

2. Transfer Act of 1905 [16 U.S.C. 472, 524, 554], the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 [16 U.S.C. 528],

3. Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources and Planning Act of 1974 [16 U.S.C. Chapter 36] as amended,

4. National Forest Management Act of 1976 [16 U.S.C. 1600] as amended,

5. Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 [Pub. L. 103–62] as amended,

6. Executive Order 12862 of September 11, 1993,

7. 1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland,

8. and Executive Order 13571 of April 27, 2011.

In addition to the three aforementioned sites, this information collection will be administered at the gateway to the Indian Peaks Wilderness. The respondents for this data collection survey will be recreational visitors, ages 18 years and older, at the four previously mentioned sites during the summer of 2013 data collection period. During that summer, interviewers will query visitors at the end of their experience to find out if they are willing to participate in the survey. If they do participate, the interviewer will keep a record of the respondent's answers. Each visitor will complete only one survey per visit, and participation is strictly voluntary. The information will be collected by a private contractor, on behalf of the Forest Service, who has working relationship with Colorado State and Utah State Universities.

These surveys will be designed to collect data on the following:

1. Visitor experience (including perceptions of crowding, etc.),
2. Visitor travel (including trip information such as origination point, source of pre-visit information, etc.),
3. Mode choice (including potential transportation system scenarios),
4. Group characteristics (including number of people in the group, age groups, etc.), and
5. Socio-demographic data.

The primary analysis of the data will be conducted by the private contractor and their university associates on behalf of the Forest Service, Federal Highway Administration—Central Federal Lands, and the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. All results will be compiled in such a way to prevent responses from being correlated to respondents.

The data analysis will help area managers better serve the public by translating visitor input into future strategic plans for these sites. This includes efforts focused on developing

more effective and efficient delivery of program services at all four sites through more productive resource allocation. As a result, Forest Service recreational and transportation program management goals and objectives may be modified which could require Forest Service plan revisions.

The data analysis of the collected information will be included in a management report prepared for the Forest Service and shared with stakeholders and other interested parties. The results may also be published in scientific journals and/or included in presentations at professional meetings and conferences. The Agency may get requests for this information from the public and other interested organizations which could include, Congressional staffs, newspapers, magazines, transportation organization, and/recreational organizations.

As noted previously, intensive visitor use at these four sites are threatening the resource and recreation management objectives for these areas, as specified in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and various other site management plans. Previous planning studies have recommended alternative transportation strategies to help minimize the impact of intensive visitor use on Agency resources and visitor experience quality. The feasibility and public opinion as it relates to these recommendations have not yet been analyzed. Consequently, the Forest Service has not been able to implement transportation improvements that could help meet resource and recreation management objectives for these areas. Without this analysis, the Agency will continue to lack the information necessary to identify and implement feasible and publicly-accepted transportation improvements to help protect forest resources and enhance visitor experiences as required by the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Finally, these information collections will directly impact Agency resources and visitor experience quality and help the Forest Service to meet its resource and recreation management mandates.

It is estimated that 1,275 people will be contacted at Guanella Pass (425 people for each of 3 surveys); 1,275 people will be contacted at Mount Evans (425 people for each of 3 surveys); and 1,700 will be contacted at Brainard Lake Recreation Area (425 people for each of 4 surveys). Those 4,250 contacts will each require 1 minute of public burden. Of the 425 contacted for each survey at each site, it is estimated that 300 people will be

willing to respond to each survey at each site, or 3,000 contacts (300 x 10 surveys total), requiring an additional 10 minutes each for those 3,000 visitors to respond to survey questions.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 11 minutes.

Type of Respondents: The respondent population for this data collection survey will be recreational visitors, ages 18 years and older, at these sites during the data collection period.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 4,250.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 570 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: December 4, 2012.

James M. Peña,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2012–29927 Filed 12–11–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection: National Visitor Use Monitoring

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of a currently approved information

collection, OMB 0596–0110, National Visitor Use Monitoring.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before February 11, 2013 to be assured of consideration.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Dr. Donald B.K. English, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources, Mailstop 1125, USDA Forest Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250–1125.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 202–205–1145 or by email to: denglish@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at Room 400, Rosslyn Plaza Building C, 1601 North Kent Street, Arlington, VA 22209 during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 202–205–9595 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald B.K. English, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources staff, 202–205–9595.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Visitor Use Monitoring.

OMB Number: 0596–0110.

Expiration Date of Approval: 06/30/2013.

Type of Request: Extension with revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 require Federal agencies to establish measurable goals and monitor their success at meeting those goals. Two of the items the Forest Service must measure are: (1) The number of visits that occur on the National Forest System lands for recreation and other purposes, and (2) the views and satisfaction levels of recreational visitors to National Forest System lands about the services, facilities, and settings. The Agency receives requests for this kind of information from a variety of organizations, including Congressional staffs, newspapers, magazines, and recreational trade organizations.

The data from this collection provides vital information for strategic planning efforts, decisions regarding allocation of resources, and revisions of land and resource management plans for national

forests. It provides managers with reliable estimates of the number of recreational visitors to a national forest, activities of those visitors (including outdoor physical activities), customer satisfaction, and visitor values. The knowledge gained from this effort helps identify recreational markets as well as the economic impact visitors have on an area. The information collected is also used by the Office of Management and Budget as part of the Program Analysis Reporting Tool measures for the Forest Service recreation program. For the Forest Service, the collection is designed for a five-year cycle of coverage across all national forests. Conducting the collection less frequently puts information updates out of cycle with forest planning and other data preparation activities.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Interior (USDO) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) anticipates partnering with the Forest Service, pending funding availability, to conduct further field testing of the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) survey and estimation protocol as a means for estimating the volume of visitation and describing key visitor characteristics. BLM lands are often adjacent to Forest Service lands, and patterns of visitor access are similar to those of the Forest Service. As well, BLM's information and reporting needs closely mirror those of the Forest Service.

At the recreation sites or access points, agency personnel or contractors will conduct onsite interviews of visitors as they complete their visit. Interviewers will ask about the purpose and length of the visit, the trip origin, activities, annual visitation rates, trip-related spending patterns, use of recreation facilities, satisfaction with agency services and facilities, and the composition of the visiting party. Primary analysis of the information for the Forest Service and partnering agencies will be performed by Forest Service staff in the Washington Office and by scientists in one or more of the agency's research stations.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 9 minutes (average).

Type of Respondents: Visitors to lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and/or Bureau of Land Management.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 60,900.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 8,760 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions

of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: December 3, 2012.

James M. Peña

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2012–29928 Filed 12–11–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; Idaho; Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The forest gives notice of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation Project. The Red River Ranger District of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is undergoing planning efforts to restore the lower Crooked River valley near Elk City, Idaho. The Environmental Impact Statement will analyze the effects of the proposed action and alternatives. The Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests invites comments and suggestions on the issues to be addressed. The agency gives notice of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decision making process on the proposal so interested and affected members of the public may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by 45 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected October 2014 and the final