

Summary: Of the 3,057,000 acres of western juniper within the 5.6 million acre planning area:

198,000 acres would be protected as naturally occurring juniper.

1,591,000 acres would be assessed for potential prescribed fire treatment.

751,000 acres would be assessed for treatment in association with timber management.

421,000 acres would be assessed for potential mechanical treatment.

96,000 acres would be assessed for potential hand treatment.

3,057,000 acres

As part of the planning process, an implementation schedule for priority treatment areas would be developed.

Preliminary issues: Based on the public listening sessions held in July 2004 preliminary issues to be addressed in the EIS include: short term impacts on riparian areas, visual resources, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources; and long term potential for the introduction or spread of invasive species, impacts on rangeland permit holders, and nutrient cycling as a result of various treatment methods. In addition the risks associated with the introduction of a large scale prescribed fire treatment program will be evaluated.

Tentative Alternatives: At this time the agencies have identified the proposed action measured against the no-action alternative.

Lead Agency

USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest

Cooperating Agencies

USDI, Bureau of Land Management
Alturas Field Office, 708 West 12th Street, Alturas CA 96101 (Contact Tim Burke (530) 233-4666)

Modoc County, California, Planning Department, Attention: Sean Curtis, 203 West 4th Street, Alturas, CA 96101.

Responsible Officials

Modoc National Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva and BLM Alturas Field Manager Tim Burke are the responsible officials for this planning effort.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The responsible officials will utilize information from the environment impact statement to guide decision making concerning coordinating treatment projects across ownerships and in amending or revision of their resource management plans that provide guidance for subsequent site specific project analysis. Decisions related to the environmental impact statement are policy and strategic in nature and do not

require implementation of projects or cause environmental impacts their positive or negative.

Scoping Process

The agencies held a series of seven informational meetings in communities across the planning area during the summer of 2004. The times and location for issue scoping meetings will be announced through the news media in the region and in direct mailings. Information on the proposed action will also be posted on the forest Web site, <http://www.fs.ged.us/r5/modoc/projects/juniperstrategy.shtml>, and advertised in the Modoc Record.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides development of the environmental impact statement. The agencies will seek scoping comments relative to the extent of degradation of the sagebrush steppe ecosystems and associated natural resource issues to be addressed in the management plan and environmental impact statement. This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments submitted during this scoping process should be in writing and should be specific to the proposed action. The comments should describe as clearly and completely as possible any issues the commenter has with the proposal. The scoping process includes:

- (a) Identifying potential issues.
- (b) Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
- (c) Eliminating non-significant issues or those previously covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
- (d) Exploring additional alternatives.
- (e) Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in the Subsequently

Environmental Review: A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for public review and comment. A 45-day public comment period will be announced, starting from the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a 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 proposed 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: July 18, 2005.

Stanley G. Sylva,

Forest Supervisor, Modoc National Forest.

[FR Doc. 05-14638 Filed 7-25-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce 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: Pacific Islands Region Seabird-Fisheries Interaction Recovery Reporting.

Form Number(s): None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0456.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 3.

Number of Respondents: 1.

Average Hours Per Response: 3 hours.

Needs and Uses: The seabird mitigation measures to reduce interactions between seabirds and the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery, include a requirement for longline vessel operators to notify NMFS in the event an endangered short-tailed albatross (STAL) is hooked or entangled during fishing operations. Following the retrieval of a STAL from the ocean, as required by Federal regulations, the vessel captain must record the condition of the injured STAL on the recovery data form. The information is used by a veterinarian in providing advice to the captain caring for the STAL. If the albatross is dead, the vessel captain must attach an identification/information tag to the STAL carcass, as well as the specimen bag, to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) biologists in follow-up studies on the specimen. This collection is one of the terms and conditions contained in a biological opinion issued by FWS.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

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 Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@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, FAX number (202) 395-7285, or David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: July 20, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-14651 Filed 7-25-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce 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: Alaska Region Logbook Family of Forms.

Form Number(s): None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0213.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 38,990.

Number of Respondents: 1,143.

Average Hours Per Response: 25 minutes.

Needs and Uses: This collection-of-information affords an increasingly more efficient and accurate database for monitoring and management of the groundfish fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone in the waters off Alaska for purposes of conservation of the fisheries as well as for the enforcement of fisheries regulations. Parts of this collection are also used by the fishermen recording catch information on the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries, and the Individual Fishing Quota Program for Pacific halibut.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: Annually and on occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

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

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

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Dated: July 20, 2005.

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce 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: Northeast Region Dealer Purchase Reports.

Form Number(s): NOAA 88-30.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0229.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 2,176.

Number of Respondents: 631.

Average Hours Per Response: 4 minutes.

Needs and Uses: Federally-permitted dealers in specified fisheries are required to submit information weekly regarding their fish purchases. Other dealers are asked to submit the information on a voluntary basis. A small number of commercial fishermen may also be asked to voluntarily provide information related to the purchase. The information obtained is used by economists, biologists, and managers in the management of the fisheries, NOAA is seeking to renew Paperwork Reduction Act approval for these requirements.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: Weekly.

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 Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

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Dated: July 20, 2005.

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