

no requirements on tribes or tribal governments or have any effect on Federal-tribal relations. The prohibitions in the supplementary rules would apply equally to all persons, including Indian individuals, who visit or use the parcels of public land on which they apply.

#### *Paperwork Reduction Act*

These supplementary rules do not contain information collection requirements that the Office of Management and Budget must approve under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

#### *Author*

The principal author of these supplementary rules is Walter Gabler, Law Enforcement Ranger at the Bureau of Land Management, Ukiah Field Office, California.

BLM proposes the following supplementary rules:

#### **Supplementary Rules for Public Land on Quail Ridge, Napa County, California**

##### Sec. 1 Prohibited acts.

a. You must not discharge firearms of any kind on public lands on Quail Ridge, Napa County, California.

b. You must not discharge paintball weapons on public lands on Quail Ridge, Napa County, California.

##### Sec. 2 Penalties.

Under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7 if you violate these supplementary rules on public lands within the boundaries established, you may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Dated: June 9, 2004.

#### **Rich Burns,**

*Field Manager, BLM Ukiah California.*

[FR Doc. 04-13571 Filed 6-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **30 Day Notice of Intention To Request for Clearance of Information Collection to the Office of Management and Budget; Opportunity for Public Comment.**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, The Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. 3507) and 5 CFR, part 1320 Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements, the National Park Service (NPS) invites comments on a submitted request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve an extension of a currently approved information collection (OMB #1024-0022). This information collection is associated with permits implementing provisions of the agency regulations pertaining to the use of public lands. The information collected critical to backcountry managers and allows them to monitor levels of use to identify any impacts to the resources.

**DATES:** Public comments on this final notice must be received by July 16, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

The bureau solicits public comments as to:

- (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the bureau, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments directly to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB#1024-0022), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, by fax at 202/395-6566, or by electronic mail at [OIRA\\_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov). Please also mail or hand carry a copy of your comments to Lee Dickinson, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, (2460), Washington, DC 20240. Electronic mail may also be sent to [Lee\\_Dickinson@nps.gov](mailto:Lee_Dickinson@nps.gov). All comments will become a matter of public record.

*For Further Information or a copy of the Study Package Submitted for OMB Review Contact:* Lee Dickinson, Special Park Uses Program Manager, National Park Service at 202/513-7092 or electronic mail at [Lee\\_Dickinson@nps.gov](mailto:Lee_Dickinson@nps.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

- (1) *Title:* Backcountry Use Permit. (36 CFR 1.5, 1.6 and 2.1).
- (2) *Form Number:* 10-404A.

(3) *OMB Number:* 1024-0022.

(4) *Expiration Date:* 4/30/04.

(5) *Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

(6) *Description of Need:* collection of information allows park managers to monitor backcountry use and to uniformly distribute necessary guidance and safety information to backcountry users.

(7) *Estimated number of Applicants:* 285,000.

(8) *Estimated number of Responses:* 285,000.

(9) *Estimated burden per response:* 5 minutes.

(10) *Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 23,750 hours.

#### **Analysis of Comments Regarding the 60 Day Federal Register Notice**

There were no comments received from the public on the proposed regulations during the 60-day public comment period that closed February 3, 2004. The forms were first approved in November 1976. No comments concerning the forms have been received in the last 3 years.

Dated: April 22, 2004.

#### **Leonard E. Stowe,**

*Acting NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer, Washington Administrative Program Center.*

[FR Doc. 04-13518 Filed 6-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Fire Management Plan, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, CA; Notice of Availability**

*Summary:* Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500-1508), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement identifying and evaluating four alternatives for a proposed update to the Fire Management Plan at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), California. Potential impacts and appropriate mitigations are assessed for each alternative. When approved, the plan will guide all future fire management actions in the SMMNRA for five to ten years.

The Draft Santa Monica Mountains Environmental Impact Statement (DSMMEIS) documents the

environmental impact analysis of three action alternatives, and a no action alternative. These fire management alternatives are needed to meet public safety, natural and cultural resource management, and wildland urban interface protection objectives on National Park Service (NPS) managed lands within the SMMNRA. They are also designed to protect ecological and cultural resource values based on a current understanding of the dynamic relationship between the native chaparral/coastal sage scrub vegetation and the fire climate of the Santa Monica Mountains. Related activities such as coordination with local fire agencies, assessment of fire hazards, and public education apply to all private and public lands within the SMMNRA boundary. In varying degrees each action alternative identifies measures to address resource condition and education goals as called for in the SMMNRA General Management Plan, which was approved in 2003.

*Alternatives Analyzed:* Elements common to all alternatives include the goal of complete suppression of wildland fires. Under the management preferred alternative, which is also the "environmentally preferred" alternative (Alternative 2, Mechanical Fuel Reduction/Ecological Prescribed Fire/Strategic Fuels Treatment) prescribed burning is used to provide resource enhancement. In addition, hazard fuel reduction projects using prescribed fire or mechanical fuel reduction are considered in strategic locations to reduce the chance of wildfires which may damage life and property or impact natural and cultural resources. Short-term and site-specific resource impacts of strategic prescribed fires are weighed against long-term and regional hazard fuel reduction benefits. Strategic zones are identified using up-to-date analysis of vegetation types, fuel characteristics, fire spread models, and potential hazards to life, property and natural and cultural resources. Mechanical fuel reduction is concentrated at the wildland urban interface to protect homes. This alternative provides maximum potential environmental benefit and minimizes the adverse impacts of fire management actions. It is also the most flexible alternative, utilizing all available fire management strategies identified to be appropriate in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Under the No-Action Alternative (Alternative 1) the current SMMNRA fire and vegetation management program, approved in 1986 and revised in 1994, would be retained. It is intended to create a landscape mosaic of varying aged chaparral stands through

the application of prescribed fire in separate watersheds. Brush clearance is limited to the wildland urban interface (those areas directly adjacent to homes and roads that abut parkland or open space). In recent years the desired execution of this program has been difficult because of increasingly complex regulatory constraints on prescribed fire, especially those relating to air quality standards. Maintaining the current program has the potential in the long term to be ecologically damaging to native plant communities. It may not provide direct protection for residential areas by reducing fuel loads at the wildland urban interface. A growing body of research indicates that the program does not provide effective control of wildfire spread under severe weather conditions.

Under Alternative 3 (Mechanical Fuel Reduction/Ecological Prescribed Fire) prescribed burning is used exclusively to provide resource enhancement including control of exotic species and restoration of natural communities. Mosaic burning is eliminated. Fuel hazard reduction is concentrated at the wildland urban interface to protect homes and development and emphasizes brush clearance by mechanical means. This alternative lacks the potential risk reduction benefits from strategic fuel modification.

Under Alternative 4 (Mechanical Fuel Reduction only) vegetation management is limited to expanded brush clearance at the wildland urban interface. Prescribed fire is eliminated. This alternative provides effective protection of homes by focusing mechanical fuel reduction at the interface between homes and wildland vegetation, but lacks the ecological benefits of resource prescribed burning, and the potential risk reduction benefits from strategic fuel modification.

*Planning Background:* The DSMMEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act in compliance with NPS environmental requirements. Public outreach was initiated in June 2001 with a planning workshop for agencies, cooperators and other partners attended by approximately 30 people. A Scoping Notice published in the **Federal Register** in March 2002 encouraged comments during a six month period. Four public meetings were also held in April 2002, in Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Malibu and Thousand Oaks, California. Two additional meetings were held in June 2002 to gain additional input on the alternatives from fire agencies, cooperators and other partners. Approximately 35 citizens attended these six sessions. Letters were also sent

to Native American representatives, requesting their comments and concerns related to cultural activities, practices or resources. In addition to the oral comments, the park received nine letters, faxes and emails; a majority of respondents supported a strategy that provided the most flexibility. One letter encouraged planners to minimize prescribed burning as a management tool. These responses, along with information from the 2001 preliminary workshop involving numerous fire management and land management agencies, have been taken into account in the development of alternatives.

*Public Meetings:* In order to facilitate public review and comment on the DSMMEIS, several public meetings are planned for August 2004 (with at least two to be held in the evening and one in the afternoon; possible locations include Beverly Hills, Malibu, Calabasas/Agoura Hills, and Thousand Oaks, California). Detailed information on location and times for all public meetings will be published in local and regional newspapers several weeks in advance and announced on the park's webpage. SMMNRA management and fire planning officials will attend all sessions to present the DSMMEIS and receive comments and answer questions.

*Comments:* The complete DSMMEIS will be posted on the SMMNRA webpage at <http://www.nps.gov/samo/pphtml/documents.html>. Copies in printed or CD form will be available at park headquarters in Thousand Oaks and at local and regional libraries in the greater Los Angeles area; these locations will also be posted on the Web site. Copies will also be sent directly to those who request it (specify desired format and inquire at (805) 370-2331 or via eMail per address below). All written comments must be postmarked, or transmitted electronically, not later than September 15, 2004. All comments should be addressed to the Superintendent and mailed to Santa Monica Mountains NRA, 401 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Attn: Fire Management Plan; or eMailed to: <[samo\\_fire@nps.gov](mailto:samo_fire@nps.gov)> (in the subject line, type: Fire Mgmt Plan EIS). All comments received will be maintained in the administrative record and the information provided may be made available for public review. If individuals submitting comments request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will

withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always, NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

*Decision Process:* Depending upon the degree of public interest and response from other agencies and organizations, at this time it is anticipated that the Final Fire Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will be completed during 2005; availability of the document will be duly noticed in the **Federal Register** and announced in local and regional press. Subsequently, a Record of Decision may be approved not sooner than thirty days after the final document is distributed. As a delegated EIS, the official responsible for the decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service; subsequently the official responsible for implementation is the Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains NRA.

Dated: May 11, 2004.

**Jonathan B. Jarvis,**

*Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

[FR Doc. 04-13520 Filed 6-15-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4312-52-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Fire Management Plan, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Shasta County, CA; Notice of Availability**

*Summary:* Pursuant to § 102(2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500-1508), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement identifying and evaluating four alternatives for a Fire Management Plan for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, California. Potential impacts and mitigating measures are described for each alternative. The alternative selected upon conclusion of the conservation planning/environmental impact analysis process will guide future fire management actions at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area over the next 10 years.

The Whiskeytown Fire Management Plan (FMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) describes and evaluates three action alternatives and a

no action alternative for an updated fire management program at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Revisions to the current plan are needed to meet public and firefighter safety, natural and cultural resource management, and wildland urban interface objectives of the park. The action alternatives vary in the emphasis they place on fire management goals developed by the park. The current program has been effective in fire suppression, but has not been able to restore large portions of the park landscape to circa 1800 conditions as required by the park's General Management Plan (GMP). Also, each action alternative would amend the park's GMP to allow future consideration of rebuilding the park's administration building at its current headquarters location, in conjunction with relocating the fire cache to the Oak Bottom recreational complex.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is located eight miles west of Redding, California and encompasses 42,500 acres, including the 3000-acre Whiskeytown Lake—a reservoir created as part of California's Central Valley Project, Trinity River Diversion. In the past, wildland fire occurred naturally in the environs of the park as an important ecosystem process that kept forest fuels and vegetation structure within a natural range of variability. Mining, logging and fire suppression activities (mostly pre-dating the establishment of the park) have lead to increased fuel loads and changes in vegetation community structure. In turn this has increased the risk of large, high-intensity wildland fire within the park, threatening developed zones, the park's natural and cultural resources, and neighboring landowners and communities.

*Planning Background:* A Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** on August 8, 2001; the public scoping period officially ended on September 15, 2001, although comments were accepted throughout 2002. During this time the park held discussions and briefings with local communities; local residents; local, regional and state fire organizations; air quality regulators; other agency representatives; tribes; elected officials; representatives of city and county government; public service organizations and other interested members of the public. A public scoping meeting was conducted on August 23, 2001 in the town of Old Shasta at Shasta Elementary School. The meeting was advertised in the local media and letters were sent to agencies, organizations and members of the public inviting them to participate in the scoping process. Twenty members of the public attended.

Issues raised during scoping included air quality concerns; the management capacity for wildland fire use in a wildland urban interface zone; how well the park met past prescribed fire goals; the use of herbicides; interactions between overstocked forests and beetle infestations; and the use of heavy equipment in forest lands for thinning operations.

*Response to the Draft Plan:* A Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in the **Federal Register** on April 23, 2003, and a press release was issued coinciding with publication of the **Federal Register** notice (and notice was posted on the park's Web site). Postcards announcing the availability of the draft document were mailed out to the park's mailing list. Copies of the document were available at the park's Visitor Center and at local libraries in Shasta, Tehama and Trinity counties. The public comment period concluded on June 24, 2003.

During April and May, 2003 several hundred copies of the draft plan were mailed to agencies, organizations and interested individuals. During the public comment period, two public meetings were held (May 28 & June 12) and two public tours of the park were held (June 10 & 14). A total of seven pieces of written correspondence were received—including letters from agencies, organizations and individuals (the written comments were received from the local area, with two exceptions, one from Crescent City, California and one from Wisconsin. In addition, 15 people attended public meetings and tours. The following elements received the most comments: Support for addressing the wildland urban interface area; clarifications of the air quality analysis; and qualified support for forest thinning. Comments on wildland fire use were uniformly against the practice of using this management tool at Whiskeytown. All letters with substantive comments noted are reproduced in the WFMP FEIS.

Throughout the overall conservation planning and environmental impact analysis, consultations were held with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California State Historic Preservation Office. Additional consultations were held with local Native American groups and county air districts. With the exceptions of the Bureau of Land Management, the Shasta County air quality district and the California