

of its value to society; interior forest habitat; late-seral species; Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species, and survey and manage species; water quality; aquatic habitat; current and future recreational opportunities; archaeological sites from landing construction and road reconstruction; and introduction and dispersal of noxious weeds and aggressive non-native species.

The 1990 Umpqua National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended, allocates the Little River Watershed into an Adaptive Management Area (AMA). The Forest Plan's overall objective for AMA's is to learn how to manage on an ecosystem basis in terms of both technical and social challenges, and in a manner consistent with applicable laws. For Little River specifically, the emphasis is placed on "development and testing of approaches to integration of intensive timber production with restoration and maintenance of high quality riparian habitat".

Public participation has consisted of open houses, field trips, and scoping conducted during the environmental assessment process. Numerous comments have been received and have been incorporated and reflect in the issues described above. Additional public comments will be received until June 1, 1996. The information collected will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. The scoping process includes the following:

1. Identification of issues.
2. Identification of key issues.
3. Elimination of insignificant issues, issues which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process, and issues that could be successfully mitigated.
4. Exploration of additional alternatives based on the key issues identified during the scoping process.
5. Identification of potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by November, 1996. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, and members of the public for their review and comment. EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the Federal Register.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the Federal Register. It is very important that those interested

in the management of the Umpqua National Forest participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the draft EIS's must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519,553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by February, 1997. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS, as well as applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. The lead agency is the Forest Service. Don Ostby, Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest, is the responsible official. As the responsible official, he will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations (36 CFR Part 217).

Dated: April 25, 1996.
Don Ostby,
Forest Supervisor.
[FR Doc. 96-11029 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 2, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dawn D. Wolfgang, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis Group, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th & Independence Ave., SW., AG Box 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-0812. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Request for Approval to Sell Capital Assets.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0020.

Type of Request: Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: A borrower's assets provide the security for a Government loan. The selling of assets reduces the security and increases the risk to the Government. RUS Form 369 allows the borrower to seek agency permission to sell some of its assets. The form collects detailed information regarding the proposed sale of a portion of the borrower's systems. RUS electric utility borrowers complete this form to request RUS approval in order to sell capital assets with a fair market value is 10 percent of the borrower's net utility plant.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response.

Respondents: Small business or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 15.

Copies of this information collection, and related form and instructions, can be obtained from Dawn Wolfgang, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis Group, at (202) 720-0812.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis Group, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AG Box 1522, 14th & Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

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:

Dated: April 29, 1996.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 96-11017 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041996A]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permit no. 999 (P5I)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Donald B. Siniff, University of Minnesota, 1987 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108, has been issued a permit to "take" by Level A harassment, Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4016); and

Protected Species Program Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, Southwest Region, NMFS, 2570 Dole

Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/973-2987).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 30, 1996, notice was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 3002) that the above-named applicant had submitted a request for a scientific research permit to "take" by Level A harassment (i.e., capture, restrain, chemically sedate, instrument, release, and recapture for instrument removal) up to 20 adult male, and up to 10 adult female Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) from the population at French Frigate Shoals, over an 18-month period. Up to five additional animals (regardless of gender) were also requested to be taken by Level A harassment in the event that attachment procedures must be prematurely terminated. The objective of the research is to investigate Hawaiian monk seal movements and foraging patterns using satellite-linked time-depth recorders to characterize habitat use. Authorization for the taking of adult males has been granted, with authorization for the taking of adult females contingent upon future review by both the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR Part 216), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking, Importing, and Exporting of Endangered Fish and Wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: April 26, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10994 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 041996C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No. 1000 (P66K)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, AK 99802, has been issued a permit to take up to 3000 harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and up to 600 spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 22, 1996, notice was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 11809) that a request for a scientific research permit to take harbor seals and spotted seals had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Dated: April 24, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10995 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 041996B]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 838 (P535)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of application for modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Stephen Insley, Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park, Washington, DC 20008, has requested a modification to permit No. 838.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The modification request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):