

the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Basin and other matters raised by the Secretary.

The Secretary has determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, conducting public meetings to discuss management strategies, gather information and review federal agency accomplishments, and prepare a progress report every six months for submission to regional federal executives.

The Committee will consist of no more than 20 members representing a broad array of interests in the Lake Tahoe Region. Representatives will be selected from the following sectors: (1) gaming; (2) environmental; (3) national environmental organizations; (4) ski resorts; (5) North Shore economic and recreation interests; (6) South Shore economic and recreation interests; (7) resort associations; (8) education; (9) property rights advocates; (10) member-at-large; (11) member-at-large; (12) science and research; (13) local government; (14) Washoe Tribe; (15) State of California; (16) State of Nevada; (17) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; (18) union/labor interests, and (19) transportation. Nominations to the Committee should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee. The Committee Chair will be recommended by the Committee and approved by the Secretary. Vacancies on the Committee will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include to the extent practicable individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

G. Lynn Sprague,

Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Salmon River Canyon Project; Nez Perce National Forest, Payette National Forest, Bitterroot National Forest, Salmon/Challis National Forest, Idaho County, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of fuels reduction within the Salmon River Canyon. The area is located between Cottonwood, ID and North Fork, ID. Some activities are proposed within the Gospel Hump and Frank Church—River of No Return Wildernesses. This EIS will tier to the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Bitterroot National Forest Forest Plan, the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest, and the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan which provide overall guidance for achieving the desired forest condition of the area. The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce fuels that have accumulated as a result of fire suppression in areas of historic high frequency, low intensity fires.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received by August 24, 1998 to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions on the proposed action or requests for a map of the proposed action or to be placed on the project mailing list to Coy Jemmett, Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce National Forest, Route 2 Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Shields, Planner, Nez Perce National Forest, Route 2 Box 475, Grangeville, ID, 83530, Phone (208) 983-1950.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Activities are proposed on the following Ranger Districts: Salmon River and Red River Districts, Nez Perce NF; New Meadows, McCall, and Krassell, Payette NF; West Fork, Bitterroot NF; and North Fork, Salmon NF. Activities are also proposed on the Cottonwood Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management. The proposed activity is ignition of approximately 210,000 acres through the use of helicopter and hand ignition over a ten-year period. This treatment is expected to reduce fuels in the Salmon

River Canyon area. The following goals will be achieved:

1. Reintroduce fire as a primary ecological disturbance process in ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir types, to initiate the restoration of vegetation densities toward historic levels.
2. Increase the opportunities to allow lightning fires to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role within wilderness in accordance with Wilderness Fire Management Plans.
3. Reduce the risk from wildland fire to private land and structures within and adjacent to the Salmon River Canyon.

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

Public participation is an important part of the project, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which starts with publication of this notice and continues for the next 30 days. 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, the Nez Perce Tribe, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in 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 Nez Perce National 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).

While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS, which is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review

in January 1999. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comments received will be analyzed and considered in preparation of a final EIS, which is expected to be filed in June 1999. A Record of Decision will be issued not less than 30 days after publication of a Notice of Availability of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important at this early stage to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EISs 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, 513 (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 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 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.

Coy Jemmett is the responsible official for this environmental impact statement.

Dated: July 17, 1998.

Philip N. Jahn,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce National Forest.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions and Deletions

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

ACTION: Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes from the Procurement List commodities previously furnished by such agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 27 and June 12, 1998, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (63 FR 9999, 32189 and 32190) of proposed additions to and deletions from the Procurement List:

Additions

The Following Comments Pertain to Kit, Fuel & Oil Filter Element

Comments were received from a previous contractor in response to a request for sales data. The commenter challenged the capability of the designated nonprofit agency to produce the kit, claiming that the kit is a flight safety item which can only be effectively produced by a filter element manufacturer with special equipment, including testing equipment.

The Government contracting activity which purchases the kit and is familiar with all technical requirements for its production performed a plant facility inspection at the nonprofit agency and concluded that the agency was capable of producing the kit. Production of the kit is an assembly operation, using parts which meet appropriate technical criteria. The Committee's industrial engineer reviewed the Government's capability report and a similar assessment by an industrial engineer at the central nonprofit agency which represents the designated nonprofit agency, and the Committee's determination that the nonprofit agency

is capable of producing the kit is based on these assessments.

The Following Comments Pertain to Mess Attendant, Janitorial/Grounds Maintenance, Naval Station, Everett, Washington

In response to a Committee request for sales data, comments were received from one of the three contractors for the services consolidated into the service requirement being added to the Procurement List. The existing services are being performed by 8(a) contractors, and the other two have graduated from the 8(a) Program. The commenting contractor indicated that loss of the contract would have a severe adverse impact on its sales if some sort of partnering arrangement with the designated nonprofit agency does not occur.

The contracting activity has indicated that the service requirement would remain in the 8(a) Program if it is not added to the Procurement List. As the other two contractors have graduated from that program, they would not be eligible to receive contracts whether or not the service requirement is added to the Procurement List, so any impact they may suffer would not be caused by the addition.

The designated nonprofit agency has agreed to subcontract the mess attendant portion of the service requirement to the commenting contractor for the duration of its eligibility to participate in the 8(a) Program, if a reasonable price that is consistent with the contracting activity's available resources can be agreed upon. This arrangement will enable the contractor to continue performing the services until it graduates from the 8(a) Program, if its performance continues to be satisfactory. As a consequence, the Committee does not believe that the addition of the service requirement will have a severe adverse impact on that contractor.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodity and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodity and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small