

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

Information Collection; Timber Purchaser Cost and Sales Data

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 extension of a currently approved information collection, Timber Purchaser Cost and Sales Data.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before May 7, 2010 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 Forest Management, Attn: Richard Fitzgerald, Mail Stop 1103, Forest Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1103.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 202-205-1045 or by e-mail to: cost_collecting@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director, Forest Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, Room 3 NW., Yates Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 202-205-1496 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Fitzgerald, Timber Staff, Forest Management at 202-205-1753. Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Timber Purchaser Cost and Sales Data.
OMB Number: 0596-0017.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2010.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Forest Service sells timber and other forest products on national forest lands to achieve policies set forth in the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. Timber must not be sold for less than the appraised value (Pub. L. 94-588). The Forest Service may not sell timber below a minimum stumpage rate established by the Chief of the Forest Service, ensuring that timber sales recover some of the costs associated with preparation and administration of timber sales.

Forest Service timber appraisers develop advertised prices using transaction evidence or a residual value form of appraisal. The Forest Service collects and uses the following to develop transaction evidence and residual value appraisal systems: (1) Product value, (2) manufacturing cost, (3) falling and bucking costs, (4) skidding and loading costs, and (5) hauling costs.

In many areas, the Forest Service purchases lumber product values from the Western Wood Products Association. The Forest Service, via contracting officers, also collects data from timber purchasers and uses it to develop fair market average value and cost information for appraisals, as well as advertised prices for national forest timber. Forest Service staff at the Albuquerque Service Center analyzes the data. All data collected is subject to verification.

Standard timber sale contract forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T contain a provision requiring timber purchasers to furnish data to the Forest Service upon request. The Forest Service consulted with several timber industry groups during the development of this standard contract provision, including but not limited to: Western Wood Products Association, National Forest Products Association, Western Forest Industries Association, and Industrial Forestry Association.

States and other agencies also use the data in appraisals. Additionally, timber purchasers rely upon cost collection to help with independent appraisals of Federal timber and to estimate the cost of subcontracting aspects of Federal timber harvest activities.

The data is collected from various sources, ranging from paper to

electronic media. The Forest Service does not provide forms for the collection of this data. Some firms mail the data to the Forest Service, others provide access to records and duplication equipment, and some firms provide on-site access to electronic data. Data gathered is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 1 hour per request.

Type of Respondents: Timber sale purchasers.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20 hours.

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 request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: March 2, 2010.

Faye L. Krueger,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief, NFS.

[FR Doc. 2010-4810 Filed 3-5-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

RIN 0572-ZA01

Broadband Initiatives Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of Extension of Application Window for Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: On January 24, 2010, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announced a second round funding Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) in the **Federal Register** at 75 FR 3820. The closing date for submission of applications was announced as March 15, 2010, at 5 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). In response to requests by a wide variety of stakeholders, RUS is extending the application window for applications under the second round NOFA until March 29, 2010 at 5 p.m. ET.

Contact Information: For general inquiries regarding BIP, contact David J. Villano, Assistant Administrator Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), *e-mail:* bip@wdc.usda.gov, *telephone:* (202) 690-0525. For inquiries regarding BIP compliance requirements, including applicable federal rules and regulations protecting against fraud, waste and abuse, contact bipcompliance@wdc.usda.gov for BIP. You may obtain additional information regarding applications for BIP via the Internet at www.broadbandusa.gov.

Dated: March 2, 2010.

Jonathan Adelstein,
Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-4780 Filed 3-5-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kootenai National Forest, Fortine Ranger District, Montana; Galton Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA—Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of transportation system and access management alternatives, vegetation management alternatives, and recreation project alternatives in the Galton Decision Area (Decision Area) on the Fortine Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest. The Forest Service is seeking comments from Federal, State, and local agencies and individuals and organizations that may be interested in or affected by the

proposed actions. The comments will be used to prepare the draft EIS (DEIS).

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be postmarked or received within 30 days following publication of this notice. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in May of 2010 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in November of 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning the proposed action to Betty Holder, District Ranger, Fortine Ranger District, P.O. Box 116, Fortine, MT 59918. All comments must contain: Name of commenter, postal service mailing address, and date of comment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Moira McKelvey, Writer/Editor, Fortine Ranger District, P.O. Box 116, Fortine, MT 59918.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Decision Area is located east of US Highway 93 from the U.S./Canada border to the Kootenai National Forest boundary south of Dickey Lake and includes a small portion of National Forest System Lands (NFSL) west of U.S. Highway 93 in the Dickey Lake and Ant Flat area. The Decision Area encompasses all of three (3) Planning Areas (Wigwam, Grave, and Murphy) and the Fortine Ranger District portions of two (2) Planning Areas (Stillwater and Ksanka). This area includes the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the Ten Lakes Scenic Area, Grave Creek, Therriault Lakes, Dickey Lake, Marston, and Ant Flat. The boundary for this project covers approximately 170,300 acres of which approximately 127,380 acres is National Forest System Land.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the project is to: (1) Provide the minimum system of roads and road uses that are needed for Forest Service land management activities and recreational access while reducing road impact to water quality and secure wildlife habitat and reducing road maintenance costs; (2) Provide trail loop opportunities and trail access to remote areas; (3) Provide ATV and motorcycle enthusiasts with trails on which they can ride their non-street legal vehicles and where nonlicensed riders can ride; (4) Designate mountain bike use that is compatible with the Montana Wilderness Study Act; (5) Designate allowed non-winter uses on all trails to reduce potential conflicts between user groups; (6) Designate over-snow vehicle use that is compatible with the Montana Wilderness Study Act while minimizing impacts to wildlife species such as grizzly bear; (7) Provide quiet winter recreation areas (non-

motorized); (8) Provide a shelter facility for winter recreation users; (9) Reduce fuels within the wildland urban interface; (10) Create openings to provide big game browse; (11) Improve habitat for whitebark pine stand survival and regeneration; (12) Re-establish the natural role of fire in the ecosystem; (13) Provide a stable flow of timber products for the local and regional economy; and (14) Enhance recreational use and safety.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would result in a year round travel plan for the Galton Project Area, which includes the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. Over-snow vehicle use would be allowed from 12/1 through 3/31 in a regular season on 26 miles of designated trail routes leading to 38,411 acres of contiguous National Forest System Lands open to over-snow vehicle use. Over-snow vehicle use would be allowed in a late season from 4/1 to 5/31 on 31 miles of designated trail leading to 4,445 acres of contiguous National Forest System Lands open to over-snow vehicle use. The access within the open areas can be limited due to natural features such as terrain and vegetation.

7.65 miles of road would be restricted for quiet winter recreation. The non-winter portion of the travel plan includes trail use designations to minimize conflict between user groups. The Proposed Action includes construction of 15.25 miles of new trail and the reconstruction of 2 miles of trail. The Proposed Action also would result in the conversion of 20.12 miles of road currently managed as trail to non-motorized trail and 7.85 miles of road converted to motorized trail. Additionally, 20.35 miles of road are proposed for decommissioning and 24.26 miles of road to be put into intermittent stored service. 9.56 miles of road are proposed to be restricted for all motorized use in Big Game Winter Range with an additional 4.69 miles of road restricted for over-snow vehicle use in Big Game Winter Range.

The Proposed Action would result in 9,043 acres of fuel treatment. This includes 191. acres of non-commercial understory thinning, 7,973 acres of prescribed burning only, and 879 acres of prescribed burning with mechanical pretreatment.

The Forest Service proposes to complete 1,814 acres of commercial vegetation management. This includes 226 acres of regeneration harvest (shelterwood and seedtree prescriptions) and 133 acres of regeneration harvest in clearcut with