.S.C. 475) (Organic Administration Act). In addition, by extending contracts and avoiding defaults, closures, and bankruptcies, the Government avoids the difficult,

lengthy, expensive, and sometimes impossible process of collecting default damages.

DATES: The determination was made on November 2, 2007, by the Chief of the Forest Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lathrop Smith, Forest Management Staff, (202) 205-0858 or Richard Fitzgerald, Forest Management Staff (202) 205-1753; 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Mailstop 1103, Washington, DC 20250-1103.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service sells timber and forest products from National Forest System lands to individuals or companies pursuant to the National Forest Management Act of 1976, 16 U.S.C. 472a (NFMA). Each sale is formalized by execution of a contract between the purchaser and the Forest Service. The contract sets forth the explicit terms and provisions of the sale including such matters as the estimated volume of timber to be removed, the period for removal, price to be paid to the Government, road construction and logging requirements, and environmental protection measures to be taken. The average contract period is approximately two to three years, although a few contracts have terms of five or more years.

Rules in 36 CFR 223.52 (Market Related Contract Term Additions) permit contract extensions when the Chief of the Forest Service determines that adverse wood product market conditions have resulted in a drastic decline in wood product prices. Under market-related contract addition procedures, the Forest Service refers to the following three producer price indices maintained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics: Softwood Lumber #0811 and Hardwood Lumber #0812 in the Commodity Series, and Wood Chips #PCU32113321135 in the Industry Series.

The Softwood and Hardwood Lumber indices indicate a major downturn in those markets began following a peak in September 2004 and was still on a downward trend as of September 2007, with the relative Softwood Lumber index decreasing by about 36 percent and the Hardwood Lumber index decreasing by about 19 percent, during this time. While most purchasers holding contracts with those indices have received or are eligible to receive MRCTA, an anomaly in the wood