Notices

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.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Sunshine Act Meeting; Board of Directors

TIME: 1:00–5:00 p.m.
PLACE: ADF Headquarters.
DATE: Wednesday, 24 March 1999.
STATUS: Open.

Agenda

1:00 p.m.
  Chairman's Report
1:30 p.m.
  President's Report
  New Business
5:00 p.m.
  Adjournment

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Dick Day, Coordinator, Office of Policy, Planning and Outreach, who can be reached at (202) 673–3916.

William R. Ford,
President.
[FR Doc. 99–7019 Filed 3–18–99; 10:55 am]
BILLING CODE 6116–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Baseline and Trend Information on Wilderness Use and Users

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.
ACTION: Extension of an information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request extension of a currently approved information collection. This information collection has been used to collect data about wilderness recreation users in the United States, since 1990. The information is necessary to help the Forest Service and other Federal wilderness management agencies meet the needs and expectations of visitors, who look to the National Wilderness Preservation System for recreational experiences that are dependent upon natural wilderness conditions away from human development and devoid of crowds. Respondents will be visitors, or potential visitors, to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before May 21, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Alan Watson, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 8089, Missoula, Montana 59807 or email awatson/rmrs__missoula@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Watson, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, (406) 542–4197.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:
  Title: Baseline and Trend Information on Wilderness Use and Users.
  OMB Number: 0596–0108.
  Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 1999.
  Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.
  Abstract: The Wilderness Act of 1964 directs that the National Wilderness Preservation System (System) be managed to protect natural wilderness conditions and to provide outstanding opportunities for the public to find solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreational experiences.

To meet the requirements of The Wilderness Act of 1964 and to help the Forest Service enhance visitors' recreational experiences, the agency monitors trends of visitor recreational activities. Forest Service personnel also want to ensure that visitors' recreational activities do not harm the natural resources of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The agency is expanding the scope of the survey to include wilderness areas about which the agency has little information in regard to visitor recreational trends. Data from this information collection will be maintained at the interagency (Agriculture and Interior) Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in Missoula, Montana.

The Forest Service will use information from this collection: (1) to establish visitor recreational use baselines; (2) to monitor visitor recreational use trends; (3) to gain an understanding of how the agency's management of the National Wilderness Preservation System influences a visitor's wilderness experience; and (4) to help understand how to educate visitors, so they may enjoy their wilderness experience without leaving permanent reminders of their visits, such as damaged vegetation, litter, and polluted streams. The information also will be used for planning management direction for various wilderness areas managed by the agencies in the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

Respondents will be visitors, or potential visitors, to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Forest Service personnel will conduct face-to-face, on-site interviews with visitors as they enter the System or will send mailback survey forms to visitors at their homes, using addresses that visitors provide when visiting the System. Forest Service personnel will contact visitors at nonwilderness sites to ask if they have plans to visit the System. When unable to conduct face-to-face interviews with potential visitors, the agency will send mailback survey forms to the homes of those who visited nonwilderness areas, using addresses provided by them as they entered the nonwilderness sites. In some cases, the agency forms will be made available on a self-service basis to visitors in trailhead displays.

Respondents will be asked questions that include how many times they visit, when they plan their next visit, or if they plan to visit at all. Respondents will be asked, when visiting, if they come in groups, and, if so, the size of those groups. Respondents will be asked how long they stay when visiting? Do they use equipment, such as stoves, or use wood for fires while visiting, and do they have preferences for social conditions? For example, do they like or will they accept crowded conditions, such as crowded camping areas, designed to limit negative effects to the natural resources, such as soil compaction, damage to tree roots, and negative impacts to water quality? Do respondents support various wilderness management strategies, such as limiting visitor use of wilderness areas to lessen negative effects to the wilderness environment? Do they support