

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 67, No. 126

Monday, July 1, 2002

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Judith Restoration EIS—Lewis and Clark National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to treat dry forest types, whitebark pine, limber pine and aspen, the need to reduce fuels near the urban interface, the need to improve water quality combined with the timing of a State facilitated sub-basin review, and opportunities for westslope cutthroat trout habitat enhancement. The analysis area encompasses approximately 214,000 acres of the Judith Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest, Judith Basin County, Montana.

DATES: It is anticipated that the draft EIS will be released for review and comment in the winter 2002/2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Betty Holder, Judith District Ranger, Lewis and Clark National Forest, Box 484, Stanford, MT 59479. Electronic mail may be sent to comment/r1_lewisclark@fs.fed.us

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Johnsten, EIS Co-team Leader, (406) 791-7700 or Betty Holder, EIS Co-team Leader (406) 566-2292.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service proposes vegetation treatment and road and trail closures/modifications on the Judith Ranger District within the Little Belt Mountains, which includes the Middle Fork and South Fork of the Judith River. A preliminary assessment determined this area to have a high percentage of dry forest types, such as Douglas-fir, which are currently overstocked, largely due to fire suppression. This has also

led to high fuel loading, which is problematic near private inholdings and urban interfaces. In addition, water quality in the South Fork and tributaries has been affected by past management actions. Several populations of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout are found in the South Fork. Improved habitat for these species is key to their survival. The enclosed map shows where, within the analysis area, there are opportunities to take action to address these objectives and meet the goals outlined below. This EIS will review six alternatives.

Decisions To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether and where vegetative treatment and road/trail activities would take place in the project area. He will decide the number of acres and miles of road/trail, if any, on which activity would take place and the types of treatment methods to be used. He will decide when any management activities would take place, what mitigation measures would be implemented to address concerns, and whether the action requires amendment(s) to the Lewis and Clark Forest Plan.

Responsible Official

Rick Prausa, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official for making the decision to implement any of the alternatives evaluated. He will document his decision and rationale in a Record of Decision.

Preliminary Issues

Issues associated with this analysis that have been submitted from initial scoping efforts include impacts of proposed activities on wildlife and fish species and their habitat, soil resources, Wilderness Study Area, Inventoried Roadless Areas, water quality and water yield, and forest health.

Public Involvement, Rationale, and Public Meetings

Initial scoping for this project began in April 2001. A letter was sent to 120 individuals requesting comment on the proposed action. A 45-day review period for comments on the Draft EIS will be provided. Comments received will be considered and included in documentation of the Final EIS. The public is encouraged to take part in the process and to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis

and prior to the decision. The Forest Service has sought and will continue to seek information, comments and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action.

Electronic Access and Filing Addresses

Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to mailroom_r1_lewis_and_clark@fs.fed.us. Please reference the Judith Restoration EIS on the subject line. Also, include your name and mailing address with your comments so documents pertaining to this project may be mailed to you.

Estimated Dates for Filing

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by winter, 2002/2003. At that time EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by July, 2003. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences of the action, as well as those pertaining to applicable laws, regulations, and policies. These will be considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

The Reviewers Obligation To Comment

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage 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. *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 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.

Dated: June 24, 2002.

Lynn Johnson,

Acting Lewis and Clark Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-16420 Filed 6-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Library

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Collect Information

AGENCY: National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Library's intent to request approval for a new information collection from the Food Safety Research Information Office to obtain research and funding activity in food safety.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 4, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Yvette Alonso, Food Safety Research Information Office

Coordinator, 10301 Baltimore Ave., Room 113; Beltsville, MD 20705; Fax: 301-504-6409. Submit electronic comments to yalonso@nal.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvette Alonso, 301-504-3774.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Safety Research Activity.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: Approval for new data collection.

Abstract: The collection of food safety research activity using the Food Safety Research Activity form will provide Web site users with the ability to submit project information and funding opportunities to add to the food safety research searchable database. We will review the data for accuracy and validity before posting the information in the database. This form will provide the Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO) with an online resource to acquire data from organizations or researchers who conduct research, including foreign research organizations, private research companies, government, educational environments and researchers themselves. These organizations or researchers maybe unknown to the Food Safety Research Information Office. The Food Safety Research Activity form is a document comprised of 14 inquiry components where users submit research or funding activity. Information to be submitted includes, user contact information (name, organization, email), whether the activity being submitted is a funding opportunity or current research project, if the research activity is funded by government, educational institutions or private organizations and the name of this organization or agency and URL if available. The user enters information on the specific research activity, including the project/funding title, date of research, project number if available, location where research is conducted, funding amount, contact information for the project such as the researcher who works on the project, the type of funding (grant, appropriated funds, private), and a research abstract providing a description of the activity.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response.

Respondents: Food safety research community, including food safety researchers in the private and public sector and research grant administrators or personnel.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100 per year.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 25 hours.

Comments

Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and the 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 respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technology. Comments should be sent to the address in the preamble. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 13, 2002.

Caird E. Rexroad,

Associate Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-16418 Filed 6-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Risk Management Agency

Request for Applications (RFA): Research Partnerships for Risk Management Development and Implementation

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Announcement of availability of funds and request for application.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 522 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) announces the availability of approximately \$2 million for partnership agreements that will fund risk management research and development activities. Priority will be given to those activities addressing the need for risk management tools for producers of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, specialty crops, and underserved commodities. Awards, on a competitive basis, may be for a period of up to two years. Recipients of awards must demonstrate non-financial benefits from a partnership agreement and must agree to substantial involvement of RMA in the project. This announcement lists the information needed to submit an application for these funds.