

use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03-039-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the regulations for the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by dealers, research facilities, exhibitors, carriers, and intermediate handlers, contact Dr. Barbara Kohn, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7833. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Animal Welfare.

OMB Number: 0579-0093.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The regulations in 9 CFR parts 1 through 3 were promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et. seq.*) to ensure the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of regulated animals under the Act. The Act and regulations are enforced by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The regulations in 9 CFR part 3, subparts A, D, and E cover dogs and cats, nonhuman primates, and marine mammals, respectively. Subpart F of 9 CFR part 3 covers warmblooded animals other than dogs, cats, nonhuman primates, marine mammals, rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters. Regulated facilities are required to keep certain records and provide specific information regarding APHIS' space, transportation, exercise plan, and

perimeter fence requirements. We review this information to evaluate program compliance.

The reporting and recordkeeping requirements of 9 CFR part 3, subparts A, D, E, and F do not mandate the use of any official government form.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.48266615 hours per response.

Respondents: Dealers, exhibitors, research facilities, carriers, and intermediate handlers.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 8,190.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 8.833211233.

Estimated annual number of responses: 72,344.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 34918 hours (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of April 2003.

Bobby R. Acord,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-9407 Filed 4-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Fremont County, ID, Big Bend Vegetation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

Revision of the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project, as published in the **Federal Register** page 40876 to 40877 on July 31, 1998 (Vol. 63, No. 147). This revision includes a change of project schedule and treatment acres.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement of document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed Big Bend Vegetation Management Project, a timber sale and vegetation treatment. This revised Notice of Intent is to document some minor changes in the process.

In the original NOI, the tentative date for filing the Draft EIS was December of 1998 and the Final EIS was scheduled for March, 1999. Due to scheduling changes, the Draft EIS is now expected to be available for review in April, 2003. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed about July 2003.

The original NOI proposed approximately 1800 acres of prescribed burning to rejuvenate maple and aspen, reduce fuels in the wildland urban interface, improve big game winter range and test methods of Douglas-fir regeneration. The proposed action now proposes a total of 123 acres of prescribed burning. The objective of the 123 acres of burning is to promote aspen and shrubs in a high use big game wintering area. The rejuvenation of maple and the majority of big game winter range improvement were determined to be unnecessary. Timber harvest is now being proposed to accomplish aspen regeneration, big game browse improvement and fuels reduction. A nearby 2001 wildfire is being used to evaluate Douglas-fir regeneration from fire.

The original NOI proposed approximately 2500 acres of commercial thinning with 70 percent of it helicopter or cable harvest and 30 percent done with crawler tractor. The proposed action now includes 3023 acres of commercial thinning, improvement cutting and sanitation salvage with 40 percent helicopter harvest and 60 percent ground based harvest.