

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

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for Timber Sale Operating Plans

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection for the agency's timber sale operating plans. Forest Service timber sale contracts require purchasers to prepare these operating plans.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before January 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Director, Timber Management, MAIL STOP 1105, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rex Baumbach, Timber Management Staff, at (202) 205-0855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: Timber Sale Operating Plans.

OMB Number: 0596-0086.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1997.

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

Abstract: The information collected is used by the agency to plan the agency timber sale contract administration workload and to determine whether timber sale purchasers have had scheduled operations delayed and are, therefore, eligible for an extension of the contract termination date. Respondents

are National Forest System timber sale purchasers who prepare a chart or letter within 60 days of a timber sale contract award, and annually thereafter until the contract has been completed. The timber sale purchaser outlines time frames and methods of accomplishing road construction, timber harvesting, and other contract requirements.

The information is required by timber sale contract provisions in the 2400-6, Timber Sale Contract, and 2400-6T, Timber Sale Contract.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 30 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations purchasing National Forest timber sales.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,750.

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of this agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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.

Use of Comments

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

Dated: November 8, 1996.

Valdis E. Mezainis,

Acting Chief.

[FR Doc. 96-29430 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

Skranak Road Construction Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: Henry Skranak of Libby, Montana is the owner of record of landlocked private property located in portions of Section 12 and 13, Township 26 North, Range 31 West, Principal Montana Meridian. The Forest Service has received from Skranak a special use permit application for the construction of a dry season road to his property. The Libby Ranger District on the Kootenai National Forest intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects of road construction on National Forest. The Skranak decision area is located approximately 26 miles south of Libby, Montana.

The EIS will tier to the Kootenai National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final EIS of September 1987, which provides overall guidance for forest management of the area.

DATE: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before December 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The Responsible Official is Robert L. Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest. Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to Lawrence A. Froberg, District Ranger, Libby Ranger District, 12557 US Hwy 37 N, Libby Montana, 59923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jon Jerecek, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Libby Ranger District. Phone: (406) 293-7773.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The west side of the Skranak property is the common boundary of a portion of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. All of the Skranak property and proposed road construction is located within the Inventoried Roadless Area #671—Cabinet Face East. The decision area is occupied grizzly bear habitat.

Proposed Action

The Kootenai National Forest is proposing to issue a Special Use Permit to Henry Skranak to construct a 10 foot wide running surface road and use the

road to access private property. The construction is proposed to begin in 1997. The purpose of the project is to provide reasonable access to private land that is surrounded by National Forest as provided for under Public Law 96-487, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). No proposed activities are located in areas considered for inclusion to the National Wilderness Preservation System as recommended by the Kootenai National Forest Plan.

The Kootenai National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan provides overall management objectives in individual delineated management areas (MA's). The decision area is allocated to MA-2, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation. Briefly described, MA-2 is managed to provide for the protection and enhancement of areas for roadless recreation use, and to provide for wildlife management where specific values are high. Within grizzly bear habitat, the goal of MA-2 is to provide habitat that will contribute to the recovery of the grizzly bear. Special Uses may be permitted in a case by case basis.

Preliminary Issues

Several preliminary issues of concern have been identified by the Forest Service. These issues are briefly described below:

- **Water Quality**—How would the proposed action affect sediment production?
- **Roadless Areas**—The proposed road construction lies entirely within the Cabinet Face East Inventoried Roadless Area #671. What effect would the proposal have on the character of this Roadless Area?
- **Grizzly Bear**—The decision area lies within the recovery area for the Cabinet/Yaak grizzly bear ecosystem. How would the proposal protect and enhance grizzly bear habitat, and contribute to recovery efforts?
- **Fisheries**—The proposed road construction would cross Bramlet and 4th of July Creeks which are priority bull trout streams. How would the proposed action affect sediment production and bull trout habitat?
- **Heritage Resources**—The road construction is proposed to occur over the existing historic 4th of July Trail #115. Can the loss of this resource and associated sites be mitigated?

Forest Plan Amendment

The Kootenai National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan has specific management direction for the Skranak decision area. Prior to making a NEPA decision, a thorough

examination of all standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan would be completed and, if necessary, plan exceptions or amendments would be addressed in the EIS.

Decisions To Be Made

The Kootenai Forest Supervisor will decide the following:

Should road construction to the Skranak property be permitted and if so how and where;

What mitigation measures would be required for protection of National Forest resources; and

If Forest Plan exception or amendments are necessary to proceed with the Proposed Action within the decision area.

Public Involvement and Scoping

An open house will be scheduled during the winter 1997, to provide an opportunity for the public to review the proposed action. Consultation with appropriate State and Federal agencies will be initiated. Preliminary effects analysis indicated that the proposed road construction may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. These potential effects prompted the decision to prepare an EIS for the Skranak Road Construction.

This environmental analysis and decision making process will enable additional interested and affected people to participate and contribute to the final decision. Public participation will be requested at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed projects. This input will be used in preparation of the draft and final EIS. The scoping process will include:

- Identifying potential issues.
- Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Exploring additional alternatives which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
- Identifying potential environmental effects of this project and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The analysis will consider a range of alternatives, including the proposed action, no action, and other reasonable action alternatives.

Estimated Dates for Filing

The draft Skranak Road Construction EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by

March, 1997. At that time EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the Federal Register. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by July, 1997. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

Reviewer's Obligations

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 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 and respond to them in the final EIS.

To be most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternatives discussed. 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.

Responsible Official

Robert L. Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest, 506 US Highway 2 West, Libby, Mt 59923 is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official I will decide which, if any, of the proposed projects will be implemented. I will document the decision and reasons for the decision in

the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

Dated: November 6, 1996.

Robert L. Schrenk,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-29444 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Posting of Stockyards

Pursuant to the authority provided under Section 302 of the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 202), it was ascertained that the livestock markets named below were stockyards as

defined by Section 302 (a). Notice was given to the stockyard owners and to the public as required by Section 302 (b), by posting notices at the stockyards on the dates specified below, that the stockyards were subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended (7 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

	Facility number, name, and location of Stockyard	Date of posting
AL-188	Centre Livestock Market, Inc., Centre, Alabama	November 9, 1995.
FL-136	Florida Classic Horse Sales, Inc., Ocala, Florida	June 30, 1995.
GA-214	Lee's Auction Sylvania, Georgia	July 1, 1995.
GA-215	Calhoun Stockyard Highway 53, Inc., Calhoun, Georgia	October 25, 1995.
GA-217	Rocking Horse Ranch, Livestock Auction, Poulam, Georgia	October 24, 1996.
MS-169	McDermott Sale Company, Byhalia, Mississippi	October 24, 1996.
MO-279	Joplin Regional Stockyards, Inc., Carthage, Missouri	April 4, 1996.
MO-280	Brookfield Sales Company, Brookfield, Missouri	July 26, 1996.
OR-126	Mike's Livestock Auction, Eagle Point, Oregon	January 1, 1996.
PA-158	John Whiting Auction, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania	June 30, 1995.
SC-154	Double H Livestock, Pelzer, South Carolina	June 11, 1996.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 8th day of November 1996.

Daniel L. Van Ackeren,

*Director, Livestock Marketing Division,
Packers and Stockyards Programs.*

[FR Doc. 96-29475 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Proposed Posting of Stockyard

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, has information that the livestock markets named below are stockyards as defined in Section 302 of the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 202), and should be made subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended (7 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

GA-219—Gray Bell Auction Company and Gray Bell Animal Auction, Royston, Georgia

IN-165—Dinky's, Inc., Montgomery, Indiana

SC-155—David Stegall Auction Co., Ridgeville, South Carolina

WY-115—Buffalo Livestock Auction L.L.C., Buffalo, Wyoming.

Pursuant to the authority under Section 302 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, notice is hereby given that it is proposed to designate the stockyards named above as posted stockyards subject to the provisions of said Act.

Any person who wishes to submit written data, views or arguments concerning the proposed designation

may do so by filing them with the Director, Livestock Marketing Division, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Room 3408—South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 by *November 29, 1996*. All written submissions made pursuant to this notice will be made available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the Livestock Marketing Division during normal business hours.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 8th day of November 1996.

Daniel L. Van Ackeren,

*Director, Livestock Marketing Division,
Packers and Stockyards Programs.*

[FR Doc. 96-29474 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110896A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: This meeting will be held on December 13, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel, 4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-873-8675.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting will be to review stock assessments and biological information for red snapper, vermilion snapper and amberjacks prepared by NMFS. They will also review reports on the status of these stocks and possible recommendations for levels of acceptable biological catch (ABC) from the Council's Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel, and on the social and economic implications of recommended ABC ranges from the Socioeconomic Panel. Based on this information, the Reef Fish AP may make recommendations for management measures to the Council. The Reef Fish AP will also discuss options being considered for inclusion in Reef Fish Amendment 15 that would restrict the commercial harvest of reef fish on fishing vessels fishing with traps other than permitted fish traps, stone crab traps or spiny lobster traps.

The AP is comprised of fishermen and other user groups who advise the Council on fishery issues.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to