

including offset under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, to collect the debt from the buyer.

#### **XVIII. Terminating the Guarantee**

The guarantee and the Agency's obligations under it will terminate under the following circumstances:

- (a) Full payment of the land contract;
- (b) payment by the Agency of two annual installments on the contract, or an amount equal to two annual installments, if not repaid in full by the buyer. (An Agency-approved repayment plan will not constitute payment in full until such time as the entire amount due under the Agency-approved repayment plan is paid in full);
- (c) the seller fails to seek payment of a delinquent installment from the buyer or otherwise does not enforce the terms of the land contract; or
- (d) the seller terminates the land contract.

If none of these events occur, the guarantee will automatically terminate, without notice, 10 years from the effective date of the guarantee.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 15, 2003.

**James R. Little,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Forest Service**

#### **Special Use Permits for Outfitter and Guide Operations on the Lower Rogue and Lower Illinois Rivers, Siskiyou National Forest, Curry County, OR**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of reissuing 63 special use permits for outfitter and guide operations on the lower Rogue River from Lobster Creek to the pool below Blossom Bar Rapids and the lower Illinois River from the confluence with the Rogue River to the mouth of Nancy Creek. The types of special use activities on the Rogue River include: commercial tour boats offering scenic trips and transport of guests to lodges in the Wild Section; fishing guides using both float craft and motorboats; livery services transporting people and freight or offering scenic trips; whitewater motorboat training; half-day float trips from Foster Bar to Agness; and

commercial transport of lodge guests from Foster Bar to Paradise Lodge. On the Illinois River, the type of commercial activity is guided fishing. As a connected action, there is also a need to issue or reissue special use permits for the docks of the three commercial lodges in the Wild Section of the Rogue River.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of this analysis should be received by October 3, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to John Borton, District Ranger, Gold Beach Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, 29279 Ellensburg, Gold Beach, OR 97444, Fax (541) 247-3617, e-mail: *comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-chetco-goldbeach@fs.fed.us*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bill Blackwell, District Recreation, Lands and Minerals Staff, Gold Beach Ranger District, (541) 247-3600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Rogue River was designated a Wild and Scenic River by Congress in 1968. For the portion of the river where the outfitters and guides operate, the river is classified as either Recreational or Scenic from Lobster Creek to Watson Creek (approximately 24 river miles), and Wild from Watson Creek to the pool below Blossom Bar Rapids (approximately 10 river miles). The Illinois River was designated Wild and Scenic in 1984 and is classified as Recreational from its confluence with the Rogue River upstream to the mouth of Nancy Creek.

Commercial fishing guides using motorboats and tour boats offering scenic trips started in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The number of guides and trips increased in the post-World War II era. The invention of hydro-jet powered motorboats in 1958 allowed boats to navigate the river during low summer flows. As the population has increased over the years, all types of recreational float craft and motorboat use has also increased. Today, thousands of people visit the Rogue River each year. The Rogue is internationally renowned for its fishing, and commercial fishing guides provide a recreational service to people who visit the area. The scenery of the Rogue is also internationally known, and each year thousands of people enjoy the recreational experience of riding on the tour boats that travel up the river.

In 1959, the Oregon State Marine Board was given responsibility to establish and administer boating regulations in the State of Oregon. In the 1970s, due to the increased amount of boating in the Wild Section of the Rogue River, the Marine Board, in cooperation

with the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, introduced a permit system to help limit the amount of use in the Wild Section. In 1974, the Marine Board eliminated motorboat use from the pool below Blossom Bar Rapids upstream to Grave Creek between May 15 and November 15. In 1976, after much public comment, the Marine Board limited commercial motorboats in the Wild Section from Watson Creek to the pool below Blossom Bar Rapids between May 15 and November 15 to current permittees and at the use level that existed as of January 15, 1976.

In 1979, the Forest Service first started requiring permits for commercial motorboat activities in the Wild Section of the Rogue River. In 1981, a Forest Service permit was required for any commercial motorboat or float craft activity from Lobster Creek to Watson Creek as well as in the Wild Section. In 1984, the Marine Board decided to re-evaluate its role in the motorboat permit system and begin to solicit public comment. In 1986, the Gold Beach District Ranger wrote to the Marine Board and stated that the Forest Service would continue to administer the motorboat limits and regulations in the Wild Section as the Marine Board had done, with only minor variations. Later that year, the Marine Board decided to repeal their rules, consolidating the motorboat permit system with the Forest Service. The Forest Service continued to issue permits to the tour boats, fishing guides, livery services, and other uses for the same number of trips that had been issued previously by the Marine Board.

In 1995, the Forest Service limited the number of fishing guides in the Lobster Creek to Watson Creek area to those that were currently under permit. These permits allowed use any time of the year, but they could only be used by the permittees and there could be no employees operating under that permit. Also in 1995, the Forest Service limited the number of trips by the tour boats from Lobster Creek to Watson Creek, based on the season of year: shoulder-season (May 1 to June 15 and the day after Labor Day to October 31), main-season (June 16 to Labor Day), and off-season (November 1 to April 30).

Prior to 1999, some guides who operated under permits issued by Bureau of Land Management and jointly administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service would guide fishing trips entirely on the National Forest portion of the river. The language in these special use permits stated the outfitter and guide use was for the Rogue River from the Applegate