

collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information. Comments on issues covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act are most useful to OMB if received within 30 days of publication of the Notice and Request for Comments, but must be submitted no later than 60 days from the date of publication to be assured consideration. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also be a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on June 22, 1999.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-050-1430-01-24-1A]

Quitcupah Creek Road, UTU-57907, Fishlake National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, Sevier and Emery Counties, Utah

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a third-party environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will jointly direct preparation of a Third-Party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental and human effects of proposed actions to upgrade and realign an existing road/trail through Quitcupah Canyon, Sevier and Emery Counties, Utah. The road crosses public land parcels administered by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Utah, as well as land that is privately owned.

The 9.2-mile Quitcupah Creek Road would connect State Road 10 in T 22 S, R 6 E, Section 30 of Emery County, with an existing Sevier County road in T 22 S, R 4 E, Section 11. This Sevier County road in Convulsion Canyon is utilized predominantly for hauling coal from the SUFCO Mine.

Currently, the Quitcupah Creek Road is unpaved, and is only maintained over the lower 3 to 4 miles.

Within the Quitcupah Creek canyon area, steep cut slopes, the incised stream channel, and erodible soils have

recently rendered the road impassable by vehicles. Livestock are trailed through the canyon seasonally; other users are primarily local recreationists and/or hunters.

Agency Decisions

Separate Records of Decision would be issued by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on whether or not to grant right-of-way to Sevier County and under what terms and conditions.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this Notice should be received on or before July 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc., 8160 South Highland Drive, Suite A-4, Sandy, Utah 84093.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kay Erickson, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, (435) 896-1500; or Linda Jackson, Fishlake National Forest, Richfield, (435) 896-9233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Sevier County has proposed to upgrade the Quitcupah Creek Road as an additional, shorter haul road for trucks entering Emery County from Canyon Fuels' SUFCO Mine. The Mine would be the primary user of the upgraded road. The road would also provide access to the Accord Lakes area, and a shorter route for those in the Emery area traveling west toward Salina and I-15.

The proposed project would generally follow the existing Quitcupah Creek Road alignment. However, where needed to avoid archeological sites or other constraints to widening, short reaches of the road are proposed to be realigned. Given the proximity of the existing road with Quitcupah Creek in the narrow canyon bottom, it is anticipated that stream crossings would be required.

When completed, the road would have a 26-foot wide paved surface. The corridor width to be disturbed during construction would be expected to average about 100 feet. In addition, several construction equipment staging areas would be required, and would be located along the road corridor. Borrow sites to obtain fill material would also be needed and they may be located adjacent to the project area. The disturbed area associated with this project is expected to be less than 200 acres.

Preliminary Issues

Initially identified issues of concern include: archaeological resources, wildlife, livestock, land use, sensitive

species, wetlands and riparian habitat, stream quality, and socioeconomics.

Possible Alternatives

The EIS will analyze the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives. Other alternatives may include altering portions of the route, or designing parameters to provide mitigation for resources of concern.

Tentative Project Schedule

The tentative project schedule is as follows:

- Begin Public Comment Period—July, 1999.
- Hold Public Scoping Meetings—July, 1999.
- File Draft EIS—March, 2000.
- File Final EIS—June, 2000.
- Record of Decision—July, 2000.

Public Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings will be held in Utah, each an open house type meeting from 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. The open house will include displays explaining the project and a forum for commenting on the project. The meetings will be held as follows:

- July 21, 1999—Museum of the San Rafael, Castle Dale, Utah.
- July 22, 1999—Quality Inn, Richfield, Utah.

Public Input Requested

Comments concerning the Proposed Action and EIS should address issues to be considered, feasible alternatives to examine, possible mitigation, and information relevant to or having bearing on the Proposed Action.

Dated: June 23, 1999.

Ron Sanden,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Fishlake National Forest.

Dave Henderson,

Acting Field Manager, Richfield Bureau of Land Management Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Indian River Timber Sale(s), Sitka and Hoonah Ranger Districts, Tongass National Forest, Sitka, AK

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement