

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; Recreation Fee and Wilderness Program Administration

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 to the information collection: Recreation Fee and Wilderness Program Administration.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before February 29, 2016 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 Al Remley, USDA Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 1125, Washington, DC 20250.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to Al Remley at 202-403-8986 or by email at recreation2300@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the USDA Forest Service Washington Office, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Remley, Fee Program Manager, at 202-403-8986 or via email at recreation2300@fs.fed.us.

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: Recreation Fee and Wilderness Program Administration.

OMB Number: 0596-0106.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2016.

Type of Request: Extension.

Abstract: The Federal Lands

Recreation and Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814) authorizes the Forest Service to issue permits and charge fees for recreation uses of Federal recreational lands and waters, such as group activities, recreation events and motorized recreational vehicle use. In addition, permits may be issued as a means to disperse use, protect natural and cultural resources, provide for the health and safety of visitors, allocate capacity, and/or help cover the higher costs of providing specialized services.

FS-2300-26, *Recreation Fee Envelope*. Information collected includes the amount enclosed in the envelope, date in, date out, number of days paid, time and date of purchase, visitor's vehicle model and license number and registered State, visitor's home zip code, number in party, other charges (if applicable), visitor's Senior, Access Pass or Golden Passport number (if applicable), planned departure date (if applicable), site name, camp's site type: Single campsite or group campsite (if applicable), campsite number (if applicable), and the number in group.

FS-2300-26a, *Recreation Fee Envelope*, is the same form as FS-2300-26; the difference is the color of the form is different to signify a specific region's use.

FS-2300-30, *Visitor's Permit*. Information collected includes the visitor's name and address, area(s) to be visited, dates of visit, length of stay, location of entry and exit points, method of travel, number of people in the group, and where applicable, the number of pack and saddle stock (that is, the number of animals either carrying people or their gear), the number of dogs, and the number of watercraft and/or vehicles (where allowed).

The Forest Service employee who completes the Visitor's Permit will note on the permit any special restrictions or important information the visitor should know. The visitor receives a copy of the permit and instructions to keep the permit with them for the duration of the visit.

FS-2300-32, *Visitor Registration Card*. Information collected includes the

visitor's name and address, area(s) to be visited, dates of visit, length of stay, location of entry and exit points, method of travel, number of people in the group, and where applicable, the number of pack and saddle stock (that is, the number of animals either carrying people or their gear) in the group, the number of dogs, and the number of watercraft and/or vehicles (where allowed).

FS-2300-43, *Permit for Short-Term, Noncommercial Use of Government-Owned Cabins and Lookouts* is used to record contact information including name, address, and telephone number, requested dates of occupancy, party size, and additional items if applicable, such as number of pack animals and/or snowmobiles. If unable to collect this information, National Forests would not be able to manage their permit programs or disperse use, protect natural and cultural resources, provide for the health and safety of visitors, allocate capacity, and/or help cover the higher costs of providing specialized services on National Forest System recreational lands.

FS-2300-47, *National Recreation Application*, is a form used to apply for a recreation permit. Information collected includes the applicant's name, address, phone number and email address, location and activity type, date and time of requested use, itinerary, number in party, entry and exit points, day or overnight use, method of travel (if applicable), group organization or event name (if applicable), group leader name and contact information (if applicable), vehicle or boat registration and license number and State of issue (if applicable), type and number of boats, stock or off-highway vehicles (if applicable), and assessed fee and method of payment (if applicable).

FS-2300-48, *National Recreation Permit*, is used to authorize specific activities at particular facilities or areas. Information collected includes the group or individual's name, responsible person's signature, address, phone number, date of permit, method of travel, license number and description of vehicle and tow type, payment method and amount, number and types of water craft (if applicable), number in a group at a cabin or campsite (if applicable), number and type of off-highway vehicles or other vehicles, and

number and type of other use (if applicable).

This information is used to manage the application process and to issue permits for recreation uses of Federal recreational lands and waters. The information will be collected by Federal employees and agents who are authorized to collect recreation fees and/or issue recreation permits. Name and contact information will be used to inform applicants and permit holders of their success in securing a permit for a special area. Number in group, number and type of vehicles, water craft, or stock may be used to assure compliance with management area direction for recreational lands and waters and track visitation trends. A National Forest may use zip codes to help determine where the National Forest's visitor base originates. Activity information may be used to improve services. Personal information such as names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and vehicle registration information will be secured and maintained in accordance with the system of records, National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) USDA/FS-55.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 3–15 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 2,363,600.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 121,781 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: December 18, 2015.

Glenn P. Casamassa,

Associate Deputy Chief, National, Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2015–32847 Filed 12–29–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596–AD14

Ski Area Water Clause

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of final directive.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service or Agency) is amending its internal directives for ski area concessions by adding two clauses to the Special Uses Handbook, Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11, Chapter 50, addressing the sufficiency of water for operation of ski areas on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The Forest Service recognizes the importance of winter sports opportunities on NFS lands and the need to address the sufficiency of water for ski areas operating on NFS lands. By addressing this need, this final directive will promote the long-term sustainability of ski areas on NFS lands and the economies of the communities that depend on revenue from those ski areas.

DATES: This directive is effective January 29, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The final directive will be available for inspection at the office of the Director, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff, Forest Service, USDA, 4th Floor Central, Sidney R. Yates Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Those wishing to inspect these documents are encouraged to call ahead to facilitate access to the building. Copies of documents in the record may be requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The final directive will be posted on the Forest Service's Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/specialuses> on the effective date. Only the sections of the FSH that are the subject of this notice have been posted, *i.e.*, FSH 2709.11, Special Uses Handbook, Chapter 50, Standard Forms and Supplemental Clauses, Section 52.4.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean Wetterberg, National Winter Sports Program Manager, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources staff, 801–975–3793, or Jean Thomas, National Water

Rights Program Manager, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants staff, 202–205–1172. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 800–877–8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., eastern daylight time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background and Need for the Final Directive

Constitutional and Statutory Authority

The Forest Service's authority to manage lands under its jurisdiction derives from the Property Clause of the United States Constitution, which empowers Congress to "make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the . . . Property belonging to the United States." U.S. Const. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2. The Supreme Court has emphasized that Congressional authority over Federal lands is "without limitations." *Kleppe v. New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529, 539 (1976). In turn, Congress entrusted the Forest Service with authority to "make such rules and regulations and establish such service as will insure the objects of the [national forests], namely to regulate their occupancy and use and to preserve the forests thereon from destruction." Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 551). The Organic Administration Act constitutes an "extraordinarily broad" delegation to the Forest Service to regulate use of NFS lands and "will support Forest Service regulations and management . . . unless some specific statute limits Forest Service powers." Charles F. Wilkinson & H. Michael Anderson, *Land and Resource Planning in the National Forests* 59 (1987). See also *Wyoming Timber Indus. Ass'n v. United States Forest Serv.*, 80 F. Supp. 2d 1245, 1258–59 (D. Wyo. 2000). In the Organic Administration Act, Congress explicitly recognized that Forest Service regulations may affect the use of water on NFS lands (16 U.S.C. 481) (water on NFS lands may be used "under the laws of the United States and the rules and regulations established thereunder").

The Forest Service has broad authority to regulate and condition the use and occupancy of NFS lands under the Term Permit Act of 1915 (16 U.S.C. 497) (authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to permit use and occupancy of National Forest land "upon such terms and conditions as he may deem proper"); Multiple Use—Sustained Yield Act (MUSYA) (16 U.S.C. 529) (authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and administer the surface resources of the National