

of Applied Forestry 10:233-237). In addition, the above referenced sentence from the FONSI is not consistent with the draft NWR Guidelines, which specifically sanction the use of unevenaged management in all southern pine types managed for RCWs (see page 9).

Answer: We modified the FONSI to incorporate these comments.

12. (Page 32) The discussion of uneven-aged management does not address the problem of integrating fire with regeneration. As regeneration is standwide and as all southern pines, except long-leaf, are fire intolerant in the seedling and sapling stage, there appears to be no practical method of combining the practice of regular prescribed burning with all-age management, except in the longleaf type. The commenter knows of no research that has studied this problem, nor have they seen a proposed solution to the problem. It should also be noted that the research basis for the current proposals to use all-age management in longleaf pine consists of only 2 tracts, totaling 66 acres and established in 1977-78 (Farrar and Boyer, "Managing Longleaf Pine under the Selection System—Promises and Problems" 6th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference, Memphis TN, Oct. 1990).

Using uneven aged management will generally require the combined use of fire and alternative methods of competition control.

Answer: We added additional discussion of this issue to the Guidelines.

M. Foraging Habitat

1. Page 25 of the draft NWR Guidelines defines the foraging habitat criteria for the refuges and states that "foraging habitat must be greater than 30 years of age *and preferably* >60 years of age" (emphasis added). This is not consistent with the RCW Recovery Plan which calls for at least 50 acres of foraging habitat per cluster greater than 60 years. Due to no fault of the Service, some areas on the National Wildlife Refuges may not have enough >60 year old habitat to meet the Recovery Plan's standards. However, the language in the draft NWR Guidelines should clearly state that at least 50 acres of >60 year old habitat per cluster will be preserved whenever possible. Moreover, if a sufficient amount of >60 year old habitat is not available in a given refuge but can be produced, the refuge should immediately adjust harvest schedules to produce the requisite foraging habitat (the only possible exceptions are when dealing with southern pine beetle

attacks or when undertaking management designed to achieve other ecological objectives).

Answer: We made changes in the text.

2. (page 25) The requirement of 6,350 stems >10" DBH within 1/2 mile of the cluster is based on a single unpublished study by Hooper and Lennartz. The commenter knows of no peer-reviewed and published study which supports this figure. Recent peer-reviewed research raises serious doubts as to the validity of this study and suggests that this number may be in excess of the density "optimum" to clan vigor, (James et al. 1997, Beyer et al. 1996, Hooper and Lennartz 1995, DeLotelle and Epting 1992, Wood et al. 1985). See also attached reformulation and re-analysis of the Hooper and Lennartz (1985) data which indicates a critical equivalent stem density of 2500-3500 stems rather than 6350.

Answer: We wrote the Guidelines to be consistent with the recovery plan. See also response I.5.

Authority

The authorities for this action are the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), The National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) and the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Pub.L. 105-57 to be codified at 16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*).

Dated: January 11, 1999.

Sam D. Hamilton,
Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-090-1220-00]

Grand Gulch/Cedar Mesa, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of recreation fee structure, allocation system and prohibitions for Grand Gulch/Cedar Mesa in San Juan County, Utah.

SUMMARY: Beginning March 1, 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will implement provisions of the 1993 Grand Gulch Plateau Cultural and Recreation Area Management Plan concerning an advanced reservation system, use limits, and permit fees. The permit area involves recreation use of the following canyons on Cedar Mesa including Grand Gulch Primitive Area, Fish, Owl, McCloyd, Road, Lime and Slickhorn Canyons. Use on the mesa tops of Cedar

Mesa will not be regulated at this time. Permits will be required and fees charged from March 1 to November 30 of each year. The advanced reservation portion of the permit system will be in effect during the primary visitation season only, from March 1 to June 15, but may be extended in the future as need dictates. Advanced reservations will be accepted, for this time period, by phone or mail to the Monticello BLM office starting January 1, 1999. Day use of the canyons will require a day use pass or multi-day use pass (7 days), for which a fee is charged, from March 1 to November 30.

The permit requirement, because it is based on an allocation of the number of people per trailhead (Grand Gulch) or per canyon (other Cedar Mesa canyons), will help to decrease in-canyon use during the primary visitation season, and to monitor use at other times of the year.

Fees collected from individual, non-commercial visitors will be used to augment protection of Cedar Mesa's outstanding cultural and primitive recreation values. Notice is also given that campfires will be prohibited within any canyon on Cedar Mesa.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cedar Mesa has long been identified with world class Ancestral Puebloan cultural remains and excellent day hiking and backpacking opportunities. Grand Gulch itself has been managed to protect these values since 1970 when the Secretary of the Interior designated it as a Primitive Area. The other canyons were protected within the Cedar Mesa Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the 1991 San Juan Resource Management Plan (RMP). In recognition of increasing recreational visitation and declining resource conditions, the BLM developed the Grand Gulch Plateau Cultural and Recreation Area Management Plan in 1993. In 1991, individual self-serve permits, advanced reservations for pack stock and larger foot parties, and fees were first established for Grand Gulch. The actions outlined in this **Federal Register** Notice are a continuation and implementation of direction established in the Grand Gulch Plateau Plan.

The fee for either day use or overnight non-commercial recreation use of the Cedar Mesa Canyons must be paid before entering. The day use fee (\$2/person/day) can be paid at the Kane Gulch Ranger Station or at fee tubes placed at the trailheads. A multi-day use pass (\$5/person for a 7 day pass) may be obtained at Kane Gulch or through the Monticello BLM office. Advanced overnight reservations (\$8/person/trip) may be made through the Monticello

BLM office, and may be paid for by credit card, personal check or money order. Overnight walk-in permits are available only at Kane Gulch for \$5/person/trip. Groups of 8–12 and pack and saddle stock supported visitors still require an advance reservation permit during the permit season, obtainable from the Monticello BLM office.

Due to concerns for public safety, resource damage and cultural resources protection, campfires will be prohibited within any canyon on Cedar Mesa. Campfires may still be used on the mesa tops of Cedar Mesa.

Failure to pay any fee, failure to obtain a permit, or operating with an expired permit on Cedar Mesa will make that person responsible under resource and land damages identified in 43 CFR 9268.3 and is punishable under 43 CFR 8372.0–7 pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and other laws when applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip Gezon, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Monticello Field Office, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535 (435) 587–1519.

Dated: January 15, 1999.

G. William Lamb,

Utah State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of information collection solicitation.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is soliciting comments on an information collection, Solid Minerals Operational Model (OMB Control Number 1010–0120), which expires on June 30, 1999.

FORM: None.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments sent via the U.S. Postal Service should be sent to Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225–0165; courier address is Building 85, Room

A613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; e-mail address is RMP.comments@mms.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, phone (303) 231–3046, FAX (303) 231–3385, e-mail Dennis.C.Jones@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3506 (c)(2)(A), we are notifying you, members of the public and affected agencies, of this collection of information which expires June 30, 1999. We are requesting OMB approval for a 3 year extension of this existing collection authority. Is this information collection necessary for us to properly do our job? Have we accurately estimated the industry burden for responding to this collection? Can we enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information we collect? Can we lessen the burden of this information collection on the respondents by using automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for the collection of royalties from leases producing minerals from leased Federal and Indian lands. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage the production of mineral resources on Indian lands and Federal onshore and offshore leases, to collect the royalties due, and to distribute the funds in accordance with those laws.

MMS performs these royalty management functions for the Secretary. When a company or an individual enters into a contract or lease to develop, mine, and dispose of Federal or Indian minerals, that company or individual (the respondent) agrees to pay the appropriate royalty due based upon gross proceeds received from the sale of production from the leased lands. Royalty rates are specified in the lease agreement.

Specific lease language varies; however, respondents agree by the lease terms to furnish statements providing the details of all operations conducted on a lease and the quantity and quality of all production from the lease at such times and in such form as the Secretary may prescribe. Rules require respondents to provide accurate, complete, and timely reports for all minerals produced, in the manner and form prescribed by MMS in 30 CFR part 210, subpart E, and part 216, subpart A.

In order to facilitate the collection of information listed above, MMS currently requires the submission of eight separate forms. Respondents are

also required to resubmit each of these forms to correct any errors which may have occurred on previous submissions of required information. These eight forms are:

- Form MMS–2014, Report of Sales and Royalty Remittance—payors report all royalty and lease-level transactions.
- Form MMS–4030, Payor Information Form (PIF)—establishes and maintains payor accounts required for processing Form MMS–2014.
- Form MMS–4050, Mine Information Form (MIF)—establishes and maintains mine-level production reporting.
- Form MMS–4051, Facility and Measurement Information Form (FMIF)—establishes and maintains facilities in the volume-tracking system including identifying key sales/transfer measurement points that are required to track production and identify all secondary processing and remote storage facilities.
- Form MMS–4059–A, Solid Minerals Operations Report, Part A (SMOR–A)—identifies the quantity and quality of all raw material produced from each Federal or Indian lease; specifies the disposition of those raw materials including sales, transfers, and adjustments; and tracks raw material inventories.
- Form MMS–4059–B, Solid Minerals Operations Report, Part B (SMOR–B)—allocates sales from a secondary processing or remote storage facility back to individual Federal or Indian leases within a mine.
- Form MMS–4060–A, Solid Minerals Facilities Report, Part A (SMFR–A)—provides detailed information on a secondary processing facilities' inputs/outputs.
- Form MMS–4060–B, Solid Minerals Facilities Report, Part B (SMFR–B)—shows a secondary processing or remote storage facility raw material receipts, production, inventory, and disposition.

In April 1997, we decided to conduct an in-depth reengineering of all our core business processes, and we decided to proceed with three operational models (offshore, onshore, and solid minerals) that will test the proposed reengineered business processes. The solid minerals operational model will initially include reporting from 15 mines owned by four major coal mining companies and one major sodium mining company; the companies volunteered to participate in the project.

In the solid minerals operational model, we will focus on the collection of production, royalty, and valuation data, while streamlining reporting requirements. We will test three reporting formats in the solid minerals operational model. The participating