
File Code: 1920; 1950
Date: October 8, 2019

Dear Reader,

The U.S. Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) analyzing the effects of a proposed action and three alternatives to change prairie dog management on the Thunder Basin National Grassland, located in eastern Wyoming. The Forest Service proposes to amend prairie dog management direction in the Thunder Basin National Grassland land and resource management plan to provide a wider array of management options to respond to changing conditions, minimize prairie dog encroachment onto non-Federal lands, reduce resource conflicts related to prairie dog occupancy and livestock grazing, ensure continued conservation of at-risk species, and support ecological conditions that do not preclude reintroduction of the black-footed ferret.

The Responsible Official for this project is Russell Bacon, Forest Supervisor for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland. A notice of availability for the DEIS will be published in the Federal Register on October 11, 2019, starting a 90-day public formal comment period for this project. During this public comment period, the Thunder Basin National Grassland will host one public meeting and one online public webinar to provide information on the proposal and opportunities to participate in the planning process.

Public meeting:

- Date and Time: November 20, 2019 from 5:30 until 7:30 pm MDT
- Location: Converse County Library, 300 Walnut St, Douglas, WY
- Format: There will be a presentation of the proposed action starting at 6:00 pm, with opportunities to view maps and project information and discuss the plan amendment with grassland staff before and after the presentation.

Public online webinar:

- Date and Time: November 21, 2019 from 11:00am to 12:30 pm MDT
- How to Connect: Please see the project website below for webinar login information.
- Format: The presentation is expected to last approximately 45 minutes, and the remainder of the time will be for questions and answers.

The full DEIS and appendices, as well as other project information and reference maps are available on the project web site: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=55479.

A variety of information about Thunder Basin National Grassland restoration and prairie dog management is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/MBRTB/PrairieDogs>.



How to comment:

Comments on this project, the alternatives, and the analysis are requested for a period of 90 days to help improve the analysis, finalize alternatives, and develop a final environmental impact statement and draft record of decision.

According to the objection regulations at 36 CFR 219,¹ individuals and entities who submit timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity during any designated opportunity for public comment will have standing to file an objection. This includes the public scoping period as well as this 90-day comment period for the DEIS. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of established comment periods. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection, as stated under 36 CFR 219.53. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in section 219.54. Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, Forest Service staff will not be able to send further project information to anonymous commenters.

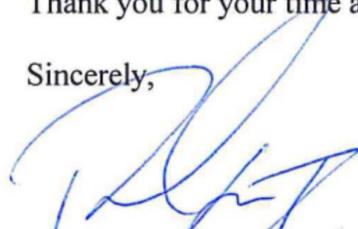
Please submit comments via one of the following methods:

- Submit comments online via the project's public participation portal (preferred): <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=55479>
- Send comments via mail to: Thunder Basin Plan Amendment Comments, Thunder Basin National Grassland Supervisor's Office, 2468 Jackson St, Laramie, WY 82070.

For further information, please contact Monique Nelson, interdisciplinary team leader, at 307-275-0956 or monique.nelson@usda.gov. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,



RUSSELL M. BACON

¹ 36 Code of Federal Regulations, part 219, subpart B, "Predecisional Administrative Review Process:"
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2018-title36-vol2/xml/CFR-2018-title36-vol2-part219.xml>