

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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Board for International Food and Agricultural Development: One Hundred and Thirty Sixth Meeting; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of the one hundred and thirty-sixth meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD). The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on January 6, 2003 in the ground floor meeting room of the National Association of State Universities & Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), at 1307 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

The program will be devoted to a discussion of a humanitarian compact for developing countries, a progress report on the previous meeting's long-term training agenda item, and further USAID reports on the status of agricultural or rural livelihoods and the involvement of universities.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Those wishing to attend the meeting or obtain additional information about BIFAD should contact Mr. Lawrence Paulson, the Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD. Write him in care of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Ronald Reagan Building, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 2.11-073, Washington DC 20523-2100 or telephone him at (202) 712-1436 or fax (202) 216-3010.

Lawrence Paulson,

USAID Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture & Trade.

[FR Doc. 02-30816 Filed 12-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Appeals Division

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Appeals Division, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection.

SUMMARY: Notice. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the intention of the National Appeals Division (NAD) to request approval of a voluntary information collection for the purpose of setting customer service standards.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 3, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Jobe, USDA/NAD Suite 1100, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703-305-2514).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Appeals Division Customer Service Survey.

OMB Number: Not yet designated.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: Executive Order 12862 requires Federal Agencies to identify the customers who are, or should be served by the Agency and survey those customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing services. Agencies will then use the results to the survey to establish customer service standards.

The National Appeals Division (NAD) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was established by the Secretary of Agriculture on October 20, 1994, by Secretary's Memorandum 1010-1, pursuant to the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-354, section 271 et seq. (October 13, 1994)). The Act consolidated the appellate functions and staffs of several USDA Agencies to provide for independent hearings and reviews of adverse Agency decisions. NAD is responsible for all administrative appeals arising from program activities of assigned Agencies, as well as such other administrative appeals arising from decisions of Agencies and offices of USDA as may be assigned by the Secretary. NAD appeals involve program decisions of the Farm Service

Agency, Risk Management Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Utilities Service.

Need of the Information: The information collection in this request is essential for NAD to comply with the requirement of Executive Order 12862 to set customer service standards. The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of USDA.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimate to average 0.25 hours per response.

Respondents: The primary respondents will be individuals and/or households who are participants in Farm Service Agency and Rural Housing Service programs. A small percentage of respondents may be businesses, institutions or state and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1176.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.00.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 294.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jerry Jobe, National Appeals Division at (703) 305-2514.

Send comments regarding, but not limited to the following: (a) Whether the collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of NAD, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) the accuracy of NAD's estimates of the burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways 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 technological collection techniques, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments should be addressed to Jerry Jobe, Deputy Director for Planning, Training and Quality Control, USDA/NAD, Suite 1100, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB

approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 4, 2002

Roger J. Klurfeld,

Director, National Appeals Division.

[FR Doc. 02-30835 Filed 12-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-WY-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Santa Fe National Forest, Jemez Ranger District; New Mexico; San Diego Range Allotment Permit Issuance

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Santa Fe National Forest announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Managing Cattle Grazing on the San Diego Range Allotment located on the Jemez Ranger District, New Mexico. The EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of managing cattle grazing on the San Diego Cattle Allotment. The EIS will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4370a, and the National Forest Management Act 16 U.S.C. 1600-1614, and their respective implementing regulations.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before January 13, 2003. The draft EIS is expected to be available for public review in September 2003. The final EIS is expected to be published in December 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions on the proposal, or requests to be placed on the project mailing list, to Rita Skinner, Natural Resource Coordinator, Jemez Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest, PO Box 150, Jemez Springs, NM 87025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Derek Padilla, Range Staff, Jemez Ranger District, at 505-829-3535.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

There is an underlying need to: Protect non-renewable archaeological resources, minimize conflicts between recreation users and cattle during high use recreation periods, protect riparian areas, and minimize soil and vegetation impacts, while contributing to the social and economic needs associated with traditional grazing practices in Northern

New Mexico. The Rescission Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-19), Section 504(a)(b)(c), directs the Forest Service to create and adhere to a schedule to complete NEPA for grazing activities and other related issues. In assessing this grazing allotment, the Forest Service will consider the protection of various resources within the allotment and meet the intent of the Rescission Act.

Proposed Action

The Santa Fe National Forest proposes to revise the grazing program on the San Diego Cattle Allotment to address archaeological and other resource concerns on the allotment. Grazing would be authorized through issuance of a new 10-year term grazing permit. The overall grazing system(s) currently in place would remain essentially unchanged. Approximately 2-4 miles of new fence would be constructed and eight miles of existing fence would be reconstructed. Six to eight new water developments (dirt tanks) would be constructed in upland pastures and about two miles of new pipeline and four new water troughs would be installed to address various riparian, recreation, scenery, and archaeological objectives. The number of cattle and grazing seasons would remain essentially unchanged except for a small reduction in head months (through changing the season of use) to accommodate a one-week reduction in spring riparian area grazing.

Possible Alternatives

Alternatives include: No Action (No change from existing management)—Grazing would continue at the current level of 252 head from May 1 to November 30, 116 head from December 1 to April 30, and 12 bulls year-round. A second alternative, the Forest Service proposed action is described in the preceding paragraph. A third alternative would eliminate grazing in a pasture containing a high density of archaeological sites. A fourth alternative would eliminate cattle grazing in high use recreation areas. A fifth alternative (No Grazing) would completely eliminate cattle grazing on the allotment.

Responsible Official

John Peterson, District Ranger, Jemez Ranger District Santa Fe National Forest, P.O. Box 150, Jemez Springs, NM 87025, is the responsible official for this decision. He will document his decision in a Record of Decision.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The District Ranger of the Jemez Ranger District will decide whether or not livestock grazing activities would be allowed to continue on the allotment, and if so, the decision will identify: the grazing seasons, the timing and duration of grazing, structural range facilities, forage utilization levels, mitigation measures, monitoring and evaluation, and the implementation schedule.

Scoping Process

A project scoping letter was distributed in 1999 to interested individuals and organizations, and was published in the Jemez Thunder newspaper. The proposed project has been listed on the Santa Fe National Forest Schedule of Proposed Projects beginning in December 1998 and as recently as December 2002. Consultation with Native American Tribes was initiated three years ago and is ongoing. Cattle grazing activities associated with this allotment were discussed in detail at public meetings and throughout the scoping and planning effort for the Jemez National Recreation Area, which overlaps this allotment.

Preliminary Issues

Heritage Resources (Archaeology)—Heritage resources has been identified as a key issue. This allotment contains high concentrations of significant archaeological sites. Cattle trailing through sites, congregating, bedding down, trampling, rubbing against standing features, etc. can result in adverse effects to sites including long-term cumulative impacts. The proposed action and alternatives 3 and 5 address this issue to varying degrees. Other issues include:

Recreation—A portion of this allotment is within the Jemez National Recreation Area. The presence of cattle in popular dispersed recreation areas can disrupt the recreational and scenic enjoyment for some visitors to the area. The proposed action and alternatives 4 and 5 address this issue to varying degrees.

Riparian, Water, Fish habitat—Cattle grazing, permittee vehicle use, gathering, and trailing of cattle may affect riparian areas by slowing the rate of recovery of these areas. These same activities may affect water quality and aquatic habitat, particularly when combined with impacts associated with a high level of dispersed recreation use. The proposed action and alternatives 4 and 5 address this issue to varying degrees.