

including recreation of forests and rangelands to facilitate their most effective use. Users of urban proximate National Forests in Southern California come from a variety of ethnic/racial, income, age, educational, and other socio-demographic categories. The activities pursued, sources utilized, and site attributes preferred are just some of the items affected by these differences. Additional information is needed for the managers of the National Forests in Southern California, in part to validate results and in part because of the continuously changing visitor population recreating on the National Forests of Southern California. Without this study the Forest Service (FS) personnel will be ill-equipped to handle management changes required in response to visitor needs and preferences. A direct benefit to the affected public is anticipated through improvements in customer service, more informed recreation management decisions, and increased attention to the diverse customers served by the National Forests. FS will collect information using questionnaires and face-to-face interviews.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information on gender, age, education, ethnic or racial group affiliation, etc. The information will be used to assist resource managers in their effective management of recreation activities in the region studied. The Wildland Recreation and Urban Cultures Project will use the information to further expand its information base on visitor characteristics, communication, and mitigation of depreciative behaviors, such as vandalism. If the information is not collected resource managers will have to make species management decisions without the views of the recreating public, who will be impacted by many of those choices.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 600.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 150.

Forest Service

Title: Recreational Participation and Environmental Activity Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0596-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-307, 92 Stat. 353, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1600 (note), 1561 (note), 1641-1647) directs the Secretary of Agriculture to research the multiple uses and products, including recreation of forests and rangelands to facilitate their most

effective use. Users of urban proximate National Forest wildland, regional parks, and state recreation areas come from a variety of ethnic/racial, income, age, educational, and other socio-demographic categories. The activities pursued, amount of recreational participation overall, environmentally focused activities, and preferred site features are just some of the items affected by these differences. Without this study the Forest Service (FS) personnel in the southern province will be less-equipped to address recreational impacts and to understand what role recreation plays in environmental activities. A direct benefit to the affected public is anticipated through improvements in customer service, more informed recreation management decisions, and increased attention to the diverse customers served by the National Forests. FS will collect information using questionnaires and face-to-face interviews.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information on socio-demographic characteristics of visitors including ethnic identity, visitation history and activities, annual recreational patterns, environmentally focused activities on-site and in the home, and preferred site features. The information will be used to further expand its information base on visitor characteristics, the role of ethnicity in environmental action and preferred site development, and the role of recreation in environmental. If the information is not collected resource managers will have to make species management decisions without the views of the recreating public, who will be impacted by many of those choices.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 500.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 125.

Barbara LaCour,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; Publication Comment Cards

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the

Forest Service announces its intention to establish a new information collection. The collected information will help the Forest Service prepare scientific research publications that better serve those who request them. Information will be collected from individuals, institutions, organizations, and interest groups who receive scientific research publications produced by the Forest Service Southern Research Station.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before November 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Marketing, Communications Office, Southern Research Station, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2680, Asheville, NC 28802.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (828) 257-4840 or by email to mcarlson/srs@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Southern Research Station, 200 Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, North Carolina. Visitors are urged to call ahead to facilitate entrance into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Carlson, Communications Staff, at (828) 257-4849.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the new information collection:

Title: Publication Comments Card.

OMB Number: New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of Request: This is a new information collection and has not received approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: Executive Order 12862, issued September 11, 1993, directed Federal agencies to change the way they do business, to reform their management practices, to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector, and to establish and implement customer service standards to carry out principles of the National Performance Review. In response to this Executive Order, the Forest Service Southern Research Station developed a "Publication Comment" Card for inclusion when distributing scientific research publications.

Since the early 1920's, Southern Research Station scientists have published the results of their studies on temperate and tropical forests, forest resources, and forest products, as well as important conclusions about the dynamics of natural timber stands and plantations, watershed management, and wildlife habitats. These studies have provided long-term data that has

become increasingly valuable to landowners and others involved in natural resource land management. Data from the Publication Comment Card will help the Southern Research Station assess if Station publications meet the customer's expectations and address the customer's needs. The collected information also will help scientists and authors provide relevant information on effective, efficient, responsible land management in the Southern United States.

Forest Service research personnel will enclose Publication Comment Cards when providing publications to recipients in person or by mail. These Cards and some Station publications also will be made available via the Internet. The Card includes the following statements that will be rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Strongly agree" and 5 being "Strongly disagree."

1. The information is what I expected, based on the title and abstract.
2. The publication is well organized.
3. The content is presented clearly.
4. The technical subject matter was explained sufficiently to meet my needs.
5. The graphics (Photographs, tables, charts) were helpful.
6. This research information is useful to me.
7. I will continue to request Southern Research Station publications.

Respondents will complete the Publication Comment Cards and return them in person or mail them back to the Southern Research Station via surface mail or electronically via the Internet.

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

Estimate of Burden: 5 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Respondents will include U.S. citizens; citizens of other countries; landowners or land lessees; timber customers; other forest-products customers; research scientists; special-use customers; educators; librarians; historians; writers; representatives of other Federal, State, county, or local Government agencies and representatives of foreign governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 19,500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,625 hours.

Comment is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed 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; (b) the accuracy of the 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 Comment

All comments received in response to this notice, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: September 2, 1999.

Robert Lewis, Jr.

Deputy Chief for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 99-23592 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council will meet in Nebraska City, Nebraska, October 21-23, 1999. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss emerging issues in urban and community forestry.

DATES: The meeting will be held October 21-23 1999.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lied Conference Center, 2700 Sylvan Road, Nebraska City, Nebraska. A tour of local projects will be held on October 21 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Individuals who wish to speak at the meeting or to propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Suzanne M. del Villar, Executive Assistant, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, 20628 Diane Drive, Sonoma, CA 95370.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne M. del Villar, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (209) 536-9201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Persons who wish to bring urban and

community forestry matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who have made written requests by October 8 will have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members.

Dated: August 27, 1999.

Janice H. McDougle,

Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

[FR Doc. 99-23591 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Friday, September 24, 1999, at the Oak Tree Restaurant meeting room, located at 102 Atlantic, Woodland, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to present information about: (1) Managing Recreation within the Northwest Forest Plan; (2) Watershed Councils; and provide for (3) a Public Open Forum. All Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The "open forum" provides opportunity for the public to bring issues, concerns, and discussion topics to the Advisory Committee. The "open forum" is scheduled as part of agenda item (3) for this meeting. Interested speakers will need to register prior to the open forum period. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct question regarding this meeting to Linda Turner, Public Affairs Specialist, at (360) 891-5195, or write Forest Headquarters Office, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, 10600 NE. 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682.

Dated: September 3, 1999.

Claire Lavendel,

Forest Supervisor.

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