

Service will collect information using a survey.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information to identify the type and distribution of perceptions of alternative timber harvest methods that might be implemented in national forests. The information will be used to help the Forest Service gain a better understanding of the western Michigan, western Oregon, and northern California residents' perceptions of the agency's land management practices on the National Forest in these areas. If the information is not collected, forestry management, resource, and harvest decisions will be made without well-informed regard to current public sentiment and expectation.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,700.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (one time).

Total Burden Hours: 425.

National Agriculture Statistics Service

Title: Cotton Ginning Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0220.

Summary of Collection: Primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). The Cotton Ginning Survey provides statistics concerning cotton ginning for specific dates and geographic regions and aids in forecasting cotton production, which is required under 7 U.S.C. Section 475.

Need and Use of the Information: The ginning data collected provides (1) all segments of the cotton industry-buyers, brokers, crushers, shippers, textile firms, and researchers with exact quantities of cotton available at specific geographic locations within the U.S. on a regular basis; (2) precise statistics, especially when at least 50 percent of the forecasted cotton production has been ginned in a state; and (3) final season ginning data that is used to establish final production. If the information were collected less frequent, the cotton industry would be without county level quantities ginned that could seriously affect transportation costs and marketing strategies.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,131.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (biweekly Sept.-Jan.).

Total Burden Hours: 1,065.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for an amendment to the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan; Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor Counties, Vermont

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: On May 10, 2000, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest Supervisor, Paul K. Brewster, (Responsible Official) set forth a proposal to amend the 1987 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). On January 17, 2001, he made the resultant Environmental Assessment available for a 30 day public comment period. The comment period closed on February 16, 2001. Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available upon request. The current preferred alternative (Alternative 3), would incorporate into the Forest Plan the reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions contained in the *Biological Opinion* (prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated February 16, 2000) as well as additional conservation measures that would benefit Indiana bat habitat and habitats for other woodland bat species. These measures would also increase monitoring for bats and bat habitat. In addition, education and outreach efforts related to Indiana bat conservation would be increased, and recommendations for conservation of Sensitive Species incorporated.

All comments received are being evaluated, and may result in supplementation of the Environmental Assessment or be incorporated into the final decision.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6, 453 FR 55990) and National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning regulations (36 CFR 219.35, 65 FR 6745145).

DATES: On May 10, 2000, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest Supervisor, Paul K. Brewster (Responsible Official) put forth a proposal to amend the 1987 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). On January 17, 2001, a legal notice was published in the Rutland

Daily Herald, announcing the availability of the Environmental Assessment for a 30 day public comment period. The comment period closed on February 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send requests for documents to: Forest Supervisor, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia D'Andrea, Forest Planner, at 802-388-4362, ext. 112 TDD 802-747-6765; or direct electronic mail to: "pdandrea@fs.fed.us."

Responsible Official: Paul K. Brewster, Forest Supervisor, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This amendment would apply to the 370,530 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest in the form of amending the standards and guidelines of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the conservation of the Indiana bat and other woodland bat species, as well as incorporating recommendations for the conservation of Sensitive Species. This is a non-significant amendment.

Dated: February 16, 2001.

Paul K. Brewster,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Cave Gulch Post-Fire Salvage Sale, Townsend Ranger District and the Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest, Broadwater and Lewis & Clark Counties, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to harvest merchantable trees from the Cave Gulch wildfire area. The proposed action includes salvage timber harvest in roaded areas and stewardship project timber harvest activities in inventoried roadless areas. No new road construction or reconstruction would be conducted in inventoried roadless areas. In areas outside inventoried roadless areas, existing system roads and a few temporary roads would be used. Only dead or dying trees will be removed. The proposed action will also incorporate interim road management to provide for big game security,