

unprecedented increase in meal service during the fourth quarter, resulting in a 1.18 percent increase over the number of meals served in Fiscal Year 1993, the highest annual increase in the program since 1989. The Department monitors meal service on a monthly basis by comparing data from each month of the current fiscal year to the corresponding month in the previous fiscal year.

However, the increase experienced in the fourth quarter was unpredictable given that, as in past years, there has been no discernible pattern from month to month during the fiscal year.

Final Fiscal Year 1994 meal counts exceeded Departmental projections by little more than one-half of one percent. However, this marginal unanticipated program growth necessitated a retroactive per-meal rate reduction since the program appropriation was consequently insufficient to support all meals served at the initially announced level. Therefore, the Department announces a reduced Fiscal Year 1994 per-meal reimbursement rate of \$.6057. This final rate applies to all eligible meals served during Fiscal Year 1994 and claimed in a timely manner. The Department anticipates that a minimal amount of funds will remain unspent after close-out for the fiscal year has been completed. In accordance with the mandate of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Act of 1993, these funds will be carried over into Fiscal Year 1995 and expended in per-meal reimbursement for that year.

Fiscal Year 1995 Initial Level of Assistance

In the absence of overriding appropriations legislation such as was enacted for Fiscal Year 1994, the Department will for Fiscal Year 1995 be operating under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. In Fiscal Year 1995, a situation exists similar to that at the beginning of Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994, i.e., the Fiscal Year 1995 appropriation will not sustain reimbursement at the mandated annually adjusted rate.

It is the Department's goal to establish the highest rate that can be sustained throughout the fiscal year so as to maximize the flow of program funds to States. Program operators would prefer to receive their per-meal support steadily throughout the year, rather than to operate at a lower rate during the year and receive a compensatory payment in connection with a rate increase after the year has ended. However, the Department wants also to minimize the possibility of a rate reduction and the

hardship that it could cause program operators. In order to guard against the need for a reduction, the Department has projected continued significant growth in the number of meals that will be served in Fiscal Year 1995. Based on such projections, the Department announces an initial per-meal support level of \$.60.

If this initial rate does not exhaust available funds per the mandate by the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, the rate will be increased to achieve compliance with this requirement. However, in the unlikely event that the number of meals served exceeds the Department's projection of significantly expanded participation, it will be necessary to reduce the rate. In either event, the rate will experience two adjustments: an intermediate and final per-meal level of support. The intermediate rate, based on final meal counts and available funds, will be announced in January 1996. A final rate exhausting any unspent funds, which are anticipated to be minimal, will be announced in March 1996 after close-out for the fiscal year has been completed. States will be notified directly of changes in the Fiscal Year 1995 rate.

Dated: January 27, 1995.

George A. Braley,

Acting Administrator.

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Forest Service

Bull Lake Easement; Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of the granting of a road easement and of road reconstruction needed to access a subdivision in the vicinity of Bull Lake. The area is located in the Kootenai National Forest, Three Rivers Ranger District, Lincoln County, Montana.

The proposal's actions to grant an easement to Lincoln County, Montana for a county easement over portions of roads #398 and #8019, and to reconstruct these roads to county standards, for public access to a subdivision of land located in Section 29, T29N, R33W, Principle Meridian, Montana, are being considered together because they represent either connected or cumulative actions as defined by the

Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.25). This project-level EIS will tier to the Kootenai National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Final EIS (September 1987), which provides overall guidance of all land management activities on the Kootenai National Forest, including road management.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before March 20, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or a request to be placed on the project mailing list to Michael L. Balboni, District Ranger, Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, 1437 N. Hwy 2, Troy, Montana, 59935.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Natale, EIS Team Leader, Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, Phone (406) 295-4693.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A county easement is proposed on approximately 1.0 mile of road #398 and 2.0 miles of road #8019 to access a subdivision on private land that has received conditional approval from the county. If approved, the road would then be reconstructed to meet county standards.

The Kootenai Forest Plan provides guidance for management activities within the potentially affected area through its goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and management area direction. The area of the proposed easement would occur within Management Areas 6 and 11. Road reconstruction would occur in these two management areas. Below is a brief description of the applicable management direction.

Management Area 6—These are recreational areas (campgrounds, boat ramps, picnic areas, etc.). There is no restriction on easements within this management area.

Management Area 11—These are areas of big game winter range that allow for easements while including provisions for scheduling to prevent conflicts during periods of wildlife use.

The Forest Service has identified two alternatives. These are: (1) The "no action" alternative, in which the easement would not be granted and (2) to issue the requested easement.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands will be considered. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site-specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness.