

Civil Justice Reform

These proposed directives have been reviewed under E.O. 12988, Civil Justice Reform. These final directives will guide the work of Forest Service employees and are not intended to preempt any State and local laws and regulations that might be in conflict or that would impede full implementation of these directives. The directives would not retroactively affect existing permits, contracts, or other instruments authorizing the occupancy and use of NFS lands and would not require the institution of administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging their provisions

Unfunded Mandates

Pursuant to Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538), which the President signed into law on March 22, 1995, the effects of these final directives on State, local, and Tribal governments, and on the private sector have been assessed and do not compel the expenditure of \$100 million or more by any State, local, or Tribal government, or anyone in the private sector. Therefore, a statement under section 202 of the act is not required.

Federalism

The Agency has considered these final directives under the requirements of E.O. 13132, Federalism. The Agency has made an assessment that they conform with the federalism principles set out in this Executive Order; would not impose any significant compliance costs on the States; and would not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Moreover, these final directives address the land management planning process on National Forests, Grasslands or other units of the NFS, and provide direction regarding the Agency's interaction with State, local and Tribal governments, to ensure consideration of concerns, impacts and opportunities.

Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments

The Forest Service conducted government-to-government consultation on the planning directives. The Forest Service considers Tribal consultation as an ongoing, iterative process that encompasses development of the proposed directives through the issuance of final directives. The Agency contacted all federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations by mail

to formally initiate consultation on the proposed directives and asked for comments within 120 days. Hopi Nation Tribal leaders requested consultation and met with the Deputy Regional Forester of Region 3 on June 6, 2013, to discuss the planning directives. Written comments were received from tribes in California and Oregon, the California Indian Water Commission and an Alaska native corporation. Comments were focused on coordination and consultation with tribes and Alaska native corporations.

Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public

These final directives do not contain any record keeping or reporting requirements or other information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320 and, therefore, impose no paperwork burden on the public. While most land management planning activities do not involve information collection as defined in 5 CFR part 1320, the Agency recognizes that a wide variety of strategies may be used pursuant to the 2012 Planning Rule to engage the public in the planning process. To ensure compliance with the review provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and implementing regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 in a timely manner to support land management planning, the Agency has developed a generic information collection which is currently under review by OMB and has been assigned control number 0596–0234. In addition, Chapter 50 of these final directives contains information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320. The information collection requirements for the objection process to the land management plans has been approved by OMB and assigned control number 0596–0158.

Dated: January 30, 2015.

Robert Bonnie,

Under Secretary, NRE.

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ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

103rd Commission Meeting

January 29, 2015.

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will hold its 103rd meeting in Washington, District of Columbia, on March 4–5, 2015. The business sessions, open to the public, will convene at 9:00 a.m.

The Agenda items include:

- (1) Call to order and approval of the agenda
- (2) Approval of the minutes from the 102nd meeting
- (3) Commissioners and staff reports
- (4) Discussion and presentations concerning Arctic research activities.

The focus of the meeting will be on Arctic policy issues, and on programs and research projects affecting the Arctic.

If you plan to attend this meeting, please notify us via the contact information below. Any person planning to attend who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission of those needs in advance of the meeting.

Contact person for further information: John Farrell, Executive Director, U.S. Arctic Research Commission, 703–525–0111 or TDD 703–306–0090.

Kathy Farrow,

Communications Specialist.

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