

Structuring the Aggregate Proceeding

6. Agencies that use aggregation should ensure that the parties' and other stakeholders' interests are adequately protected and that the process is understood to be transparent and legitimate by considering the use of mechanisms such as:

- a. Permitting interested stakeholders to file amicus briefs or their equivalent;
- b. Conducting "fairness hearings," in which all interested stakeholders may express their concerns with the proposed relief to adjudicators in person or in writing;
- c. Ensuring that separate interests are adequately represented in order to avoid conflicts of interest;
- d. Permitting parties to opt out in appropriate circumstances;
- e. Permitting parties to challenge the decision to aggregate in the appeals process, including an interlocutory appeal to the agency; and
- f. Allowing oral arguments for amici or amicus briefs in agency appeals.

7. Agencies that use aggregation should develop written and publicly available policies explaining how they initiate, conduct, and terminate aggregation proceedings. The policies should also set forth the factors used to determine whether aggregation is appropriate.

8. Where feasible, agencies should consider assigning a specialized corps of experienced adjudicators who would be trained to handle aggregate proceedings, consistent with APA requirements where administrative law judges are assigned. Agencies should also consider using a panel of adjudicators from the specialized corps to address concerns with having a single adjudicator decide cases that could have a significant impact. Agencies that have few adjudicators may need to "borrow" adjudicators from other agencies for this purpose.

Using Aggregation To Enhance Control of Policymaking

9. Agencies should make all decisions in aggregate proceedings publicly available. In order to obtain the maximum benefit from aggregate proceedings, agencies should also consider designating final agency decisions as precedential if doing so will:

- a. Help other adjudicators handle subsequent cases involving similar issues more expeditiously;
- b. Provide guidance to future parties;
- c. Avoid inconsistent outcomes; or
- d. Increase transparency and openness.

10. Agencies should ensure the outcomes of aggregate adjudication are communicated to policymakers or personnel involved in rulemaking so that they can determine whether a notice-and-comment rulemaking proceeding codifying the outcome might be worthwhile. If agencies are uncertain they want to proceed with a rule, they might issue a notice of inquiry to invite interested parties to comment on whether the agencies should codify the adjudicatory decision (in whole or in part) in a new regulation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Notice of Proposed New Special Recreation Permit Fee**

AGENCY: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of proposed new special recreation permit fee.

SUMMARY: The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is proposing to implement a Special Recreation Permit Fee on the Wild and Scenic Snake River which flows between Oregon and Idaho. Implementing a Special Recreation Permit Fee would allow the Forest Service to manage the specialized recreation use associated with float and power boating on the Wild and Scenic Snake River, and result in improved services and experiences. Fees are assessed based on the level of amenities and services provided, cost of operation and maintenance of river-related facilities, market assessment, and public comments received.

Boaters using the Wild and Scenic Snake River would be subject to a Special Recreation Permit Fee (boater-use permit fee) of \$5.00 to \$10.00 per person that would be collected from all private and commercial boaters and their occupants. The implementation of the fee on the Wild and Scenic Snake River is comparable to other federal day-use fees within the current Four Rivers reservation system for the Selway, Middle Fork Salmon, Main Salmon and other sections of the Snake Rivers. The area subject to the fee is the Snake River beginning at Hells Canyon Dam to Cache Creek Ranch (approximately 70 miles).

The exceptions to this boater-use permit fee are:

- Travel by private, noncommercial boat to any land in which the person has property rights.
- Any person who has right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under specific provisions of treaty or law.
- Individual outfitter/guides and their associated employees, while acting in an official capacity under the terms of their permit.

At this time there is no boater-use permit fee on the Wild and Scenic Snake River for float or power boats. Boater-use for private float and power boats is currently managed through a national reservation system, which limits the amount of boats during the primary use season to meet management plan direction. A \$6.00 transaction cost is associated with this reservation permit and is completely retained by the

reservation contractor. In the future the reservation permit fee will be continued in conjunction with the application of this proposed boater-use permit fee for private boaters.

At this time the listed boater-use permit fee is only a proposal and further analysis and public comment will occur before a decision is made. Funds from the proposed fee would be used for administrative and operational needs in the recreation area to enhance user experience and safety, sustain natural and cultural resources, and facility maintenance and improvements.

DATES: New fees would begin after, and contingent upon a review and recommendation by the John Day-Snake River Resource Advisory Council and approval by the Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region. All comments should be received no later than 60 days from publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The publication date of this Notice in the **Federal Register** is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Public Open House: A series of public open houses are scheduled to answer questions brought forth by the public.

The open house dates are:

1. July 5, 2016, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Boise, ID.
2. July 6, 2016, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Riggins, ID.
3. July 7, 2016, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Clarkston, WA.
4. July 8, 2016, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Joseph, OR.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Jacob Lubera, Deputy District Ranger, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 201 East Second Street, P.O. Box 905, Joseph, Oregon 97846. Comments may also be faxed to 541-426-4978. Comments may be hand-delivered to the above address Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. till 4:30 p.m., excluding legal holidays.

Electronic Comments: Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.docx) to comments-pacificnorthwest-wallowa-whitman@fs.fed.us. Emails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. Comments can also be submitted at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/specialplaces/?cid=fspr481691>. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close

of the comment period and ensure that their comments have been received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Lubera, Deputy District Ranger, 541-426-5581, jlubera@fs.fed.us, or <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/specialplaces/?cid=stelprd3854363>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Recreation Lands Enhancement Act (Title VII, Pub. L. 108-447) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a six month advance notice in the **Federal Register** whenever new recreation fee areas are established.

Once public involvement is complete, these new fees will be reviewed by a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee prior to a final decision and implementation.

Dated: June 14, 2016.

Jacob S. Lubera,
Deputy District Ranger.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Library

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Collect Information

AGENCY: National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, this notice announces the National Agricultural Library's (NAL) intent to

request renewal of an information collection to obtain an evaluation of user satisfaction with NAL Internet sites.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 22, 2016 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* Ricardo.S.Romero@ars.usda.gov.

- *Fax:* 301-504-7042 attention Ricardo Romero.

- 1. *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Room 115-B, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ricardo Romero at 301-504-5066.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Evaluation of User Satisfaction with NAL Internet Sites."

OMB No.: 0518-0040.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: Approval for renewed data collection.

Abstract: This is a request, made by NAL Office of the Director Office of the Associate Director of Information Services, that the OMB approve, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, a 3 year generic clearance for the NAL to conduct user satisfaction research around its Internet sites. This effort is made according to Executive Order 12862, which directs federal agencies that provide significant services directly to the public to survey customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing services.

The NAL Internet sites are a vast collection of Web pages. NAL Web pages are visited by an average of 8.6 million people per month. All NAL

Information Centers have an established web presence that provides information to their respective audiences.

Description of Surveys

The online surveys will be no more than 15 Semantic Differential Scale or multiple-choice questions, and no more than four open-ended response questions.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per survey.

Respondents: The agricultural community, USDA personnel and their cooperators, and including public and private users or providers of agricultural information.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1000 per year.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 60 hours.

Comments

The purpose of the research is to ensure that intended audiences find the information provided on the Internet sites easy to access, clear, informative, and useful. Specifically, the research will examine whether the information is presented in an appropriate technological format and whether it meets the needs of users of these Internet sites. The research will also provide a means by which to classify visitors to the NAL Internet sites, to better understand how to serve them. It is estimated that participants will require no more than 5 minutes to complete each survey. Actual time required will vary based on participant reading rate. Sample questions may include:

Functionality	Please rate the accuracy of information on this site. Please rate the quality of information on this site. Please rate the freshness of content on this site. Please rate the usefulness of the information provided on this site.
Look and Feel	Please rate the convenience of the information on this site. Please rate the ability to accomplish what you wanted to on this site. Please rate the ease of reading this site. Please rate the clarity of site organization. Please rate the clean layout of this site.
Navigation	Please rate the degree to which the number of steps it took to get where you want is acceptable. Please rate the ability to find information you want on this site.

Comments should be sent to the address in the preamble.

Dated: June 13, 2016.

Simon Y. Liu,
Associate Administrator, ARS.

[FR Doc. 2016-14604 Filed 6-20-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Loan Application Procedures, and Deadlines for the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP)

AGENCY: Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Solicitation for Applications (NOSA); the RESP Application Process and Deadlines.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is soliciting letters of intent for loan applications under the Rural Energy