

Notices

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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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by the U.S. Agency for International Development; Comments Requested

SUMMARY: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is making efforts to reduce the paperwork burden. USAID invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act for 1995. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed or continuing collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 25, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Johnson, Bureau for Management, Office of Administrative Services, Information and Records Division, U.S. Agency for International Development, Room 2.07-106, RRB, Washington, DC 20523, (202) 712-1365 or via e-mail bjohnson@usaid.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB No.: OMB 0412-.

Form No.: N/A.

Title: PVO Classification Form.

Type of Review: New.

Purpose: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) requires all private voluntary organizations (PVOs) that wish to be

eligible to compete for most forms of foreign economic assistance administered by USAID to register with the Agency. Registration provides a resource for USAID officials to access financial and program information on PVOs. The PVO Registry is a central clearinghouse for information on PVOs working in countries where elsewhere the U.S. Government would not have knowledge of the activities.

To confirm the data is collected in a formalized and consistent manner, USAID has developed the Classification Form's list of sectors and countries that will show where qualified and interested PVOs registered with USAID are working.

Annual Reporting Burden:

Respondents: 450.

Total annual responses: 450.

Total annual hours requested: 150 hours.

Dated: September 19, 2002.

Joanne Paskar,

*Chief, Information and Records Division,
Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for
Management.*

[FR Doc. 02-24429 Filed 9-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Horse Breeder Loan Program; Correction

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains a correction to the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) published Friday July 5, 2002, for the Horse Breeder Loan Program. The loss calculation formula in the NOFA incorrectly calculated losses other than foal losses by inadvertently penalizing horse breeders who generated income from foal loss. This document corrects the formula used to calculate the value of losses, other than foal losses, for the horse breeder business.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathy Quayle, Senior Loan Officer or Patrick Spalding, Senior Loan Officer, USDA/FSA/DAFLP/STOP 0522, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0522; telephone

(202) 720-1472; facsimile (202) 720-6797; electronic mail:

Cathy_Quayle@wdc.usda.gov or

Patrick_Spalding@wdc.usda.gov.

Correction

Accordingly, in the NOFA published on July 5, 2002 (67 FR 44799-44804) make the following correction:

On page 44802, in the first column, in section XI, correct the first sentence of paragraph 3(b) to read as follows:

XI. Loss Calculations

* * * * *

3. * * *

(b) The annual net income for the horse breeder business will be determined by subtracting all cash business expenses for the horse breeder business from all business income for the horse breeder business reported on Schedule F and other related schedules of the applicant's Federal income tax return. * * *

* * * * *

Signed at Washington, DC, on September 12, 2002.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 02-24428 Filed 9-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests Rodeo/Chediski Fire Salvage and Rehabilitation Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests of the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service are planning to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to salvage fire-killed timber on National Forest System lands within the Rodeo/Chediski Fire on June 2002. The EIS is intended to foster informed decision-making and public participation of a site-specific proposal to improve or maintain post-fire ecological functions of the land.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by November 15, 2002. The draft environmental impact statement is

expected February 15, 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected July 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to the Rodeo/Chediski Salvage and Rehabilitation Project, Attn: Merle Glenn, Public Affairs Specialist, P.O. Box 569, Overgaard, AZ 85933. For further information, mail correspondence to the same address as listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jimmy E. Hibbetts, ID Team Leader, for the Rodeo/Chediski Salvage and Rehabilitation Project at (928) 535-5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rodeo/Chediski Fire burned over 460,000 acres of forested lands, including over 176,000 acres of Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forest System lands. Over 470 structures were destroyed in the fire, which threatened 30 communities and subdivisions. Over 225 miles of heavily traveled system roads and 107 miles of trails received damage. This fire killed millions of trees with an estimated volume of over 300 million board feet of commercial timber, which represent serious short and long-term hazards to users of the two national forests, adjacent local communities and subdivisions, and remaining forest resources. Hazards from burned trees include falling dead trees and potential fuel loadings. Another hazard associated with burn areas relates to flash flooding, which has a great potential to affect public health and safety. Treatments are being considered to meet public health and safety concerns with considerations for other resources.

Area watersheds with denuded slopes are susceptible to erosion and can lead to reduced soil productivity, loss of vegetation regeneration potential and increased downstream flooding and sedimentation. All watersheds are being analyzed within the burn area for potential damages to downstream resources. Both Black Canyon Lake and Canyon Creek have been heavily impacted by sedimentation and debris resulting from the fire. Utilizing dead trees and slash from treatment activities is being considered to improve watershed conditions by creating protective ground cover and providing ground shade to re-establish vegetation.

Purpose and Need for Action: Due to the intensity, magnitude and size of the fire, there is a tremendous amount of standing dead and dying trees within the burn. Portions of the burned area now pose a potential risk to forest users, communities, private property and remaining resources. These risks include the hazards of falling trees,

erosion and flooding, future wildfires occurring in the wildland/urban interface, impacts to wildlife and fish and their habitats, and insect infestation to remaining live trees. Urgent action is needed to recover fire-killed timber while it still has economic value. If completed within 18 months after the burn, the substantial cost of removing these trees can be offset by the commercial sale of wood products.

Proposed Action: Salvage dead trees while maintaining or improving watershed conditions with considerations for wildlife and fisheries. Burn severity, slope and specific resource needs will determine actual treatments. Forest Plan standards will be adhered to for all resources and activities. Treatments will also consider lowering visual impacts along Highway 260 and to private lands. On existing system roads, repair, reconstruct, realign, resurface and construct additional turnouts where needed. There will be no new permanent road construction. Close and obliterate unneeded roads once salvage operations have been completed.

Possible Alternatives: Preliminary alternatives may include continuation of present situation (no action alternative) and alternatives to meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

Responsible Officials: The Forest Supervisors for the Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests are jointly responsible for deciding whether or not to salvage dead trees resulting from the Rodeo/Chediski Fire. They are: John C. Bedell, Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, AZ 85938-0640 and Karl P. Siderits, Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

Nature of Decision To Be Made: The Forest Supervisors are jointly responsible for deciding whether or not to salvage dead trees and if so, where and to what extent it will occur; how to stabilize watersheds and what treatments will be used; what repairs or treatments of existing system roads would occur; and which roads will be closed and obliterated, if any. They will also determine what treatments, if any, will be implemented to mitigate further damages to threatened and sensitive species habitats and to fisheries. The Supervisors may decide to select the proposed action, take no action or select another alternative to the proposed action.

Scoping Process: A detailed scoping and public involvement plan has been developed. An interdisciplinary team has been selected and began work August 5, 2002 to do the environmental

analysis, prepare and accomplish scoping, and public involvement activities. Comments on the nature and timing of scoping and public participation activities would be beneficial to the team in updating the scoping plan. Additional public notice will be given of specific planned activities when the scoping and public involvement plan is completed.

On August 26, 2002, scoping letters were sent to over 325 organizations, Tribes, agencies and individuals. Responses ranged from total support to total opposition of the proposed action. It was determined that additional scoping was needed and an EIS be prepared.

Comment Requested: This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments are specifically requested for the proposed action and any alternatives to the proposed action that should be considered. Comments on the proposal are most useful if they pertain directly to the project area and are as site specific as possible. Comments citing scientific reports or literature should address how that research specifically applies to this project.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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 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 stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement 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 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 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.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: September 19, 2002.

John C. Bedell,

Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

Dated: September 20, 2002.

Thomas J. Klabunde,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-24480 Filed 9-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Missionary Ridge Burned Area Timber Salvage and Public Scoping; San Juan National Forest, CO

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA/

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping; San Juan National Forest, Colorado.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with associated public scoping, on the proposed salvage of fire killed timber from the Missionary Ridge burn area. The EIS analysis area (70,000 acres) encompasses national forest land

within the area generally described as the Missionary Ridge burn area. This area of national forest burned during June and July 2002. The burn area is located north of Durango, CO and is bounded on the west side by State Highway 550 and encompasses lands located on Missionary Ridge, and further to the east, lands surrounding Lemon and Vallicito Reservoirs. The proposed action is to salvage some of the timber burned by the Missionary Ridge Fire. The EIS will address environmental impacts and mitigation measures associated with harvesting and removal of dead timber from various units within the burn area.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until October 25, 2002. Two public scoping meetings will be held, one beginning at 4 p.m. on October 8, 2002 at the BLM/USFS Public Lands Center, Durango, Colorado and the other beginning at 5 p.m. on October 9, 2002 at the Bayfield High School, in Bayfield, Colorado.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the San Juan National Forest, Attn: Dave Dallison, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, Colorado 81301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ave Dallison or Jim Powers, (970) 247-4874.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The objective of the EIS will be to assess timber salvage opportunities and impacts within the described Missionary Ridge burn area of southwestern Colorado. The proposed action potentially impacts various natural and human resources including, forested ecosystems, water resources, biological resources (e.g., threatened and endangered species), wildlife, cultural resources, visual quality, the socioeconomic environment and others that are identified through the scoping process.

The proposed action involves recovering a portion of timber that will be lost through burn mortality, and removing insect infested trees to suppress post fire insect damage to live trees. An estimated 400 million board feet of timber was killed within the 70,000-acre burn area. We anticipate analyzing alternatives that will involve salvaging timber from 6,000 to 15,000 acres. All areas considered for salvage harvest are roaded. The alternatives will examine harvesting using ground based skidding equipment and ground based equipment in combination with skyline and helicopter logging systems. One alternative will examine harvesting within the roaded portion to the 50,000-acre Florida River Roadless Area. There are 3,700 acres that are roaded and

previously harvested within the Florida River RARE II boundaries.

It is anticipated that the EIS process will take eight months to complete and will include public information and meetings. We anticipate publishing the Record of Decision in May 2003. Public information, scoping meetings, and request for input on the EIS will begin with publication of this notice. Written comments must be submitted on or before October 25, 2002.

The Deciding Official will be the Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service—Rocky Mountain Region, P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood CO 80225.

We expect to publish a draft environmental impact statement in early 2003, to ask for public comment on the draft material for a period of 45 days, and to complete a final environmental impact statement in May 2003.

The 45 day public comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will commence on the day the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a "Notice of Availability" in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements 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 stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heitgates, 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 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