

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has information collection approval from OMB through February 28, 2001. OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: November 21, 2000.

Charlie Chandler,

Chief, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 00-30285 Filed 11-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Stage I Assessment Plan for the Kalamazoo River Environment Site Natural Resource Damage Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of comment period.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that the draft "Stage I Assessment Plan [for the] Kalamazoo River Environment Site" is available for public review and comment. The public comment period started with local newspaper notices and placement of the document at repositories at the Allegan Public Library, Charles Ransom Library, Kalamazoo Public Library, Otsego District Library, Saugatuck-Douglas Library, and Waldo Library on November 20, 2000.

The U.S. Department of the Interior ("Department"), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Attorney General, and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are acting as co-trustees for natural resources considered in this assessment plan, pursuant to subpart G of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, 40 CFR 300.600 and 300.610, and Executive Order 12580.

The assessment plan describes the first stage of a natural resource damage assessment which the trustees are conducting pursuant to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at 43 CFR Part 11. The public review of the assessment plan announced by this Notice is provided for in 43 CFR 11.32(c)(1).

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the assessment plan. Copies of the assessment plan can be requested from the address listed below. The trustees may revise the assessment plan in response to issues raised during the comment period. All written comments will be considered.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will hold an informational meeting regarding the assessment plan at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2000, at the Plainwell Comfort Inn, 622 Allegan Street (M-89), Plainwell, MI (616-685-9891).

DATES: Written comments on the assessment plan described in this notice must be submitted on or before January 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The assessment plan is available at repositories at the Allegan Public Library, Charles Ransom Library, Kalamazoo Public Library, Otsego District Library, Saugatuck-Douglas Library, and Waldo Library, all in southwestern Michigan. The document can be also accessed online through the Internet at the following website: <http://midwest.fws.gov/nrda/kalamazoo>. Written requests for paper copies may be made to: Lisa L. Williams, Ph.D., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI 48823.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this natural resource damage assessment is to confirm and quantify injuries to natural resources, resultant economic damages, and the natural resource restoration necessary to address those injuries in the Kalamazoo River environment resulting primarily from exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls released by Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek paper mills. The injury and required restoration are assessed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, the Clean Water Act, as amended, and, for the state trustees, Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, as amended.

Dated: November 20, 2000.

William F. Hartwig,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-30247 Filed 11-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[HE-952-9911-00]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Number 1004-0179

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request renewal of an existing approval to collect certain information from those persons with an In-Kind Crude Helium Sales Contract. BLM also collects helium sales information from Federal agencies and helium suppliers on major helium requirements to balance crude helium sales with the sale of helium to Federal agencies (43 CFR 3195).

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the appropriate address below on or before January 29, 2001. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Affairs Group (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 401LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. Please include "ATTN: 1004-0179" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie H. Neely, Crude Helium Sales Analyst, (806) 324-2635.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.12(a), the BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in a published current rule to solicit comments 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 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 are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. The BLM will receive and analyze any comments sent in response to this notice and include them with its request for approval from the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

The Helium Privatization Act of 1996 requires the Department of the Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other Federal agencies to purchase major helium requirements from authorized contractors. These contractors are then required to purchase an equivalent amount of crude helium from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

The respondents are Federal agencies and helium suppliers (contractors) who purchase major helium requirements and report to BLM the sales information for an accurate account of helium to Federal agencies from Federal helium suppliers.

BLM estimates an average of 76 respondents and 304 responses annually. The frequency of response is once for the In-Kind Crude Helium Sales Contract and quarterly for the required helium sales information under 43 CFR 3195. Based on the BLM's experience, it will take a respondent approximately one hour to supply the requested information in the In-Kind Crude Helium Sales Contract. It will take a respondent from 15 minutes to 2 hours to supply the required helium sales information under 43 CFR 3195. The estimated total annual burden is 912 hours collectively.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 20, 2000.

Michael Schwartz,

BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-30189 Filed 11-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-035-5900-DH: GP1-0031]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lookout Mountain Landscape Area Management Plan and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendment in Baker County, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lookout Mountain Landscape Area Management Plan and Baker Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment in Baker County, Oregon and Notice of Scoping.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management, Vale District, Baker Field Office, will be preparing an EIS on the impacts of proposed management activities in the Lookout Mountain geographic management area and a Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment (43 CFR 1610.5-5). Proposed projects include, range improvements, vegetation manipulation, forest health enhancement, watershed restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement. At a minimum, the proposed RMP Amendment would change the Visual Resource Management (VRM) allocations within the Lookout Mountain geographic area based on new inventories.

DATES: Written comments for the initial scoping will be accepted until January 8, 2001. A public meeting will be held in Baker County prior to finalizing the alternatives for the DEIS. The time, place and date of the public meeting will be published in Baker City Harold, Hells Canyon Journal, and the Argus Observer. Additional meetings will be considered as appropriate. Comment period length will be noted at each point in the planning and analysis process.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area consists of approximately 25,000 acres of public lands located between the Brownlee Reservoir of the Snake River and Durkee, Oregon. The area includes portions of the Morgan Creek, Hibbard Creek, Fox Creek, Conner Creek, Daley Creek and Sisley Creek drainages. Potential activities may include, but are not limited to, timber harvesting, tree thinning, prescribed burning, tree planting, juniper removal, fence construction, noxious weed

treatment, rangeland seeding, riparian planting, placement of large woody debris in stream channels, new road construction, road improvements and road closures. Interdisciplinary team disciplines to be represented will include; forestry, recreation, range conservation, hydrology, wildlife, fisheries, botany, archeology, geology and engineering.

The Baker Field Office originally started public scoping for these projects with a letter that went out on May 21, 1999 and a field trip to the area in the fall of 1999. Based on this scoping and the initial assessment, the analysis has been elevated from an Environmental Assessment to an Environmental Impact Statement. Comments received during the initial scoping have been retained and will be carried forward through the planning process.

The Tentative Project Schedule Is as Follows:

File Draft EIS—Spring, 2001

File Final EIS—Fall, 2001

Record of Decision—Winter, 2002

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis and planning process. The scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7) for this analysis will include;

1. Identification of the issues to be addressed,
2. Identification of viable alternatives,
3. Identifying and notifying interested groups, individual and agencies to determine level of participation and obtain additional information concerning issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Baker Field Office during normal working hours (7:45 AM to 4:30 PM except holidays), and may be published as part of the EIS or other related documents. Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this promptly at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. The planning documents and direct supporting record for the analysis and plan amendment will be available for inspection at the Baker Field Office during normal working hours. Historical records may also be posted on the BLM inter-net site to facilitate public access.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Penelope Dunn Woods, Field Manager,