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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Helicopter Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record

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 revision of a currently approved information collection, Helicopter Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before October 2, 2018 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: USDA Forest Service, Assistant Director Aviation, Fire and Aviation Management, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 1107, Washington DC 20250-1107. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 202-205-1401, phone 202-205-1483 or by email to: jmpower@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20250, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 202-205-1483 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Power, Assistant Director Aviation, 202-205-1483. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Helicopter Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record

OMB Number: 0596-0015.

Expiration Date of Approval: 12/31/2018.

Type of Request: Renewal with Revision.

Abstract: The Forest Service contracts with approximately 400 vendors a year for commercial aviation services utilized in resource protection and project management. In recent years, the total annual use of contract aircraft and pilots has exceeded 80,000 hours. In order to maintain an acceptable level of safety, preparedness, and cost-effectiveness in aviation operations, Forest Service contracts include rigorous qualifications for pilots and specific condition, equipment, and performance requirements for aircraft as aviation operations are conducted under extremely adverse conditions of weather, terrain, turbulence, smoke reduced visibility, minimally improved landing areas, and congested airspace around wildfires. To ensure agency contracting officers that pilots and aircraft used for aviation operations meet specific Forest Service qualifications and requirements for aviation operations, prospective contract pilots fill out one of the following Forest Service forms:

- FS-5700-20—Airplane Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record
 - FS-5700-20a—Helicopter Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record
- Contract Officers' Technical Representatives use forms:
- FS-5700-21—Airplane Data Record
 - FS-5700-21a—Helicopter Data Record

When inspecting the aircraft for contract compliance. Based upon the approval(s) documented on the form(s), each contractor pilot and aircraft receives an approval card. The Forest Service personnel verify possession of properly approved cards before using contracted pilots and aircraft.

Information collected on these forms includes:

- Name.
- Address.
- Certification numbers.
- Employment history.
- Medical Certification.
- Airplane/helicopter certifications and specifications.
- Accident/violation history.

Without the collected information, Forest Service Contracting Officers, as well as Forest Service pilot and aircraft

inspections, cannot determine if contracted pilots and aircraft meet the detailed qualification, equipment, and condition requirements essential to safe and effective accomplishment of Forest Service specified flying missions. Without a reasonable basis to determine pilot qualifications and aircraft capability, Forest Service employees would be exposed to hazardous conditions. The data collected documents the approval of contract pilots and aircraft for specific Forest Service aviation missions. Information will be collected and reviewed by Contracting Officers or their designated representatives, including aircraft inspectors, to determine whether the aircraft and/or pilot(s) meet all contract specifications in accordance with Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 5709.16, chapter 10, sections 15 and 16. Forest Service pilot and aircraft inspectors maintain the collected information in Forest Service regional offices. The Forest Service, at times, shares the information with the Department of the Interior, Aviation Management Directorate, as each organization accepts contract inspections conducted by the other.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 60 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Vendors/Contractors.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 2100.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2100 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. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request toward Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: July 20, 2018.

Patti Hiram,

Acting Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Snow King Mountain Resort On-mountain Improvements Project Environmental Impact Statement, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson Ranger District, Teton County, Wyoming

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service has accepted a master development plan from Snow King Mountain Resort. The master development plan is a multi-year plan for improvement and expansion of facilities at the resort, which operates in part under special use permit with the Forest Service. The proposed action is to update existing facilities and develop new winter and summer recreation opportunities. The Forest Service is considering the authorization of a permit boundary expansion, building a multi-function guest services building on the summit of Snow King Mountain, adding additional ski lifts and lift upgrades, building new ski runs and improving existing runs, expanding and improving snowmaking and night-lighting coverage, building a mountain bike park and trail system, adding hiking trails, and building additional service facilities.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by within 30 days from date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected February 2019 and the final environmental impact statement is expected July 2019.

ADDRESSES: Electronic comments are encouraged. Please address any form of comments as "Attention: SKMR On-mountain Improvement Projects." Electronic comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to *comments-intermtn-bridger-teton-jackson@fs.fed.us*. Written comments should be submitted to: Bridger-Teton National Forest—Jackson Ranger District, P.O. Box 1689, Jackson,

WY 83001—attention Mary Moore. Comments may be hand-delivered to 340 N. Cache St. between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Moore, Jackson District Ranger, *marymoore@fs.fed.us* or (307) 739-5410. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Snow King Mountain Resort's multi-year master development plan proposes improvements and expansion of facilities at the resort, which operates in part under special use permit with the Forest Service. This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping period for this project and allows the Forest Service to provide background information, the project's purpose and need, the proposed actions, preliminary issues, the scoping process, cooperating agencies, the responsible official, and the decision to be made. These details are outlined below.

Background

Snow King Mountain Resort was one of the original ski areas to be permitted on National Forest Land and has been in operation for more than seventy years. The resort is adjacent to the southern boundary of the town of Jackson, Teton County, Wyoming, and is known locally as the "Town Hill." Roughly the lower quarter of the resort is private land where base-area facilities (e.g. Snow King Resort Hotel, rental condominiums, ticket sales, equipment rental, food service, and parking), the bottom terminals and lower portions of the resort's three chairlifts and associated ski terrain, and summer recreational infrastructure (e.g. alpine slide, mountain coaster, and ropes course) are located. The upper three-quarters of the resort are on National Forest System land (338 acres in the permit area) that comprises the three chairlift top terminals, ski terrain, and service roads.

The resort's ski terrain totals about 400 acres, including about 135 acres of developed ski runs and 265 acres of natural openings and tree skiing areas, between and around the developed runs. The resort's snowmaking system includes much of the ski terrain on both private and public land, and night lighting covers roughly the lower half of the existing slopes.

Purpose and Need

Two emerging developments in the mountain resort industry underlie the purpose and need for the proposed action. First, extensive customer surveys conducted by the ski industry indicate that visitors are increasingly seeking a more diverse range of recreational activities, particularly for families, that includes year-round opportunities and activities that are more adventurous. The Forest Service response to this trend includes our 2012 introduction of the *Framework for Sustainable Recreation*, which sets goals for providing a diverse array of recreational opportunities aimed at connecting people with the outdoors and promoting healthy lifestyles, in partnership with other public and private recreation providers.

Second, passage of the *Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011* provides direction on the types of summer activities the Forest Service should consider authorizing to round out the range of opportunities provided to the public at permitted mountain resorts.

Reflecting these considerations, the purposes to be achieved through the proposed action are:

- To maintain and improve the winter sport infrastructure on National Forest System lands at Snow King Mountain Resort.
- To provide new and innovative forms of year-round outdoor recreation for residents and visitors to Jackson Hole, using the existing resort infrastructure as the hub.
- To capitalize on the established relationship between the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Snow King Mountain Resort that connects visitors with the natural environment and supports the quality of life and the economy of the local community.

The *needs* that must be resolved in order to achieve these purposes include:

- Improve and increase beginner and intermediate ski terrain, lifts, and facilities to serve as the primary ski resort in Jackson, WY to introduce and recruit new skiers to the sport.
- Expand snowmaking on the mountain to enable an early November opening for ski race training, provide coverage to the upper mountain, and aid in fire prevention.
- Introduce high-quality guest service facilities to attract and retain local and destination skiers, serve as an event venue, and provide an outdoor education center for Jackson residents and visitors.
- Provide access to a wide range of year-round activities catering to a