

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request revising and extending the collection of information listed below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the USGS Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 60 days directly to the USGS Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the USGS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the USGS estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The utility, quality, 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.

Title: Mine, Development, and Minerals Information Supplement.

Current OMB approval number: 1028-0060.

Abstract: Respondents supply the U.S. Geological Survey with domestic production, exploration, and mine development data on nonfuel mineral commodities. This information will be published as an Annual Report for use by Government agencies, industry, and the general public.

Bureau form number: 9-4000-A.
Frequency: Annual.

Description of respondents: Nonfuel Mineral Producers and Exploration Operations.

Annual Responses: 337.

Annual burden hours: 253.

Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack, 703-648-7313.

Keith L. Harris,

Acting Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.

[FR Doc. 00-9277 Filed 4-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-47-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Colville Indian Reservation Integrated Resource Management Plan, Colville Confederated Tribes, Colville Reservation, Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs intends to file a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Colville Indian Reservation, Washington, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and that the DEIS is now available for public review. Brief descriptions of the proposed action and alternatives follow as supplementary information. This notice also announces a public hearing to receive public comments on the DEIS. **DATES:** Written comments must arrive by June 12, 2000. The public hearing on the DEIS will be held on April 27, 2000, starting at 7:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail or hand carry written comments to William Nicholson, Superintendent, Colville Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 111, Nespelem, Washington 99155-0111. You may also comment via the Internet to nicholson_colville@yahoo.com. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (509) 634-2320.

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to

withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The DEIS is available for review at the Colville Agency. To obtain a copy, you may contact John St. Pierre, Colville Confederated Tribes, P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, Washington 99155-0150, telephone (509) 634-2200. Copies of the DEIS have been sent to all agencies and individuals who participated in the scoping process, or who previously requested copies.

The public hearing will be held in the Conference Room at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colville Agency, Nespelem, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Nicholson, (509) 634-2316.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to approve an IRMP for the approximately 1,392,265 acre Colville Indian Reservation, for the period 2000-2014. This DEIS analyzes the impacts of the proposed action, four action alternatives, and no action. Under the no action alternative (Alternative 1), there would be no change in the existing management. About 1,071.2 million board feet (MMBF) of timber would be harvested across 157,989 acres, and the range management units and allotments on the reservation would continue under current management direction.

The proposed action (Alternative 2) would implement the IRMP developed by the Colville Confederated Tribes. About 953.1 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 156,989 acres and there would be a 15 percent general reduction in range use.

Alternative 3, the IRMP with additional watershed health and wildlife habitat emphasis, calls for the harvesting of about 818.7 MMBF of timber across 119,683 acres and the withdrawal of about 269,000 acres of range allotments.

Alternative 4, the IRMP with stand structural/stage correction emphasis, emphasizes intermediate harvesting to move the structural stage class of stands on the reservation towards the desired future conditions. About 751.9 MMBF of timber would be harvested across

157,573 acres. Allowable animal unit months (AUMs) would be doubled to 121,800.

Alternative 5, the IRMP with forest health emphasis, emphasizes regenerative harvesting to reduce the existing impacts of insects and disease.

Alternative 6, the IRMP with additional forest health, watershed health and wildlife habitat emphasis, places an additional emphasis on forest and watershed health along with fish and wildlife habitat. About 1,105.1 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 123,556 acres and allowable AUM's would be reduced by 50 percent.

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: April 11, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00-9396 Filed 4-13-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Navajo Ten-Year Forest Management Plan, Navajo Nation, Arizona/New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) intends to file a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) for the proposed Navajo Nation Ten-Year Forest Management Plan with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for public review and comment. The FPEIS, prepared by the BIA in cooperation with the Navajo Nation, describes alternate ways to promote the protection and sustained use of forest resources and to guide the development of multi-year implementation programs for the Navajo Nation Forestry Department. A description of the project location and of the environmental issues addressed in the FPEIS follow as supplementary information.

DATES: Comments must arrive by June 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit written comments by any one of several methods. You may mail or hand carry comments to Harold D. Russell, Regional Forester, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office, P.O. Box 1060, Gallup, New Mexico 87305. You may also comment via the Internet to HaroldRussell@bia.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (502) 729-7228.

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The FPEIS is available for review at two locations: (1) The Branch of Environmental Services, Navajo Area Office, Federal Building, 301 West Hill, Gallup, New Mexico; and (2) the Branch of Forestry, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1 mile north on Route 12, Fort Defiance, Arizona. To obtain a copy of the FPEIS, please write to the Navajo Nation Forestry Department, P.O. Box 230, Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504, or call (520) 729-4007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold D. Russell, (520) 729-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is to adopt a ten-year management plan for the Navajo Forest. The Navajo Forest lies in the Chuska Mountains and Defiance Plateau areas of the Navajo Nation, along the Arizona-New Mexico border. The area encompasses nearly 600,000 acres.

The FPEIS presents a preferred alternative, the no action alternative and three other action alternatives. Under the preferred alternative, approximately

79,500 acres out of 253,754 acres designated as commercial timberland would be harvested over the next ten years. Individual treatment areas would be limited to 100 acres or less, and harvesting would incorporate a combination of even-aged and uneven-aged management systems designed to promote more diversity in the vegetative structure. This alternative also designates 74,735 acres as Special Management Areas (SMAs), which would be excluded from commercial timberland in order to protect critical wildlife habitat and vital watershed areas, even where these SMAs are located within the most productive areas of the forest.

Timber protection activities under this alternative include fire prevention, prescribed burns, trespass control and insect and disease control. Other activities include monitoring and mitigation, in accordance with published plans, guidelines or handbooks referenced in the FPEIS.

The no action alternative continues current levels of production—approximately 88,000 acres over the next ten years, with even-aged management and without SMA's. The three other action alternatives include: (1) No timber harvesting and no SMA's; (2) even-aged management, with a lower rate of harvest—approximately 79,000 acres over the next ten years—than the no action alternative, and with SMA's; and (3) uneven-aged management, with approximately 84,400 acres to be harvested over the next ten years and without SMA's. All of the alternatives include timber protection plus monitoring and/or mitigation measures.

The FPEIS addresses the environmental issues identified during public scoping. These include timber resources, other forest resources, water resources, biological resources, air quality, cultural resources and socio-economics.

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: April 11, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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