

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 67, No. 140

Monday, July 22, 2002

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-02-08]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension and revision of a currently approved information collection used to compile and generate the livestock and meat market reports for the Livestock and Grain Market News Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 20, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

Additional Information or Comments: Comments may be mailed to Jimmy A. Beard; Assistant to the Chief; Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0252; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-0252; Phone (202) 720-8054; Fax (202) 690-3732; or e-mail to John.VanDyke@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection at this address during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mnncs>.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Livestock and Meat Market Reports.

OMB Number: 0581-0154.

Expiration Date of Approval: 09-30-2002.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621, *et seq*) directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information, on a market area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization.

Under this market news program, USDA issues market news reports covering the livestock and meat trade, which includes a wide range of industry contacts, including packers, processors, producers, brokers, and retailers. These reports are compiled on a voluntary basis, in cooperation with the livestock and meat industry. The information provided by respondents initiates market news reporting, which must be timely, accurate, unbiased, and continuous if it is to be useful to the industry. The livestock and meat industry requested that USDA issue livestock and meat market reports in order to assist them in making immediate production and marketing decisions and as a guide in making sound marketing decisions. The industry uses the livestock and meat reports for assistance in making marketing and production decisions. Also, since the Government is a large purchaser of meat, the reporting and use of this data is helpful.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at .03 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, individuals or households and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 450.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 520.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 7,020 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3)

ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 forms of information technology.

Dated: July 16, 2002.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-18338 Filed 7-19-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Winter Motorized Recreation Forest Plan Amendment, Flathead National Forest, Flathead, Lake Missoula, Lincoln and Sanders Counties, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to amend the Flathead National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan) management direction regarding winter snowmobile use. The amendment covers the entire Flathead National Forest.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposed action should be received in writing on or before 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available for public review in October 2002. No date has yet been determined for filing the final EIS.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Terry Chute, Planning Staff Officer, 1935 3rd Avenue East, Kalispell, Montana 59901 or call (406) 758-5243.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Chute, Planning Staff Officer, 1935 3rd Avenue East, Kalispell, Montana 59901 or call (406) 758-5243.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The existing Forest Plan does not adequately address winter-motorized access. In response to administrative appeals of the Forest Plan, the Associate Chief of the Forest Service directed the Regional

Forester "to clarify the LRMP management direction to eliminate any confusion about motorized use in MA-2A areas." For various reasons that clarification did not occur.

In response to a 1999 lawsuit, a federal Magistrate recommended that the Flathead National Forest be ordered to close all Management Area (MA) 2A areas to motorized use. These MA 2A areas include many popular snowmobile play areas, as well as groomed snowmobile trails. The parties to the lawsuit agreed to a settlement that included preparation of a Forest Plan amendment in an open public forum to develop Forest-wide winter motorized recreation direction.

The Purpose and Need for this amendment is to:

1. Clarify Forest Plan management direction to eliminate any confusion about motorized use in MA-2A areas.
2. Meet the requirements of a settlement agreement resulting from a lawsuit challenging the Flathead Forest Plan.
3. Determine long-term winter recreation management direction related to motorized use.

The Proposed Action for the Winter Motorized Recreation Amendment includes the following features:

- A new Forest-wide standard would be added to the Forest Plan that would incorporate a set of winter motorized recreation maps into the Forest Plan, which would provide direction on where winter motorized use may and may not occur.
- Forest-wide and management area direction would be reviewed and clarified as needed to provide clear direction regarding winter motorized access.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage 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. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close

of the comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible.

The Responsible Official is the Forest Supervisor of the Flathead National Forest, 1935 3rd Avenue East, Kalispell, Montana 59901. The Forest Supervisor will make a decision regarding this proposal considering the comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and rationale for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under applicable Forest Service regulations.

Dated: July 15, 2002.

Cathy Barbouletos,

Forest Supervisor—Flathead National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-18483 Filed 7-19-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

North Fork of Pound Natural Gas Development Project, Clinch Ranger District, Wise County, VA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The federal government proposes to approve exploration and development of a federal oil and gas lease on Pine Mountain above North Fork of Pound Lake in Wise County, Virginia. This proposed action is in response to the Notice of Staking (NOS) the federal government has received from the lessee, Equitable Production Company. The proposed gas wells and associated roads and pipelines are to be located on the Clinch Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 19, 2002. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is expected in September 2003 and the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) is expected in March 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to District Ranger Sten Olsen, Clinch Ranger District, 9416 Darden Drive, Wise Virginia 24293.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: District Ranger Sten Olsen, Clinch Ranger District, 9416 Darden Drive, Wise, Virginia 24293/(276)-328-2931.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Congress established the federal oil and gas-leasing program under which oil and gas leases are issued to, and developed by, private enterprise. In 1984, the federal government issued federal oil and gas lease VAES-32510 covering 4,836 acres of federal land in the North Fork Pound area of Wise County, Virginia. The federal lease was issued for the purpose of exploration and development of oil and gas on the Clinch Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. The holder of the lease (lessee) has the right to access the area, and occupy as much of the surface as is reasonable and necessary in order to explore and develop the mineral resource.

The lessee, Equitable Production Company, has filed with the USDA, Forest Service; and the Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a NOS to drill multiple gas wells, thereby fulfilling the purpose of federal lease, VAES-32510. The NOS is a preliminary step, which facilitates the selection of acceptable drilling locations by the lessee, the Forest Service, and the BLM prior to the submission of the Application for Permit to Drill (APD). The federal government must approve an APD before a lessee could build roads, drill wells, or otherwise occupy the surface of the lease. Both the Forest Service and the BLM have specific authority related to the APD approval. The federal government is required to make a timely decision on approving and issuing an APD to construct roads and well pads, drill wells, and install pipelines.

Since 1990, production from a private well located adjacent to the leased lands has been allocated to a small portion of federal lease. VAES-32510. While the federal lease has been held by production from this private well, the lessee now plans to develop natural gas field on the much larger, remaining portion of the leased tract.

The proposed gas well development is an energy project requiring an expedited review by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture in accordance with Executive Order 13212. In addition, the Energy Security Act of 1980 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to process applications for leases and permits to explore, drill and develop resources on National Forest System lands, notwithstanding of the current status of the Land and Resource