

# 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

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Recreation Fee Permit Envelope

**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 extension of the information collection, Recreation Fee Permit Envelope (Form FS-2300-26).

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before June 3, 2003 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 Forest Service, USDA, Attn: Fee Program Manager, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff, Mail Stop 1125, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1125. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1145 or by e-mail to: tcleeland@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff, Sidney R. Yates Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, Washington, DC, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-1169 to facilitate entry to the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Teri Cleeland, Fee Program Manager, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff, (202) 205-1169.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Description of Information Collection

*Title:* Recreation Fee Permit Envelope.  
*OMB Number:* 0596-0106.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* April 30, 2003.

*Type of Request:* Extension.

*Abstract:* This information collection will help the Forest Service ensure that visitors to National Forest System recreational sites comply with Forest Service policies and regulations and pay user fees when required. The data will also help the agency evaluate how well it meets the recreational needs of its visitors.

Each year, millions of people visit National Forest System recreational sites. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, section 4(b), the Forest Service regulations at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 291.2, and Section 315 of Public Law 104-134 (Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996), as amended, authorize National Forest and Grassland recreational sites to collect fees from visitors. The Forest Service uses the Recreation Fee Permit Envelope to collect these fees.

The agency will analyze the collected data to evaluate visitor use of recreational sites to determine the staffing needs for law enforcement, cleaning, maintenance, inspection, and other needs at these recreational sites. The Forest Service also will use the collected information to track demographic data (such as a visitor's length of stay at a specific recreational site, a visitor's recreational activities, or the recreational sites most frequented) and to ensure that visitors on National Forest System recreational sites comply with the agency's fee payment policies and regulations at 36 CFR 261.15.

Visitors pick up self-service fee envelopes at recreational sites that charge fees, such as campgrounds or other facilities. The visitors complete the blocks of information requested and place the money in the envelope, which they deposit in a secure collection box or fee tube, generally located at the entrance to the site. As part of the fee collection process, the Forest Service asks visitors to provide the following information: The amount of money enclosed, the number of days for which they paid, the date and time period for which they paid, their vehicle license plate number, the State in which they live, their camp unit number, the number of people in their party, and their planned date of departure. The envelope also asks for comments on how the Forest Service can improve the facilities or services at the site. The

agency will use the collected data to evaluate accessibility for all visitors based on actual reported need rather than agency assumptions. For example, visitors could report that they were unable to get a wheelchair to a picnic table or restroom or that signs weren't available in braille.

To determine the estimate of burden, six Forest Service employees were requested to pick up fee envelopes at a Forest Service campground, read the directions, complete the form, place the fee in the envelope, deposit the envelope in a fee tube, and place the stubs on their dashboards. The estimate of burden is based on the average time it took the six employees to complete the fee payment process.

Data collected in this information collection are not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* 3 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Individuals and groups using National Forests and Grasslands recreational sites at which fees are collected.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 400,000. This estimate is based on the number of fee envelopes that are printed and placed in recreational sites annually.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 20,000 hours.

#### Comment Is Invited

*Comment is invited on:* (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. In submitting

this proposal to the Office of Management and Budget for approval, the Forest Service will summarize and respond to comments received.

Dated: March 28, 2003.

**Gloria Manning,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. 03-8187 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Bighorn National Forest; Wyoming; Woodrock Project EIS.**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of travel management, timber harvest, fuels reduction, and watershed rehabilitation primarily in the South Tongue Watershed on the Tongue Ranger District of the Bighorn National Forest, in Sheridan County, Wyoming. The project area is located approximately 25 air miles southwest of Sheridan, Wyoming.

**DATES:** Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis, issues, the alternatives, and evaluation of alternatives should be received within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The Forest Service estimates the Draft EIS will be filed in June of 2003. The Final EIS will be filed within 3 months of that date, approximately September of 2004. A draft document will be provided upon request. Scoping comments previously submitted for this project do not need to be submitted again.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Craig Yancey, District Ranger, Tounge District, Bighorn National Forest, 2013 Eastside 2nd Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801. Send electronic comments to *Mailroom\_R2\_Bighorn@notes.fs.fed.us*; include Woodrock Project as the subject.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Hill, EIS Team Leader Woodrock Project, Bighorn National Forest, 2013 Eastside 2nd Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801, Electronic mail: *shill02@fs.fed.us*, phone: (307) 674-2649.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose and Need for Action**

The Woodrock Project is being proposed to implement the Forest Plan. The project includes: implementation of Forest Plan allocations, implementing past forest management decisions and silvicultural prescriptions, improve watershed conditions, improve travel management and existing road systems, and improve or maintain the forested vegetation within the forest plan standard and guidelines and other legal requirements.

**Proposed Action**

The Forest Service proposes to: improve diversity of forested vegetation by mimicking scale and intensity of natural disturbance patterns within the project area; reduce impacts to watershed conditions from roads and trails by changing travel management restrictions, reconstructing, restricting travel, or decommissioning existing roads where problems cannot be mitigated; on roads and trails; harden, relocate, or close dispersed campsites to meet Forest Plan direction; timber harvest of stands to produce wood fiber and reduce the spread of forest pests on approximately 1,800 acres.

**Responsible Official**

The responsible official for this decision is Bill Bass, Forest Supervisor, Bighorn National Forest, 2013 Eastside 2nd Street, Sheridan, WY 82801.

**Nature of Decision To Be Made**

The Forest Supervisor will decide: if changes should be made to the transportation system within the area; whether and where timber harvest should be implemented; if timber harvest occurs, what silvicultural systems and size of openings would be created; what noncommercial vegetation and fuels treatments should be taken; and what watershed improvements should be undertaken. He will decide when, or if, any management activities would take place, what mitigation measures would be implemented to address concerns, and whether the action requires amendment(s) to the Bighorn Forest Plan.

**Scoping Process**

The Woodrock project was initially developed as an Environmental Assessment. Scoping notices were sent on September 2, 1997 inviting comments from Federal, State and local agencies, special interest groups and individuals who had expressed interest in National Forest projects in the area. Scoping notices were sent to newspapers across northern Wyoming. A field trip was held on September 30,

1997. A public meeting addressing travel management in the Woodrock area was held at Bear Lodge on October 7, 2000. The project has been listed in the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions from 1997 to the present.

**Preliminary Issues**

Issues associated with this project that have been identified during scoping and development of proposed action include the impacts of the proposed activities on wildlife and plant species and their habitat and effects of travel management on water quality and riparian habitat.

**Comment Requested**

A 45-day review period for comments on the Draft EIS will be provided. Comments received will be considered and included in documentation of the Final EIS. The public is encouraged to take part in the process and to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service has sought and will continue to seek information, comments and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)). Due to these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is