

Comments

Comments and invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0743, Washington, DC 20250-0753. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comment will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Jan E. Shadburn,

Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

Dated: December 23, 1996.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 96-33327 Filed 12-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-U

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Termination of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of termination.

SUMMARY: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) herewith gives notice that it will terminate the current (1995/1997) Standard Reinsurance Agreement effective as of June 30, 1997.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. Heyward Baker, Acting Director, Reinsurance Services Division, Insurance Services, Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence

Avenue, SW, Room 6727-S, Washington, D.C. 20250, telephone (202) 720-4232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section V.J. of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement, this action is necessary to provide FCIC sufficient time to address proposed changes for the 1998 Standard Reinsurance Agreement, including those recommended by the crop insurance industry and the Office of Management and Budget and proposed in the President's 1998 budget proposal. FCIC also intends to address reinsurance for Crop Revenue Coverage and catastrophic risk protection policies.

Accordingly, the FCIC herewith gives notice that it will terminate the current (1995/1997) Standard Reinsurance Agreement effective June 30, 1997.

Signed in Washington, D.C. on December 27, 1996.

Kenneth D. Ackerman,

Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 97-00059 Filed 12-30-96; 12:08 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-FA-P

Forest Service

Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Cibola National Forest and Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands, Located in Colfax, Harding, Mora, Union, Catron, Sierra, Socorro, Bernalillo, Sandoval, Lincoln, Torrance, Valencia, McKinley and Cibola Counties, NM; Gray, Hemphill, and Dallam Counties, Texas; Roger Mills and Cimarron Counties, OK

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), Forest Plans are ordinarily revised on a 10-year cycle. The existing Cibola Forest Plan was approved on July 15, 1985, and has eight amendments.

The responsible official for approving the Forest Plan revision is Charles W. Cartwright, Jr., Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, 517 Gold Avenue, SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. The Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest, is delegated responsibility for

preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by March 11, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Jeanine A. Derby, Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest, 2113 Osuna Road NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87113-1001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jimmy E. Hibbetts, Planning Staff or Barney Lyons, Team Leader, (505) 761-4650.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Land and Resource Management Plan defines the long-term direction for managing the Cibola National Forest and the Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands. The revised Forest Plan will take an ecological approach to achieve multiple-use management of the National Forest and National Grasslands.

The Cibola National Forest identified revision topics through a process by examining the Forest Plan and determining items that need to be changed. The Five Year Evaluation and Monitoring Reports for 1986 to 1990 and 1991 to 1996 were also used to identify revision topics. This process included a number of public meetings, newsletters and meetings with local government officials and interest groups. Over 3000 letters were sent to Congressional, governmental, and tribal agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals. These contacts all aided in identifying the revision topics. Criteria was used to screen potential changes into five possible categories of action:

Revision Topics
Implementation Topics
Legislation Topics
Topics for responsible Government Entities
Research Topics

The Revision Topics are those areas of the Forest Plan, identified through monitoring, evaluation and public involvement, where a potential need for change was identified. The Revision Topics are:

Balancing Land Capability with Resource Demand
Watershed Condition Assessment and Water Uses, Rights, Quality, and Availability Assessment
Biological Diversity
Native American Collaboration
Land Grant Community Collaboration
Land Uses
Oil and Gas Leasing
Population Growth and Social Demographics
Rural Community Economics

Scenery Management Systems
Urban Interface
Wilderness Management
Recreation Management
Fire Management
Response to Legal Mandates
Access Management
Range Management

The Cibola National Forest intends to examine the primary decisions made in the Forest Plan by addressing the preliminary issues and focusing on revision topics. The following five significant preliminary issues have been identified through public comments:

Biological Consequences of Forest Management
Livestock Grazing
Recreation/Wilderness/Travel Management
Watershed Conditions
Balancing Land Capability with Resources Demands

The primary decisions to be made in the Forest Plan are:

- (a) Establishment of Forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives, including a description of the desired condition of the National Forest and Grasslands and identification of the quantities that are expected to be produced or provided during the RPA planning period (36 CFR 219.11(b)).
 - (b) Establishment of multiple-use prescriptions and associated standards and guidelines for each management area including proposed and probable management practices such as planned timber sale programs (36 CFR 219.11(c)).
 - (c) Establishment of monitoring and evaluation requirements (36 CFR 219.11(d)).
 - (d) Establishment of Forest-wide standards and guidelines to fulfill the requirements of 16 U.S.C. 1604 (The National Forest Management Act) applying to the future activities (resource integration requirements (36 CFR 219.13 through 219.27)).
 - (e) Establishment of land administratively available for oil and gas leasing and the stipulations that must be applied to specific lease areas in order that the Bureau of Land Management can authorize leases for oil and gas production, subject to review (36 CFR 228.102(d) and 228.102(e)).
 - (f) Establishment of land suitable for timber production, grazing capability and suitability and other resource activities (16 USC 1604(k) 36 CFR 29.14, 219.15, 219.20 and 219.21).
 - (g) Recommendations for the establishment of wilderness and other special designations such as research natural areas (36 CFR 219.17(a) and 219.25).
- Alternatives required by implementing regulations of the

National Forest Management Act will be considered during the planning process. An alternative addressing the Resource Planning Act program tentative resource objectives, a "no-action" alternative that reflects the current level of goods and services, and a wide range of alternatives will be developed to respond to issues, management concerns or resource opportunities identified during the planning process (40 CFR 1501.7, 1502.14(c)).

The Forest Service continues to invite comments and suggestions from Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribes, individuals and organizations on the scope of the analysis to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). In addition, the Forest Service gives notice that it is beginning a full environmental analysis and decision making process for this proposal so that interested or affected people may know how they can participate in the environmental analysis and contribute to the final decision. Public meetings will be conducted throughout the planning process and newsletters will be sent out periodically.

Forest Service personnel will describe and explain the preliminary alternatives the agency has identified and the process of environmental analysis and disclosure to be followed. Written comments are encouraged. Additional meetings with individuals or groups may be arranged by contacting Karen Carter, Public Affairs Officer, (505) 761-4650.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and proposed Revised Forest Plan should be available for public review in May 1999. After a minimum comment period of 90 days, the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Forest Plan should be completed by March 2000.

The 90 day public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will commence on the day the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a "Notice of Availability" in the Federal Register.

It is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate at that time. To be the most helpful, written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible and may also address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statements (see The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the national Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3). Please note that comments you make on the Draft Environmental

Impact Statement will be regarded as public information.

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that 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 reviewers' position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts if not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 9th Circuit, 803 F.2d 1018, 1022 (1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490F. 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 90 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.

Dated: December 26, 1996.

Robert V. Clayton,
Acting Regional Forester.
[FR Doc. 96-33331 Filed 12-31-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on January 16, 1997, in Newport, Oregon, at the Hatfield Marine Science Center (Meeting Room 9/Fireside Room), 2030 S. Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 3:45 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) evaluation of the PAC (where we are and future direction), (2) Adaptive Management Area Subcommittee recommendations, and (3) open public forum. All Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. An "open forum" is scheduled at 9:15 a.m. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Trish Hogervorst, Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Land Management, at (503) 375-5657, or write to Forest