

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are required regarding; whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by December 18, 2023 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program

OMB Control Number: 0560–NEW.

Summary of Collection: The purpose of the program is to fund projects that support a diverse set of farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners (producers) on the edge financially; moving them from surviving to thriving as they address core barriers to attain land, capital, and market access. The Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program is funding cooperative agreements or grants (awarded) for projects that are designed to align with and respond to land, capital, and market access needs of the underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners while concurrently providing wraparound technical assistance to ensure that program participants have the information, training, and customized support they require.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will be collecting the initial report and progress reports quarterly and annually. Without the information, FSA would not be able to assess the performance of the program.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Business or other for profit.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 3,650.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Disaster Assistance—General (7 CFR part 1945–A).

OMB Control Number: 0560–0170.

Summary of Collection: The regulation (7 CFR 759) defines the responsibilities of the Secretary of Agriculture in making disaster area determinations, the types of incidents that can result in a disaster area determination, and the factors used in making disaster area determinations. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is managing the collection. The determination of a disaster area is prerequisite to authorizing emergency (EM) loans to qualified farmers as specified in the 7 CFR 764. EM loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs incurred by the farmer or rancher in the year of the disaster, pay for essential family living expenses, pay to reorganize the farming operation or refinance USDA and non-USDA creditors. The information collection

occurs when the Secretary receives a letter from an individual farmer, local government officials, State Governor, State Agriculture Commissioners, State Secretaries of Agriculture, other State government officials, and Indian Tribal Council, requesting a Secretarial natural disaster determination. Supporting documentation of losses for all counties having disaster is provided by the County Emergency Boards in the form of a report called Loss assessment report (LAR).

Need and use of the Information: FSA collects the following information to determine if the county is eligible to qualify for a natural disaster designation: (1) The nature and extent of production losses; (2) the number of farmers who have sustained qualifying production losses; and (3) the number of farmers that have sustained qualifying production losses that other lenders in the county have indicated that they will not be in a position to finance. The collection of information is necessary to determine whether the counties did sustain sufficient production losses to qualify for a natural disaster designation.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 1,312.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 626.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023–25450 Filed 11–16–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Forest Service Manual 2300— Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management, Chapter 2350—Trail, River, and Similar Recreation Opportunities, Section 2355—Climbing Opportunities

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of availability for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, United States Department of

Agriculture (Forest Service or Agency), is proposing to revise its directives to provide guidance on climbing opportunities on National Forest System (NFS) lands, including climbing opportunities in Congressionally designated wilderness (wilderness).

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by January 16, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically to <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=ORMS-3524>. Written comments may be mailed to Peter Mali, National Wilderness Program Manager, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1124. All timely comments, including names and addresses, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/ReadingRoom?project=ORMS-3524>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Mali, National Wilderness Program Manager, SM.FS.ClimbDir@usda.gov, (202) 823-0773. Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Climbing is a growing sport in the United States. According to the Outdoor Industry Association's 2022 Report on Outdoor Participation Trends, there were nearly 10.3 million climbers in the United States in 2021. Approximately 30 percent of outdoor climbing in the United States occurs on NFS lands. In recent years, line officers have expressed concerns about climbing-related impacts on resources and conflicts among uses.

Current Forest Service directives do not provide guidance for climbing opportunities on NFS lands. The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act directs the Forest Service to issue general guidance on climbing opportunities on NFS lands, including the application of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) to climbing opportunities and appropriate use of fixed anchors and fixed equipment in wilderness. To address impacts associated with increased climbing on NFS lands and consistent with the Joint Explanatory Statement, the Forest Service is proposing revisions to its directives to provide guidance on climbing opportunities on NFS lands.

The proposed directive would provide guidance on climbing opportunities inside and outside

wilderness on NFS lands and would provide for climbing opportunities that serve visitor needs; meet land management and recreation policy objectives; emphasize the natural setting of NFS lands; align with natural and cultural resource protection and the Agency's responsibility to Indian Tribes; and are consistent with applicable law, directives, and the applicable land management plan.

The proposed directive would add a new section, 2355, to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2300—Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management, chapter 2350—Trail, River, and Similar Recreation Opportunities, which would provide that climbing is an appropriate use of NFS lands (proposed FSM 2355.03, para. 1)—including in wilderness—when conducted in accordance with applicable law and Forest Service directives and consistent with the applicable land management plan (proposed FSM 2355.03, para. 4); that a climbing management plan be developed, as funding and resources allow, for climbing opportunities in wilderness, and for climbing opportunities outside wilderness where the District Ranger determines that climbing is causing adverse resource impacts or use conflicts (proposed FSM 2355.21); that fixed anchors and fixed equipment are installations for purposes of section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(c)) (proposed FSM 2355.32, para. 1); that a Forest Supervisor may authorize the placement or replacement of fixed anchors and fixed equipment in wilderness based on a case-specific determination that they are the minimum necessary for administration of the area for Wilderness Act purposes, including primitive or unconfined recreation and preservation of wilderness character (proposed FSM 2355.32, para. 1); that existing fixed anchors and fixed equipment in wilderness may be retained pending completion of a Minimum Requirements Analysis, as funding and resources allow, that determines they are the minimum necessary to facilitate primitive or unconfined recreation or otherwise preserve wilderness character (FSM 2355.32, para. 5); and that the issuance and administration of special use permits are encouraged to enhance visitor access to climbing opportunities and visitor education concerning low impact climbing practices (proposed FSM 2355.03, para. 9).

To allow for enforcement of restrictions and prohibitions in climbing management plans as needed, the Forest Service will be proposing revisions via a separate **Federal Register** notice to its

regulations at 36 CFR part 261, subpart A, General Prohibitions.

The minimum 120-day Tribal consultation for the proposed directive was initiated November 8, 2021, and will conclude at the end of the 60-day comment period for the proposed directive.

After the comment period closes, the Forest Service will consider timely comments that are within the scope of the proposed directive in the development of the final directive. A notice of the final directive, including a response to comments, will be posted on the Forest Service's web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/regulations-policies>.

Dated: November 6, 2023.

Gregory Smith,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2023-25426 Filed 11-16-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Stanislaus National Forest; California; Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape 2.0 EIS

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service ("Forest Service"), United States Department of Agriculture, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape 2.0 (SERAL 2.0) project. The project area is approximately 160,000 acres in size, including approximately 119,000 acres of Forest Service lands. The project area includes the remainder of the Stanislaus Landscape—a Wildfire Crisis Strategy Priority Landscape identified in 2022. The project area also spans multiple High Risk Western Firesheds identified by the Secretary of Agriculture in January 2023.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 18, 2023. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in early February 2024, and the final environmental impact statement is expected in April 2024.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments may be submitted electronically through <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/commentInput?Project=63557>. Written