

§215.5

(c) Any action or policy not subject to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500-1508;

(d) Rules promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551 et seq.) or policies and procedures issued in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks (36 CFR parts 200, 216);

(e) A nonsignificant amendment to a land and resource management plan which is made separately from a proposed action specified in §215.3(c) and which, therefore, is subject to appeal under part 217 of this chapter.

§215.5 Notice and comment on proposed actions.

(a) *Annual notice of newspapers.* Annually, each Regional Forester shall, through notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, advise the public of the principal newspapers to be utilized for publishing notices required by this section.

(b) *Manner of giving notice.* (1) The Responsible Official shall publish notice of proposed actions as specified in §215.3 in a newspaper of general circulation identified pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) The Responsible Official also shall give the public notice of the opportunity to comment on proposed actions subject to this part as follows:

(i) For proposed actions requiring an environmental assessment, the Responsible Official shall promptly mail the environmental assessment along with a letter identifying the proposed action to any person who has requested it and to persons who are known to have participated in the environmental analysis process.

(ii) For proposed timber harvest actions categorically excluded from documentation under Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 31.2, paragraph 4, the Responsible Official shall promptly mail a letter briefly describing the proposed to any person who has requested notice, to persons who are on a mailing list to receive notice of this type of decision, or to persons who are known to have participated in the decision-making process.

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(c) *Content of the public notice for comment on proposed actions.* All notices provided or published pursuant to this section shall include the following:

(1) The title and brief description of the proposed action;

(2) A general description of the proposed action location;

(3) Instructions on how to obtain additional information on the proposed action;

(4) The name, title, address, and telephone number of the Responsible Official to whom comments should be addressed; and

(5) The date the comment period ends (§215.6(a)).

§215.6 Response to comments received on proposed actions.

(a) *Comment period.* The Responsible Official shall accept comments on an proposed action subject to §215.3 for 30 days following the date of publication of the notice for public comment. Both oral and written comments shall be accepted. The 30-day period for comment begins on the first day after publication of notice. Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays are included in computing all time periods in this section; however, when the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the comment period shall be extended to the close of business of the next Federal working day.

(b) *Submission.* Persons expressing an interest or submitting comments to the Responsible Official in response to a notice published or provided pursuant to §215.5 shall provide the following information, which will become a matter of public record:

(1) Name, address, and (if possible) telephone number;

(2) Title of the document(s) on which comment is being submitted; and

(3) Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that the person believes the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.

(c) *Timeliness.* It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

(1) When comments are received, the Responsible Official shall clearly identify the date of receipt.