

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

Bridger-Teton National Forest—Wyoming—Kemmerer and Greys River Ranger Districts; Lincoln County, WY Salt Pass Grazing Allotments Environmental Impact Statement.

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of domestic livestock grazing in the Salt Pass area. The Salt Pass Grazing Allotments (composed of Giraffe, Lower Salt, Porcupine, Smiths Fork, Buckskin Knoll, Lake Alice, North Salt River, South Salt River domestic sheep allotments and Trespass domestic cattle allotment) are located in Township 28, 29, 30 North, and Range 116, 117, 118, 119 West; Sixth Principal Meridian. The allotments are located entirely within Lincoln County. The allotments are located on two ranger districts, Kemmerer and Greys River. The Kemmerer Ranger District administers all the allotments except North Salt River and South Salt River, which are administered by the Greys River Ranger District.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 17, 2005. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in April 2005 and the final environmental impact statement is expected by July 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Russ Bacon, District Ranger, Kemmerer Ranger District, P.O. Box 31, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101. For further information, mail correspondence to mailroom_r4_bridger_teton@fs.fed.us and on the subject line put only "Salt Pass Allotments".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Russ Bacon, Kemmerer District Ranger, Kemmerer Ranger District, P.O. Box 31, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101 or phone (307) 877-4415.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

This proposal, in part, is to comply with Public Law 104–19, section 504(a): establish and adhere to a schedule for the completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) analysis and decision on all grazing allotments within the National Forest System unit for which NEPA is needed (Pub. L. 104–19, General Provision 1995). Upon completion of the NEPA analysis and decisions for the allotments, the terms and conditions of the existing grazing permits will be modified, as necessary, to conform to such NEPA analysis. In addition, the purpose of the proposed action is to improve range condition and trend and achieve desired conditions within the project area through livestock grazing.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to authorize continued livestock grazing, provide analysis and data to update allotment management plans (AMPs), and allow livestock grazing that meets or moves existing resources conditions toward desired conditions on National Forest grazing allotments while complying with applicable statutes. Adaptive management, which allows flexibility during the implementation of the grazing strategy, would allow managers to make adjustments and corrections to management based on monitoring.

Possible Alternatives

Grazing as Currently Permitted: Although allotment management plans (AMP's) would be prepared for each of the nine allotments, the grazing management practices specified for the allotments with existing AMP's would not be changed. In addition, no new utilization standards would be initiated to move existing resource conditions in the project area toward the desired future conditions (DFC's) specified in the Forest Plan.

No Grazing by Domestic Livestock (No grazing alternative): This would eliminate livestock grazing in the project area. This alternative was developed to demonstrate the effects

that eliminating livestock grazing would have on the environment and to more clearly illustrate the potential effects of implementing other alternatives. Under this alternative, domestic livestock grazing on all nine allotments within the project area would be phased out over several years as existing Term Grazing Permits expire.

Responsible Official

Russell Bacon, District Forest Ranger, Kemmerer Ranger District, P.O. Box 31, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101 and Charlene Bucha-Gentry, District Forest Ranger, Greys River Ranger District, P.O. Box 339, Afton, Wyoming 83110.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision, which is based on this analysis, will be to decide if livestock will be allowed to graze on the allotment complex, either through the implementation of the proposed action, or an alternative to the proposed action. The decision would include any mitigation measures needed in addition to those prescribed in the Forest Plan.

Scoping Process

Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from individuals, organizations, tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies interested in or affected by this project. This analysis is for nine grazing allotments. The decision will have limited environmental effects outside the allotment boundaries, and the economic impacts are localized. Public participation will be solicited by notifying in person and/or by mail known interested affected publics. News releases will be used to give the public general notice. Public participation activities would include requests for written comments. The first formal opportunity to comment is to respond to this notice of intent, which initiates the scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7). Scoping includes: (1) Identifying potential issues, (2) narrowing the potential issues and identifying significant issues of those that have been covered by prior environmental review, (3) exploring alternatives in addition to No Action, and (4) identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Preliminary Issues

The Forest Service has identified the following potential issues. Your input is especially valuable here. It will help us determine which of these merit detailed analysis. It will also help identify additional issues related to the proposed action that may not be listed here.

- Effects of grazing on soil erosion and productivity.
- Effects of grazing on watershed condition and function.
- Effects of grazing on the life cycle of the Bonneville and Snake River cutthroat trout.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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 contention.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (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). Because of 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 also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21.)

Dated: November 4, 2004.

Fred Fouse,

Acting District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 04-25249 Filed 11-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Maine State Office.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Section IV of the Maine State NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) located at <http://www.me.nrcs.usda.gov> under "Draft Standards for Comments" for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS to issue revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These revised standards are the following:

314 Brush Management; 329 Residue Management, Ridge-Till; 340 Cover Crop; 342 Critical Area Planting; 344 Residue Management, Seasonal; 386 Field Border; 511 Forage Harvest Management; 512 Pasture and Hay Planting; 528 Animal Trails and Walkways; 590 Nutrient Management; 557 Row Arrangement.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to Christopher R. Jones, State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite #3, Bangor, Maine 04401.

A copy of these standards are available from the above individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State Technical Guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: November 4, 2004.

Christopher R. Jones,

State Resource Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 04-25246 Filed 11-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights that a conference call of the Vermont Advisory Committee will convene at 10:30 a.m. and adjourn at 11 a.m., Tuesday, November 16, 2004. The purpose of the conference call is to discuss juvenile justice issues in Vermont.

This conference call is available to the public through the following call-in number: 1-800-659-8294, access code: 30141003. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls not initiated using the supplied call-in number or over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls using the call-in number over land-line connections. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-977-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and access code.

To ensure that the Commission secures an appropriate number of lines for the public, persons are asked to register by contacting Barbara de La