

Service will collect information using a survey.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information to identify the type and distribution of perceptions of alternative timber harvest methods that might be implemented in national forests. The information will be used to help the Forest Service gain a better understanding of the western Michigan, western Oregon, and northern California residents' perceptions of the agency's land management practices on the National Forest in these areas. If the information is not collected, forestry management, resource, and harvest decisions will be made without well-informed regard to current public sentiment and expectation.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,700.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (one time).

Total Burden Hours: 425.

National Agriculture Statistics Service

Title: Cotton Ginning Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0220.

Summary of Collection: Primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). The Cotton Ginning Survey provides statistics concerning cotton ginning for specific dates and geographic regions and aids in forecasting cotton production, which is required under 7 U.S.C. Section 475.

Need and Use of the Information: The ginning data collected provides (1) all segments of the cotton industry-buyers, brokers, crushers, shippers, textile firms, and researchers with exact quantities of cotton available at specific geographic locations within the U.S. on a regular basis; (2) precise statistics, especially when at least 50 percent of the forecasted cotton production has been ginned in a state; and (3) final season ginning data that is used to establish final production. If the information were collected less frequent, the cotton industry would be without county level quantities ginned that could seriously affect transportation costs and marketing strategies.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,131.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (biweekly Sept.-Jan.).

Total Burden Hours: 1,065.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for an amendment to the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan; Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor Counties, Vermont

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: On May 10, 2000, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest Supervisor, Paul K. Brewster, (Responsible Official) set forth a proposal to amend the 1987 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). On January 17, 2001, he made the resultant Environmental Assessment available for a 30 day public comment period. The comment period closed on February 16, 2001. Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available upon request. The current preferred alternative (Alternative 3), would incorporate into the Forest Plan the reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions contained in the *Biological Opinion* (prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated February 16, 2000) as well as additional conservation measures that would benefit Indiana bat habitat and habitats for other woodland bat species. These measures would also increase monitoring for bats and bat habitat. In addition, education and outreach efforts related to Indiana bat conservation would be increased, and recommendations for conservation of Sensitive Species incorporated.

All comments received are being evaluated, and may result in supplementation of the Environmental Assessment or be incorporated into the final decision.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6, 453 FR 55990) and National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning regulations (36 CFR 219.35, 65 FR 6745145).

DATES: On May 10, 2000, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest Supervisor, Paul K. Brewster (Responsible Official) put forth a proposal to amend the 1987 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). On January 17, 2001, a legal notice was published in the Rutland

Daily Herald, announcing the availability of the Environmental Assessment for a 30 day public comment period. The comment period closed on February 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send requests for documents to: Forest Supervisor, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia D'Andrea, Forest Planner, at 802-388-4362, ext. 112 TDD 802-747-6765; or direct electronic mail to: "pdandrea@fs.fed.us."

Responsible Official: Paul K. Brewster, Forest Supervisor, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This amendment would apply to the 370,530 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest in the form of amending the standards and guidelines of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the conservation of the Indiana bat and other woodland bat species, as well as incorporating recommendations for the conservation of Sensitive Species. This is a non-significant amendment.

Dated: February 16, 2001.

Paul K. Brewster,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-4697 Filed 2-26-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Cave Gulch Post-Fire Salvage Sale, Townsend Ranger District and the Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest, Broadwater and Lewis & Clark Counties, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to harvest merchantable trees from the Cave Gulch wildfire area. The proposed action includes salvage timber harvest in roaded areas and stewardship project timber harvest activities in inventoried roadless areas. No new road construction or reconstruction would be conducted in inventoried roadless areas. In areas outside inventoried roadless areas, existing system roads and a few temporary roads would be used. Only dead or dying trees will be removed. The proposed action will also incorporate interim road management to provide for big game security,

silvicultural practices that can hasten post-fire recovery for wildlife and recreation and reduce future fuel loading, and other management practices to minimize accelerated erosion.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposal and scope of the analysis should be received in writing by March 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: All questions and/or comments should be addressed to: USDA Forest Service, Townsend Ranger District, 415 S. Front Street, Box 29, Townsend, MT 59644.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David McMorran, Team Leader, or Rachel Feigley, Assistant Team Leader at (406) 266-3425.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The analysis will include a no action alternative which will address the effects of not harvesting in the burned area. Other alternatives will consider a range of options, including varying the locations, timing and methods of timber removal. The analysis will consider the effects of the proposed action and alternatives within the entire affected watersheds, but actions will be limited to the burned areas—no green tree harvest is proposed.

Anticipated issues and concerns include, but are not limited to: longterm watershed stability and recovery; fuel loading/fuel reduction in the future; inventoried roadless character and values; longterm management goals; opportunities to integrate salvage operations with restoration activities; big game security and retention of remaining hiding cover; snag management for wildlife; scenery and recreation management, the potential for spreading noxious weeds, and opportunities to benefit local economies.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, state and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations that may be interested in the proposal. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions related to the proposal. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions related to the proposal. Information received will be used in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be available for public review and comment during April 2001 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision in June 2001. The official close of the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency

publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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, 533 (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. 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 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 on the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The responsible official is Thomas J. Clifford, Forest Supervisor, Helena National Forest, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59601.

Dated: February 14, 2001.

Allen L. Christophersen,

Acting Helena Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-4696 Filed 2-26-01; 8:45 am]

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ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Meeting

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has scheduled its regular business meetings to take place in Washington, DC on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, March 12-15, 2001, at the times and location noted below.

DATES: The schedule of events is as follows:

Monday, March 12, 2001

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—Committee of the Whole—Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act Final Rule (Closed Meeting)

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

9:00 a.m.—Noon Committee of the Whole—Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act Final Rule (Closed Meeting)

1:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m.—Technical Programs Committee

2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.—Committee of the Whole—Recreation Facilities Final Rule (Closed Meeting)

4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.—Planning and Budget Committee

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Committee of the Whole—Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act Final Rule (Closed Meeting)

10:30 a.m.—Noon—Executive Committee

1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.—Board Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2001

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.—Committee of the Whole—Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act Final Rule (Closed Meeting)

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Washington Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the meetings, please contact Lawrence W. Roffee, Executive Director, (202) 272-5434, extension 113 (voice) and (202) 272-5449 (TTY).