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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Good Creek Environmental Impact Statement; Flathead National Forest, Tally Lake Ranger District, Flathead and Lincoln Counties, State of Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposal to harvest timber; reclaim, rehabilitate, and construct roads; change road and trail access; place large logs in streams; and burn brushfields or forest understory trees within the Good Creek watershed. The area is located west of Whitefish, Montana and southwest of Olney, Montana.

The Forest Service is seeking further information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions. These comments will be used to prepare the draft EIS.

DATES: The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available for public review in April, 1999. No date has yet been determined for filing the final EIS.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESS: You may request to be placed on the project mailing list or direct questions, comments, and suggestions about the proposed action and EIS to Bryan Donner, EIS Team Leader, or Jane Kollmeyer, District Ranger, Tally Lake Ranger District, 1335 Highway 93 West, Whitefish, MT 59937. Phone: (406) 863-5400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Nature and scope of the proposed action: The need for this proposal stems from conditions within the 72,000-acre Good Creek and Martin Creek watersheds in which high levels of accumulated fuels pose a threat of wildfire to national forest lands within the watershed and to human developments and private lands adjacent to the area. Also, the watershed contains large areas composed almost entirely of lodgepole pine. The lack of diversity in tree species, ages, and sizes and their numbers and distribution across the landscape has reduced available habitat for native wildlife, plant, and fish species.

The purpose of the proposal is to reduce fuels to historic levels where appropriate or to levels which might prevent intense fires; to increase habitat for plants, animals, and fish; to maintain hydrologic function, protect water quality, and reduce sediment; to provide access for management activities over the next 10 years; to maintain a variety of recreation opportunities in the Good Creek area; and to meet social and economic needs of local communities.

The proposal's actions to regenerate lodgepole pine stands and wind damaged stands, construct temporary roads or recondition roads necessary to access these stands, correct chronic sediment sources, and stabilize stream channels are being considered together because they represent either connected or cumulative actions as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.25).

The proposed action outlines 11,914 areas of vegetation treatment, 19 miles of road reclamation, 34 miles of drainage improvements on roads, new temporary road construction of 7 miles, new specified road construction of 13 miles, and culvert replacements on 10 sites, all over a 10 year period. The vegetation treatments proposed consist of combinations of prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and varying intensities of timber harvest with associated fuels treatments and preparation for reforestation. In addition, road access changes are proposed for 37 miles, and fisheries habitat improvement (large woody debris placement) is proposed for a total of 2.6 miles on three streams.

The Forest Service believes the current forest conditions resulting from

large wildfires that occurred near the turn of the century and subsequent management decisions are causing adverse effects. These effects include an increased risk of property damage on both national forest and adjacent private land from large and intense wildfires; reduced individual tree health in some areas; and a low level of tree species diversity. The Forest Service also believes implementing a no action alternative will further increase these effects in the future. The proposed actions may have short term significant effects on wildfire, fisheries, and surface hydrology, but long term benefits to the function of the ecosystem are more desirable.

This EIS will tier to the Flathead National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and EIS of January, 1986, and its subsequent amendments, which provide overall guidance of all land management activities on the Flathead National Forest.

Decision to be made: Should the Forest Service implement the proposed action or any action to meet the purpose and need or to defer any action at this time within the Good Creek and Martin Creek watersheds? The deciding official for this project is Catherine Barbouletos, Forest Supervisor, Flathead National Forest.

Preliminary issues and alternatives: Public and internal scoping which has already occurred for this project includes one public open house; two public field trips; two mailings to Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations; personal conversations with interdisciplinary team members and members of the public, and news media releases. An additional public mailing is planned to present a refined proposed action and give an update on progress. Based on public and internal scoping, the following significant issues emerged:

1. Effects of vegetation treatments and road and trail access on wildlife security.

2. Effects of vegetation treatments and road access on existing and future old growth habitat.

3. Effects of vegetation treatments on the size, shape, continuity, and edge effects of some late seral patches of trees.

4. Effects of the proposed action on some forested connections that serve as

links for wildlife movement between important habitat such as riparian forests and ridgelines.

5. Effects of vegetation treatments and road building and reclamation on water quality, fish habitat, and fine sediment deposition.

6. Effects of vegetation treatments and road building and reclamation on cutthroat trout populations in upper Good Creek.

The interdisciplinary team has not yet developed any alternatives to the proposed action that respond to these significant issues.

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 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 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 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.

Following this comment period, the comments received will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in the final

environmental impact statement (FEIS). Catherine Barbouletos, Forest Supervisor, Flathead National Forest, 1935 Third Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 59901 is the responsible official for the preparation of the EIS and will make a decision regarding this proposal considering the comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and rationale for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under applicable Forest Service regulations.

Dated: December 16, 1998.

Jane Kollmeyer,

District Ranger, Tally Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest.

[FR Doc. 98-34719 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-403-801]

Fresh and Chilled Atlantic Salmon From Norway; Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of preliminary results of antidumping duty administrative review of fresh and chilled Atlantic salmon from Norway.

SUMMARY: In response to a request from the petitioner, Coalition for Fair Atlantic Salmon Trade, the Department of Commerce is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty order fresh and chilled Atlantic salmon from Norway. The period of review is April 1, 1997, through March 31, 1998. This review covers products manufactured and exported by Nornir Group A/S ("Nornir").

We have preliminarily found that sales of subject merchandise have been made below normal value. If these preliminary results are adopted in our final results, we will instruct the Customs Service to assess antidumping duties based on the difference between the export price or constructed export price and normal value.

Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results. Parties who submit arguments are requested to submit with the argument (1) a statement of the issue and (2) a

brief summary of the argument. We will issue the final results not later than 120 days from the date of publication of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Todd Peterson or Thomas Futtner, AD/CVD Enforcement Office 4, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone (202) 482-4195, and 482-3814, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department of Commerce's (the Department's) regulations refer to the regulations codified at 19 CFR Part 351 (1998).

Background

On April 12, 1991, the Department published in the **Federal Register** (56 FR 14920) the antidumping duty order on fresh and chilled Atlantic salmon from Norway. On April 30, 1998, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b), the petitioner requested that the Department conduct an administrative review of Nornir's exports of subject merchandise to the United States. We published the notice of initiation of this review on May 29, 1998 (63 FR 29370).

Scope of the Review

The merchandise covered by this review is fresh and chilled Atlantic salmon (salmon). It encompasses the species of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) marketed as specified herein; the subject merchandise excludes all other species of salmon: Danube salmon; Chinook (also called "king" or "quinnat"); Coho ("silver"); Sockeye ("redfish" or "blueback"); Humpback ("pink"); and Chum ("dog"). Atlantic salmon is whole or nearly whole fish, typically (but not necessarily) marketed gutted, bled, and cleaned, with the head on. The subject merchandise is typically packed in fresh water ice (chilled). Excluded from the subject merchandise are fillets, steaks, and other cuts of Atlantic salmon. Also excluded are frozen, canned, smoked or otherwise processed Atlantic salmon. Fresh and chilled Atlantic salmon is currently provided for under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS)