

Forest Service, USDA

§ 215.1

§ 213.3 Protection, occupancy, use, administration, and exercise of reservations.

(a) The rules and regulations applicable to the national forests as set forth in title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, or as hereafter amended, supplemented, or promulgated, are hereby adopted as the rules and regulations to govern the exercise of reservations in conveyances to the United States and to prevent trespasses on and otherwise regulate the protection, use, occupancy, and administration of the National Grasslands and all other lands administered by the Forest Service under the provisions of title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act insofar as is practical and consistent with said act: *Provided*, That Forest Service officers may continue under delegated authority to acquire lands, to make exchanges, to grant easements and enter into leases, permits, agreements, contracts and memoranda of understanding involving such lands under such terms and conditions and for such consideration, fees or rentals as authorized by title III of the said Act.

(b) Existing valid rights, reservations easements, leases, permits, agreements, contracts and memoranda of understanding affecting these lands shall continue in full force and effect so long as they remain valid in accordance with the terms thereof.

[27 FR 9217, Sept. 18, 1962]

§ 213.4 Prior rules and regulations superseded.

Except as provided in § 213.3, the rules and regulations heretofore issued for the land utilization projects are hereby superseded as to all such projects administered by the Forest Service, but not as to such project lands administered by other agencies.

[27 FR 9217, Sept. 18, 1962]

PART 215—NOTICE, COMMENT, AND APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 472, 551; sec. 322, Pub. L. 102-381, 106 Stat. 1419 (16 U.S.C. 1612 note).

SOURCE: 58 FR 58910, Nov. 4, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 215.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) *Purpose*. The rules of this part have two purposes. First, this part establishes a process by which persons or organizations may receive notice and be provided opportunity to comment on proposed actions implementing national forest land and resource management plans prior to a final decision by the responsible official. This includes notice of and opportunity to comment on nonsignificant amendments of land and resource management plans that are made in conjunction with those proposed actions. Second, this part provides for prompt administrative review of project and activities implementing forest plans and establishes who may appeal decisions on planned actions, the kind of decisions that may be appealed, the responsibilities of the participants in an appeal, and the procedures that apply.

(b) *Scope*. The process established in this part constitutes the final administrative opportunity for the public to influence National Forest System project decisionmaking prior to implementation. The rules of this part complement, but do not replace, numerous other opportunities to participate in and influence agency decisionmaking

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provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Forest Management Act, and the implementing regulations and procedures in 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and 36 CFR parts 216 and 219, Forest Service Manual Chapters 1920 and 1950, and Forest Service Handbooks 1909.12 and 1909.15.

§ 215.2 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part—

Appeal is the written document filed with an Appeal Deciding Officer by one who objects to a decision covered by this part.

Appeal Deciding Officer is the Forest Service line officer having the delegated authority and responsible to render a decision on an appeal filed under this part.

Appeal Period is the 45 calendar-day period during which an appeal may be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer.

Appeal Record is the information assembled and/or created during the course of an appeal and upon which review of an appeal is conducted. It consists of the decision documentation, the appeal, the Responsible Official's documentation of the informal disposition meeting, the public notice of decision document, and written comments submitted by interested parties.

Appeal Reviewing Officer is an agency official who reviews an appeal and makes a written recommendation to the Appeal Deciding Officer on the disposition of the appeal.

Appellant is a person or organization filing an appeal under this part.

Categorical Exclusion refers to a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which neither an environmental impact statement (EIS) nor an environmental assessment (EA) is required (40 CFR 1508.4; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 30).

Comment Period is the 30 calendar day period, following publication of the notice for public comment, available to interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action subject to this part.

Decision Document is the document that records the decisions for actions implementing land and resource man-

agement plans. (See also, Record of Decision, Decision Notice, and Decision Memo.)

Decision documentation refers to the decision document and all relevant environmental and other analysis documentation and records on which the Responsible Official based a decision that is at issue under an appeal filed pursuant to this part. Decision documentation may include, but is not limited to, a project or case file, Record of Decision, Decision Notice, Decision Memo, environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, draft and final environmental impact statement, land and resource management plan, regional guide, and documents incorporated by reference in any of the preceding documents.

Decision Memo is a concise written record of a Responsible Official's decision to implement actions that have been categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment (40 CFR 1508.4, Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 30).

Decision Notice is a concise written record of a Responsible Official's decision based on an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact. (40 CFR 1508.9, Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 40).

Environmental Assessment is a concise public document that provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact (40 CFR 1508.9; Forest Service Handbook (FSH), 1909.15, Chapter 40).

Environmental Impact Statement is a detailed written statement as required by section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1508.11; FSH 1909.15, Chapter 20).

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is a document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement, therefore, will not be prepared. It includes the environmental assessment or a summary of it and shall note any