

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 76

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

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

Analysis of Veteran/Boulder Project Area; Black Hills National Forest; Spearfish/Nemo Ranger District; Lawrence and Meade Counties, SD

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare draft supplement to final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(g), the District Ranger of the Spearfish/Nemo Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare a draft supplement to the Veteran/Boulder Project Area Final Environmental Impact Statement. The responsible official for this project is John C. Twiss, Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to District Ranger, Spearfish/Nemo Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, 2014 N. Main Street, Spearfish, SD 57783.

DATES: This project schedule is as follows: File Draft Supplement to Final Environmental Impact Statement—June 1999. File Final Supplement to Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision signature—September 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joy Trowbridge, Project Interdisciplinary Team Leader, 605-642-4622. Additional information, such as maps, can be obtained by written request to the Spearfish Ranger District office, or by phone at the above address and phone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Veteran/Boulder Project Area Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was completed in September 1998 and a Notice of Availability was published in the **Federal Register** on October 16, 1998 (EIS number 980410). The FEIS

describes alternatives for timber harvest and associated activities with the Veteran/Boulder Project Area (27,463 acres) on the Black Hills National Forest. The Project Area contains the majority of the 5,109 acre Beaver Park RARE II inventoried roadless area. On September 30, 1998 a Record of Decision was signed by Forest Supervisor John C. Twiss allowing timber harvest and associated activities within the Veteran/Boulder project area, except for the roadless area, on which a separate decision was to be made. On March 1, 1999, Supervisor Twiss signed a second Record of Decision allowing timber harvest and associated activities, except road construction, within the Beaver Park roadless area.

Significant issues described in the FEIS include wildlife habitat and vegetative diversity, the Beaver Park roadless area, mountain pine beetle infestation and forest health, timber harvest, roads and travel management, and prescribed burns and fuels. These issues were addressed through development of alternatives and/or mitigation, or through the disclosure of environmental effects.

Since the FEIS was published, the Forest has acquired new information concerning Forest health in the Beaver Park area, relating to the existing infestation of mountain pine beetles. The FEIS analyzed mountain pine beetle data and field reconnaissance information in the project area from 1997 to early 1998. Since that time, an aerial flight and related report from the Forest Service's Forest Health Management unit has indicated the beetles have spread beyond the areas analyzed in the FEIS and are approaching epidemic levels in the Beaver Park Area.

In addition to the increased insect activity, an early winter storm in October 1998 resulted in several areas of severely damaged and blown down trees within the southern third of Beaver Park.

Given this new information, the Forest has decided to further analyze the potential consequences of continued beetle activity within the southern half of Beaver Park (Management Areas 4.1, Limited Motorized Use and Forest Products; and 5.4, Big Game Winter Range). Timber management has already been approved in this portion of Beaver Park under the March 1, 1999 Record of

Decision. The proposed supplement to the FEIS would analyze additional treatments within this area in order to slow further spread of the beetles, reduce damage to wildlife habitat and green trees, and reduce wildfire risk.

The proposed action is to salvage approximately 400 to 600 thousand board feet of trees either infested with mountain pine beetles or severely damaged in the October 1998 storm, from a total of approximately 200 to 300 acres within Management Areas 4.1 and 5.4 (Forbes Gulch) of Beaver Park. Treatments would consist of small (one quarter of an acre to 20 acres) clearcuts to remove beetle-infested trees as well as removal of downed and snapped off trees killed by the storm. NO new roads would be constructed and no additional road work would be needed on existing roads. Access would be from existing roads with forwarder machines and skidders. Sufficient dead and down trees would be left to meet Forest Plan standards for wildlife habitat and soil conditions (snags and down woody material).

Alternatives to the proposed action being considered at this time include no action, helicopter removal of infested trees, and removal of green wood in addition to beetle-infested trees.

The decision to be made is whether or not to remove infested and storm-damaged trees from the southern portion of Beaver Park (Forbes Gulch) in order to slow the mountain pine beetle epidemic, reduce wildfire risk, and protect wildlife habitat and other forest resources.

The comment period on the draft supplement to the FEIS will be a minimum of 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

In addition to the proposed supplement to the FEIS, the Forest is also planning to do a wider analysis of the mountain pine beetle epidemic over a larger area, including the northern half of Beaver Park. Therefore, this supplement will only address the southern portion of Beaver Park, in order to more expediently address the beetle situation in this area.

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 (or draft supplements to an EIS) 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 (or draft supplement to an EIS) stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement (or final supplement to an EIS) 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 (or draft supplement to an EIS) 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 draft supplement to an EIS) 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: April 8, 1999.

John Twiss,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-9964 Filed 4-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the

provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Coastal Services Center Coastal Management Survey.

Agency Form Number(s): N/A.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0308.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 27 hours.

Number of Respondents: Approximately 80.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 30 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The mission of the NOAA Coastal Services Center is to foster and sustain the environmental and economic well being of the coast by linking people, information, and technology. NOAA is seeking approval to conduct a customer survey. The purpose of the survey is to assess the coastal resource management community's information needs. The results will allow the Center to determine the kinds of services its customers want, to understand the customer's level of technical expertise, and to document priority issues most relevant to the missions. This information will be used to guide the development of future products and services in the formats and software commonly used by customers.

Affected Public: State, local or tribal government, federal government.

Frequency: One-time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: April 15, 1999.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-9932 Filed 4-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of Export Administration (BXA).

Title: India and Pakistan Sanctions.

Agency Form Number: BXA 748-P.

OMB Approval Number: 0694-0111.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

Burden: 52 hours.

Average Time Per Response: 40 to 45 minutes per response.

Number of Respondents: 57 respondents.

Needs and Uses: Consistent with the President's directive, the Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) is imposing certain sanctions, as well as certain supplementary measures to enhance the sanctions. This section includes a new license review policy of denial for the export and reexport of most items controlled for nuclear proliferation (NP) reasons or missile technology (MT) reasons to all end-users in India and Pakistan. Items controlled on the Commerce Control List for nuclear and missile technology reasons have been made subject to this sanction policy because of their significance for nuclear explosive purposes and for delivery of nuclear devices.

Affected Public: Individuals, businesses or other for-profit institutions.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker (202)395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20230.