

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Misty L. Jones, Tobacco and Peanuts
Division, telephone (202) 720-0200.

Discussion

Section 314 of the 1938 Act, provides that the rate of penalty per pound for a kind of tobacco that is subject to marketing quotas shall be 75 percent of the average market price for such tobacco for the immediately preceding marketing year.

The Agricultural Statistics Board, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), USDA, determines and announces annually the average market prices for each type of tobacco.

The penalty rates for the 1997-1998 marketing year have been determined based on the average market prices as published, by NASS in its May 12, 1997, Crop Production report.

Since the determination of the 1997-1998 marketing year rates of penalty reflect only mathematical computations which are required to be made in accordance with a statutory formula, it has been determined that no further public rulemaking is required.

Determination

Accordingly, it is determined that the 1997-1998 marketing year rates of penalty for kinds of tobacco subject to marketing quotas are as follows:

RATE OF PENALTY
[1997-1998 Marketing Year]

Kinds of tobacco	Cents per pound
Flue-Cured	138
Burley	144
Fire-Cured (Type 21)	134
Fire-Cured (Types 22 and 23)	168
Dark Air-Cured (Types 35 and 36) ...	153
Virginia Sun-Cured (Type 37)	134
Cigar Filler and Binder (Types 42-44, 54 and 55)	111

Signed at Washington, DC, on June 8, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Bridger Bowl Ski Area Permit Renewal and Master Plan Update Gallatin National Forest, Gallatin 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 work planned to be accomplished over the next 10-15 years at Bridger Bowl ski area which includes expansion of the existing facilities to improve beginner skier terrain; increase skier opportunities on the mountain; improve parking facilities and increase snow making capacity. The proposal would expand the ski area boundary to the north into the Bradley Meadow and Northwest Passage areas and expand the ski area boundary to the south into the Pine-Slushman area. Several new runs would be developed as well as two surface lifts to the ridge and two new chair lifts. Existing chair lifts would be reconfigured and/or replaced. The base area would be expanded and sewage facilities upgraded.

Implementation of the proposal would require a Forest Plan amendment to change the land management allocation for the area adjacent to the existing ski area from a semi-primitive recreation and wildlife habitat emphasis to a developed winter recreation (ski area) emphasis.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before July 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or a request to be placed on the project mailing list to Gene Gibson, District Ranger, Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, 3710 Fallon St, Suite C, Bozeman, Montana, 59718-1911.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Halstrom, EIS Team Leader, Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Phone (406) 587-6920.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bridger Bowl ski area is located in Bridger Canyon about 16 miles northeast of Bozeman, Montana. The area is operated by the Bridger Bowl Corporation, a non-profit Montana corporation. Bridger Bowl owns about 326 acres of the lower mountain; is in the process of procuring 120 acres of land it has leased from the State of Montana; and is authorized through a special use permit to use about 1,153 acres of national forest land for recreational skiing purposes.

Skiing began in the early 1940's by local enthusiasts from the Bozeman area. In 1950, the State of Montana acquired 120 acres of private land to be used in conjunction with the ski area. By 1952, the local residents had

organized and constructed the first commercial rope tow and base lodge with volunteer help and private donations. The non-profit corporation was organized in 1954 to maintain and operate the ski area. It was originally known as the Bozeman State Park Recreation Association. The Forest Service issued the first special use permit for the ski area in 1954. The ski area has grown to seven lifts and about 600 acres of developed ski trails.

Bridger Bowl Inc. has submitted a Master Plan proposal to the Gallatin National Forest which covers their plans for continuation of their special use authorization to operate on national forest lands. The Master Plan includes a series of work divided into three phases to be accomplished over the next 10-15 years.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes, as well as to respond to the issues and other resources values.

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.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which will occur June 1997 to July 1997. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. The proposed will be presented at two Open Houses at the Bozeman Ranger District Office on Monday, June 23. The representatives will be at 3:00 pm and at 7:00 pm. Representatives from Bridger Bowl Inc. and the Gallatin National Forest will be available at the open house to discuss the proposed project and provide additional information.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used to preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.

3. Eliminate minor issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, such as the Gallatin Forest Plan EIS.

4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.

5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).

6. Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The following preliminary issues have been identified so far:

- Potential effects to changes in sediment yield and channel stability associated with the proposed new construction.
- Potential impacts to Yellowstone Cutthroat trout habitat in the South Fork of Brackett Creek due to potential changes in sediment delivery.
- Potential impacts to the primitive characteristics of the inventoried Bridger roadless area which surrounds the current ski area to the south, north, and west. The proposal includes the development of ski lifts and ski trails adjacent to and within this area.
- The proposal includes additional ski runs and lifts in the Pine-Slushman area to the south of the current ski area and additional ski runs and lifts to the north. This proposal has the potential to change the existing visual condition as observed from various locations in the Bridger canyon.
- The proposal includes expanded season of use. The use pattern of the national forest road and trails within the permitted area may be affected.
- Potential effects to the adjacent cross-country ski trail system authorized on national forest land.
- Effects to the traffic patterns and potential increase on the highway to the ski area and its compliance to current county land use planning.

Other issues commonly associated with ski area development include: effects on cultural resources, water quality, soils, sensitive species, and scenery values. This list may be verified, expanded, or modified based on public scoping for this proposal.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in November of 1997. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in management of the Bridger Bowl ski area participate at that time. To be most helpful, comments on the Draft EIS

should be as site-specific as possible. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by June, 1998.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day scoping comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in developing issues and alternatives.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 130, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Dated: June 6, 1997.

Richard H. Inman,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-15484 Filed 6-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Subcommittee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee will meet on June

19, 1997, at the State Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. Agenda items to be discussed include, but are not limited to: effectiveness monitoring and a series of informational presentations on the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative. The IAC meeting will be open to the public and is fully accessible for people with disabilities. Interpreters are available upon request in advance. Written comments may be submitted for the record at the meeting. Time will also be scheduled for oral public comments. Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Don Knowles, Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, 333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (Phone 503-326-6265).

Dated: June 3, 1997.

Donald R. Knowles,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 97-15573 Filed 6-12-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Proposed Additions and Deletion

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and deletion from procurement list.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List commodities and a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and to delete a commodity previously furnished by such agencies.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: July 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons