DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

Information Collection: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Recreation Visitor Study—2013

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 new information collection, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Recreation Visitor Study—2013.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before April 1, 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 Alan E. Watson, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, 790 E. Beckwith Ave., Missoula, MT 59801. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (406) 542–4196 or by email to: awatson@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, 790 E. Beckwith Ave., Missoula, MT 59801 during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (406) 542–4197 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan E. Watson, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, (406) 542–4197.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:
Title: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Recreation Visitor Study—2013.
OMB Number: 0596–NEW.
Expiration Date of Approval: Not applicable.

Type of Request: New.
Abstract: The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in Missoula, Montana, works under an interagency agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, to provide information in support of public wild lands management planning. The management of specific refuges is directed by laws, policies, and Comprehensive Conservation Plans. The Wilderness Act of 1964 directs the management of the National Wilderness Preservation System to protect natural wilderness conditions and provide outstanding opportunities for the public to find solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreational experiences. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge contains 8,000,000 acres of federally protected wilderness, Molly Beattie Wilderness, and over 11,000,000 acres of land and water managed for multiple values (e.g. subsistence, wildlife, water quality, scenic values, etc.). The wildlife refuge is also mandated to provide recreation experiences to visitors under the following laws: (1) The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, (2) The Refuge Recreation Act, and (3) The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Scientists at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute periodically monitor and report visitor use, user characteristics, and visitor feedback on federal land management actions, to managers and the public, to help meet federal mandates related to visitor use management planning. Agency personnel use the collected information to ensure visitor recreational activity does not harm the natural resources of the refuge and to guarantee the protection of wilderness-type recreation experiences. The Agency intent is to compare 2013’s recorded visitor responses to the previous survey responses, dated in 1977 before Refuge status and Wilderness designation. Additionally, the Agency will expand the scope of the survey to include visitor feedback to understand major dimensions of visitor experiences there and factors that influence those experiences. Potential factors of influence could include encounters with other visitors, subsistence users, researchers, and agency personnel, and information sources used to plan the trip. The data from this information collection will be stored at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in Missoula, Montana. Scientists working at the Research Institute will conduct the data analysis.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use information from this collection to:

1. Understand changes in visitor demographics, frequency of visits, and residence.
2. Understand changes in visit characteristics, such as whether they are hunting, river floating, method of access, size of group, difficulty in finding campsites, evaluations of conditions encountered, and feedback on information available for trip planning.
3. Gain an understanding of how the agency’s management of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other potential factors facilitate and constrain a visitor's recreation experience.
4. Gain an understanding of how to educate recreation visitors so they do not leave impacts from their visits, such as damaged vegetation, litter, polluted lakes and streams, and wildlife disturbance while engaging in high quality, safe, and responsible recreation visits, and
5. Provide insight into what visitors value most about this place to help inform development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and a Visitor Use Management Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Respondents will be recreation visitors to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors will be contacted as they enter the Refuge, or upon exit and will be provided with a postcard-paid postcard that offers them alternate methods to respond to the survey: (1) Mail the postage-paid postcard to the Leopold Institute with a name and address to receive a mail back survey, (2) mail the postage-paid postcard to the Leopold Institute with an email address to receive an electronic form of the survey, or (3) keep the postcard that contains a web address for on-line completion of the survey. All responses will be voluntary and confidential. Data collected in this information collection are not available from other sources and have not been collected since 1977.

This study will only ask recreation visitors, who are non-local and non-subsistence users, questions about their recreation visit, their personal demographics relevant to education and interpretation goals, and factors that have influenced or are likely to influence their recreation visits. Survey respondents will be told that this information is voluntary and confidential so their names will not be connected to their responses in any way. The Survey will not include questions related to oil exploration or development within the boundaries of the Refuge.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 20 minutes for each respondent (2 minutes on-site, 18 minutes mail-back or email back survey).

Type of Respondents: Recreation visitors to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 850 targeted contacts.

Estimated Sampling Success: 65% of those agreeing to participate (80% of 850 = 680), yielding approximately 450 responses.

_Forest Service_  
**Forest Resource Coordinating Committee**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Resource Committee Meeting will meet in Arlington, Va. The committee is authorized under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246). The purpose of the committee is to provide direction and coordination of actions within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and coordination with State agencies and the private sector, to effectively address the national priorities for non-industrial private forest land. The purpose of the meeting is discuss operational procedures for the committee and develop a workplan of projects for the committee to complete within the year.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on April 11–12, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at 1621 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia, in room 703/704. Written comments regarding agenda items must be received by January 24, 2013. Written comments may be submitted by mail to Attn: Maya Solomon, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., mailstop 1123, Washington, DC 20250 or by email to mayasolomon@fs.fed.us.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received on the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/fcc/. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 202–205–1043 to facilitate entry into the meeting room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maya Solomon, Forest Resource Coordinating Committee Program Coordinator, Cooperative Forestry staff, 202–205–1376 or Ted Beauvais, Designated Federal Officer, 202–205–1190.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be held on April 11–12, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is open to the public. The committee will discuss its 2013 plan of work and operational procedures for the committee. The committee will have several presentations relating to private forest landowners and government programs providing assistance to private forests to guide the development of its 2013 workplan.

Please see the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee Web site for any available materials, including a draft agenda for this meeting http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/fcc/. Comments/issues of particular interest to this meeting will also be made available to the public on this Web site. A summary of the meeting will be posted at http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/within 21 days after the meeting.

Dated: January 24, 2013.

James E. Hubbard,  
Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry.  
[FR Doc. 2013–02091 Filed 1–30–13; 8:45 am]