

The Union Democrat, Sonora, California
 Groveland District Ranger decisions:
The Union Democrat, Sonora, California
 Mi-Wok District Ranger decisions:
The Union Democrat, Sonora, California
 Summit District Ranger decisions:
The Union Democrat, Sonora, California

Tahoe National Forest

Tahoe Forest Supervisor decisions:
The Union, Grass Valley-Nevada City, California
 Downieville District Ranger decisions:
Mountain Messenger, Downieville, California
 Foresthill District Ranger decisions:
Auburn Journal, Auburn, California
 Nevada City District Ranger decisions:
The Union, Grass Valley-Nevada City, California
 Sierraville District Ranger decisions:
Mountain Messenger, Downieville, California
 Newspapers providing additional notice of Sierraville decisions:
Sierra Booster, Loyalton, California
Portola Recorder, Portola, California
 Truckee District Ranger decisions:
Sierra Sun, Truckee, Nevada County, California
 Newspaper providing additional notice of Truckee decisions:
Tahoe World, Tahoe City, Placer County, California

Dated: January 9, 1998.

G. Lynn Sprague,
 Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 98-1280 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Christy Basin Timber Sales, Willamette National Forest, Lane County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a Proposal Action to harvest and regenerate timber, thin young stands created by past regeneration harvest. The proposal also calls for the construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads, restoration of degraded stream channels, and improvement of big game forage within the Christy Creek drainage of the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River watershed. The

planning area is bounded by the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River on the south, Hiya Ridge (the watershed boundary between the North Fork and the McKenzie River) on the east, Sinker Mountain and Sardine Butte on the northwest and north (the watershed boundary between the North Fork and Fall Creek) and Alpine Ridge on the west. The area is approximately 40 air miles east of the City of Eugene and 16 air miles northeast of the City of Oakridge. The Forest Service proposal will be in compliance with the 1990 Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, which provides the overall guidance for management of this area. These proposals are tentatively planned for implementation in fiscal years 1999-2003.

The Willamette National Forest invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis in addition to those comments already received as a result of local public participation activities. The agency will also give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process so that interested and affected people are made aware as to how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope and implementation of the analysis should be received in writing by February 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions concerning the management of this area to Rick Scott, District Ranger, Rigdon Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, P.O. Box 1410, Oakridge, Oregon 97463.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the proposed action and the scope of analysis to Kristy Miller, Planning Resource Management Assistant or Tim Bailey, Project Coordinator, Oakridge Ranger District, phone 541-782-2283.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Christy Basin Planning area is entirely within the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River watershed, which is designed as a Tier 2 Key watershed by the Northwest Forest Plan (ROD, C-7). Tier 2 Key watersheds contain important sources of high quality water. A Watershed Analysis was completed for the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River in September, 1995.

The purpose of this project is to harvest timber in a manner that implements the management objectives, and to implement various resource

restoration activities to meet Key Watershed objectives.

The proposal includes harvesting timber by thinning in nine separate timber sales over the next five years, and regeneration harvest methods in four separate timber sales over the next four years. Both thinning and regeneration timber sale proposals would involve road construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning. This analysis will evaluate a range of alternatives addressing the Forest Service proposals to harvest approximately 70.0 million board feet; approximately 43.4 million board feet would be generated from thinning some 3900 acres of young stands created by past clearcut harvest, and approximately 26.4 million board feet would be generated by regeneration harvest on approximately 550 acres. All the above proposed harvest would require a total of 8 miles of temporary road construction and 21 miles of road reconstruction.

The Christy Basin planning area comprises about 34,000 acres, all of which is federal land. Of the 34,000 acres about 18,500 acres (54%) have been previously harvested and regenerated. Of the remaining acres, approximately 5300 (15%) acres is in a mature stand condition, ranging in ages from 90 to 170 years, and 10,000 acres is in an old-growth stand condition, stand ages exceeding 200 years. The planning area contains about 600 acres (1.7%) of non-forested vegetation types and rock outcrops. Management areas that provide for programmed timber harvest are Scenic (11c) and General Forest (14a). Other land allocations in this planning area are Late-Successional Reserves, Riparian Reserves, Wild and Scenic River Corridor, and Dispersed Recreation—Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Use.

The project area includes a small portion (about 700 acres) of the Chucksney Mountain inventoried roadless area, which was considered but not selected for wilderness designation. Most of this inventoried roadless area is included within the above Dispersed Recreation—Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized Recreation Management Area.

Issues identified for this analysis are water and stream quality, habitat fragmentation, economic benefit, old-growth habitat reduction, big game habitat quality, biodiversity effects, road management, and soil compaction.

Initial scoping for this analysis began in 1990 but the project was put on hold due to a Federal Court injunction. Scoping was initiated again in March of 1996. Alternatives were developed and

preliminary analysis was completed during the summer and fall of 1997. The developed alternative consisted of: (A) low management intensity; retention of more than the prescribed amount of standing green trees and down logs (20–30% retention), (B) conventional management intensity; retention of prescribed amounts of standing green trees and down logs (15% retention), (C) No old-growth harvest, and (D) No Action. All action alternatives were developed to avoid forest fragmentation and system road construction. Results of the above analysis indicated a potential for significant effects to the human environment, hence the need for documentation with the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Forest Service will be seeking additional information, comment and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, tribes, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested or affected by the proposed project. Additional input will be used to help verify the existing analysis and determine if additional issues and alternatives should be developed. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS.

The scoping process will include the following:

- Identification of potential additional issues;
- Identification of issues to be analyzed in depth;
- Elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process;
- Exploration of potential additional alternatives based on the issues identified during the scoping process; and
- Verification of and potential addition to environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by February 28, 1998. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, a reviewer of a draft EIS 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 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 the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. (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.)

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in June, 1998. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. Rick Scott, District Ranger, is the responsible official and as responsible official, he will document the Christy Basin Timber Sales and restoration project decision and rationale in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: January 5, 1998.

Rick Scott,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 98–1198 Filed 1–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for

clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
Title: Capital Construction Fund

Agreement and Certificate.

Agency Form Number: NOAA 88–14.

OMB Approval Number: 0648–0090.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 2,250 hours.

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 2.25 hours.

Needs and Uses: The Merchant

Marine Act provides for the administration of the Capital Construction Fund (CCF) by NOAA. This program enables fishermen to construct, reconstruct, or (under limited circumstances) acquire fishing vessels with before-tax, rather than after-tax, dollars. NOAA collects information from fishermen to determine their eligibility to participate in the program and to certify completion of the agreement objectives.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395–3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482–3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: January 2, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98–1264 Filed 1–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census 2000 Special Place Facility Questionnaire

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing