

Vet Clinic for horses set for Sunday by Two Trackers

The Two Tracker 4-H Horse Club will sponsor a community clinic for worming and vaccinating horses on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Area horse owners are invited to bring their animals to the fairgrounds in Heppner to receive the health care services. Dr. Terry Golter of Hermiston will be the attending veterinarian.

Further information may be obtained by calling 676-9761 or 676-9484.

Roadless area comments may be screened

RARE II input to be made public

An analysis of more than 260,000 public comments on how 62 million acres of national forest roadless areas should be used can be examined soon in Forest Service

offices across the country. Forest Service Chief John R. McGuire announced this week.

He said the comments will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture develop its recommendations on which of the proposed RARE II areas should be wilderness, non-

wilderness or require further planning.

On June 15, Forest Service issued a draft environmental statement containing alternative approaches for allocating use of over 2,000 roadless and underdeveloped areas in the 187-million-acre National Forest System. The Forest Service particularly sought com-

ments on approaches decision makers should consider in allocating the total roadless area inventory, criteria to use in developing a proposed course of action and reasons why specific roadless areas should be wilderness, non-wilderness or subject to further planning. The period for submitting comments ended Oct. 1.

McGuire said the 264,093 public comments received on the draft was the largest public response the agency has ever received on the environmental statement. The Forest Service established a temporary center at Salt Lake City, Utah, where each comment was read and included in the analysis of public response. McGuire said the comments came from nearly 360,000 individuals, and included letters, reports, resolutions, petitions, form letters and response forms. Comments were received from every state with the largest number coming from Oregon, Idaho and California, in that order.

McGuire said the public may view a display of the public comment and analysis at Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. and in regional and forest offices throughout the country beginning next week. The display, on microfilm, consists of tables which show breakdowns of responses by states and types of responses in the categories of approaches, decision criteria and site preferences. McGuire said every roadless area mentioned in the draft environmental statement received comments which recommended either wilderness or non-wilderness status. Very few people recommended further planning, he said. "High scenic beauty and wild values" was the most frequently given reason for recommending wilderness designation of specific areas. The most frequently given reason for recommending non-wilderness status for specific areas was "negative impact on the economy."

Another category on which the public was asked to comment related to approaches or methods decision makers should use in deciding allocation of the total roadless area inventory. "Scenery" and "preserving wildlife" were the most frequently cited reasons in the comments received favoring an approach which would emphasize wilderness designation. "Motorized access and recreation," "economics and jobs," and "timber values" were the most frequently identified reasons in the comments which favored an approach emphasizing allocation of areas to non-wilderness.

The draft statement suggested seven criteria which could be used in developing recommendations for allocating the roadless areas. McGuire said all seven suggested criteria were supported by public comments. The criterion most frequently supported was consideration of meeting the Forest Service targets established in the 1975 program required by the Renewable Resources Planning Act. In addition to the seven primary criteria, the public also suggested other criteria to be used, such as "manageable boundaries," and "adjacent to existing wilderness."

McGuire said that USDA recommendations for use of the roadless areas will be set forth in a final environmental statement to be issued by the end of the year. The Administration's proposals for which of the areas should be designated wilderness will go early to the 96th Congress, he said. Congress usually holds hearings on the proposals before any areas are designated wilderness. McGuire said the Forest Service will hold hearings on those roadless areas which Congress has already designated as "wilderness study" areas. McGuire noted also that there will be additional opportunities for public comment on areas recommended for further study as they move through the regular land planning processes.

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