

techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses 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: August 15, 2003.

Abigail R. Kimbell,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 03-21579 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Revision. Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Beaverhead, Butte-Silver Bow; Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Granite, Jefferson, Powell, Madison and Gallatin Counties, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed action to revise and combine Land and Resource Management Plans for the Beaverhead and Deerlodge National Forests. The proposal seeks to integrate resource management and incorporate larger place-based management areas. A Notice of Intent was published May 3, 2002, in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 86, p. 22396. This is a revision of that notice in order to provide a detailed proposed action for public review and comment.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The public is invited to comment on the Proposed Action or meet with Marty Gardner at any point in time during the 90-day comment period beginning on August 22, 2003. Contact Marty at (406) 683-3680 or e-mail mgardner@fs.fed.us, to schedule a meeting. To get on the mailing list contact Jack Degolia (406) 683-3984, or e-mail jdegolia@fs.fed.us.

DATES: Initial comments concerning the proposed action should be received in writing, no later than 90 days from the publication of this notice of intent.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments to Herrera Environmental Consultants, 101

E. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802. Comments may also be electronically submitted to shopkins@herrerainc.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marty Gardner, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, 420 Barrett, Dillon, MT 59725, phone (406) 683-3860, or e-mail mgardner@fs.fed.us.

Responsible Official: Bradley E. Powell, Regional Forest, Northern Region, 200 E. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59807

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are revising the original Notice of Intent (**Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 86, page 22396, May 3, 2002), in order to provide a detailed proposed action for public review and comment. We are coordinating efforts with the Bureau of Land Management, Tribes, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks as well as County Commissioners. In order to generate meaningful dialogue with the public we hope to meet with any interested groups or individuals upon request. To request a presentation for meetings at any time during the analysis and prior to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement call Marty Gardner at (406) 683-3860 or e-mail mgardner@fs.fed.us. We plan no formal public hearings at this time.

To assist the Forest Service with identification and consideration of issues and concerns regarding the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or sections of the proposed action. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementation of procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3.

Additional public comment will be accepted after publication of the DEIS anticipated by December 2004. The Environmental Protection Agency will publish the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in the **Federal Register**. The Forest will also publish a legal notice of availability in the Montana Standard Newspaper, Butte, Montana. The comment period on the Draft EIS will begin the day after the legal notice is published. The Final EIS and Decision are expected late in 2005.

Dated: August 6, 2003.

Bradley E. Powell,
Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 03-20989 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Curry and Hill Private Property Access, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Jackson County, CO

AGENCY: USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects of issuing a road easement to allow motorized access to private property surrounding Matheson Reservoir. Matheson Reservoir and the Curry and Hill private property are located in Township 4 North, Range 79 West, Section 19 on the Parks Ranger District of the Routt National Forest in Colorado.

Proponents have requested a road easement for year-round motorized access across National Forest System (NSF) lands to their property for non-commercial purposes. Access would be granted through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-487). As proposed, the proponents would access NFS lands in Township 3 North, Range 79 West, Section 8 and proceed north approximately 5 miles to Township 4 North, Range 79 West, Section 19 utilizing National Forest System Trail 58, also known as the Grimes Trail. The Grimes Trail has been closed to motorized use since 1994, and major improvements would be necessary to accommodate full-size vehicles.

The portion of the Grimes Trail that accesses the private land is located in a non-motorized management area prescription (1.32, Backcountry Recreation, Non-motorized). It is also located in the Troublesome Inventoried Roadless Area. For these reasons, authorization of a road easement would require an amendment to the Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, 1997).

The purpose for this action is to decide the type of access Curry and Hill need to secure reasonable use and enjoyment of their land in Section 19, T4N, R79W. Reasonable use per 36 CFR 251.114(a) is "based on contemporaneous uses made of similarly situated lands in the area."

The need for the action is to respond to Curry and Hill's request that the Forest Service issue an easement for motorized use of the Grimes Trail. The Forest Service must also determine the terms and conditions under which the proponents may access the Curry and