

decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR part 215.

Benjamin T. Worthington,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project, Targhee National Forest, Fremont County, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Supervisor of the Targhee National Forest gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project. After conducting a Properly Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment and a Landscape Assessment, Forest Service personnel found several concerns with various ecosystems that comprise the Big Bend Ridge Project Area. These included:

- Presence of dense stands of mature Douglas-fir trees that are susceptible to insect, disease and fire outbreaks. These dense stands are losing their crowns.
- Consistent lack of Douglas-fir seedling establishment.
- Lack of rejuvenation of bigtooth and mountain maple plant communities.
- Lack of rejuvenation and the decline in seral aspen plant communities.
- Decline in potential forage values for big game.
- Increased risks associated with wildfire along the adjacent and expanding urban interface.

An interdisciplinary team developed a proposal to address these concerns. The Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project proposes to:

- Commercially thin (thinning from below—larger diameter trees would be left) approximately 2,500 acres (about 9 million board feet) of densely stocked Douglas-fir stands (thinning would also regenerate seral aspen communities that occur in these treatment areas). Approximately 70% of the harvest would be done with cable or helicopter yarding methods; the remainder being done with crawler tractors or rubber-tired skidders.

- Establish a 200 acre demonstration area to test and monitor the use of prescribed fire and mechanical treatments in establishing Douglas-fir seedlings.

- Use prescribed fire and hand methods, as a demonstration project, to treat and monitor rejuvenation of 100 acres of big tooth and mountain maple plant communities.

- Use prescribed fire to rejuvenate aspen and reduce fuels and fire hazards along the wildland urban interface on 700 acres of mixed conifer and seral aspen plant communities.

- Use prescribed fire to improve 900 acres of big-game range (treatment areas would also benefit urban interface considerations).

Areas treated silviculturally, 3.3 miles of non-system road reconstruction and 3 miles of non-system road construction. Big Bend Ridge Project Area is located 5 miles north of Ashton, Idaho and contains 30,000 acres of National Forest lands on the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District. Alternatives to this proposal, including No-Action, will be developed by an interdisciplinary team to respond to significant issues generated during the scoping process. A more detailed description of the proposed action is available from the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District; see address below.

DATES: Send written comments and suggestions on the issues concerning the proposed action by August 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Adrienne Keller, District Ranger, Ashton/Island Park Ranger District, P.O. Box 858, Ashton, ID 83420.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Jenkins, phone (208) 558-7301 or Duane Monte, phone (208) 624-3151—Interdisciplinary Team Leaders.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Revised Forest Plan (RFP) for the Targhee National Forest was approved in 1997. Management direction for the Big Bend Ridge Project Area is primarily for timber management with emphasis on big game security (Management Prescriptions 5.1.4[a] & 5.2.4[c]). Management on the remainder of the project area is governed by prescriptions 2.2—Research Natural Areas; 2.8.3—Aquatic Influence Zone; 5.1[c]—Timber Management; and 5.2.1—Visual Quality Improvement.

Initial public involvement will include mailing a project description and maps to interested parties to solicit comments on the proposal. Preliminary issues include: Access management, elk security/vulnerability, visuals, urban interface, and forest health.

Additional opportunity to comment on the project will occur on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS). The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in mid December 1998.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. At the same time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the proposed action participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to the 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 reviewers' position and contentions.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage but that are raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, (9th Circuit, 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 meaningful consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact 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 March 1999. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments 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 decisions on this proposal.

Responsible Official

Jerry B. Reese, Forest Supervisor, is the responsible official. As responsible official, he will document the selected alternative for the Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project EIS and his rationale in a Record of Decision.

The decision for the Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: July 17, 1998.

Jerry Reese,

Forest Supervisor.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

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

ACTION: Proposed additions to and Deletions from Procurement List.

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

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: August 31, 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: 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 an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

Additions

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodities and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

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 entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following commodities and services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Commodities

Skid Board 1670-01-342-5913
NPA: Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.,
Kinston, North Carolina
Anti-Microbial Textiles Shipper
M.R. 1911
NPA: Lions Services, Inc., Charlotte, North Carolina
Ergonomic Kitchen Gadgets
M.R. 880—Nylon Square Turner
M.R. 882—Nylon Spoon
M.R. 884—Nylon Spaghetti Server
M.R. 887—Jar Opener
M.R. 881—Nylon Round Turner
M.R. 883—Nylon Slotted Spoon
M.R. 885—Nylon Ladle
NPA: Cincinnati Association for the Blind,
Cincinnati, Ohio
Pet Mats
M.R. 1700
NPA: Winston-Salem Industries for the
Blind, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Services

Administrative Services, Department of
Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 6010
Amarillo Boulevard West, Amarillo,
Texas
NPA: Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.,
Dallas, Texas
Base Supply Center, Bolling Air Force Base,
Washington, DC
NPA: Blind Industries & Services of
Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland

Customer Service Representatives

General Services Administration, Northwest
Arctic Region, 400 15th Street, SW,
Auburn, Washington
NPA: The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.,
Seattle, Washington
Food Service Attendant (Postwide), Fort
Carson, Colorado
NPA: Pueblo Diversified Industries, Inc.,
Pueblo, Colorado

Janitorial/Custodial

San Diego Vet Center, 2900 Sixth Avenue,
San Diego, California
West LA VA Community Base Clinic, 1063,
N. Vine Street, Los Angeles, California
NPA: Job Options, Inc., San Diego, California
Janitorial/Custodial, Federal Records Center
and USDA Laboratory, East Point,
Georgia
NPA: WORKTEC, Jonesboro, Georgia
Janitorial/Custodial, GPO Springbelt
Warehouse, 7701 Southern Drive,
Springfield, Virginia
GPO Laurel Warehouse, 8610 & 8660 Cherry
Lane, Laurel, Maryland
NPA: Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries,
Washington, DC
Janitorial/Custodial, Veterans Affairs
Outpatient Clinic, Sayre, Pennsylvania
NPA: Penn-York Opportunities for the
Handicapped, Inc., Athens, Pennsylvania
Janitorial/Custodial, Carr Inlet Acoustical
Range, 630—3rd Avenue, Fox Island,
Washington
NPA: Peninsula Services, Bremerton,
Washington
Operation of Individual Equipment Element,
Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC
NPA: Blind Industries & Services of
Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland
Operation of Individual Equipment Element,
Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska
NPA: Envision, Inc., Wichita, Kansas
Operation of Individual Equipment Element,
Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, North
Carolina
NPA: Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind, Inc.,
Raleigh, North Carolina
Switchboard Operation, Department of
Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 950
West Haven Avenue, West Haven,
Connecticut
NPA: BESB Industries, West Hartford,
Connecticut
Switchboard Operation, Department of
Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Sioux
Falls, South Dakota
NPA: South Dakota Industries for the Blind,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Deletions

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 entities.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on future contractors for the commodities.