

**District Ranger Decisions**

Clarks Fork District: *Powell Tribune*, published twice weekly in Powell, Park County, Wyoming.

Wapiti and Greybull Districts: *Cody Enterprise*, published twice weekly in Cody, Park County, Wyoming.

Wind River District: *The Dubois Frontier*, published weekly in Dubois, Teton County, Wyoming.

Lander District: *Wyoming State Journal*, published twice weekly in Lander, Fremont County, Wyoming.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

**Tom L. Thompson,**

*Deputy Regional Forester.*

[FR Doc. 99-6864 Filed 3-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Threemile Timber Harvest**

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Tongass National Forest timber sale program. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to provide harvest units, roads, and associated timber harvesting facilities. The proposed action is to harvest timber on approximately 2300 acres including both clearcut with reserves and overstory removal harvest methods. This would entail harvest of an estimated 48 million board feet of timber. Approximately 33 miles of new roads would be built, as well as a new log transfer facility at No Name Bay.

A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed including a no-action alternative. The proposed timber harvest is located in the Tongass National Forest, Petersburg Ranger District, on Kuiu Island, Alaska, within Value Comparison Units 416, 417, 418, 419 and the east side of VCU 420. The *Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan* (1997) provides the overall guidance (land use designations, goals, objectives, management prescriptions, standards and guidelines) to achieve the desired future condition for the area in which this project is proposed. The Forest Plan allocates portions of the project area into four management prescriptions: Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Semi-Remote Recreation, and Old-growth Habitat Land Use Designations.

**DATES:** For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be

received by May 1, 1999; however, scoping comments will be accepted at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send written comments to Petersburg Ranger District; Tongass National Forest; Attn: Threemile Timber Harvest EIS; P.O. Box 1328, Petersburg, AK, 99833.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTRACT:** Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to Everett Kissinger, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, P.O. Box 309, Petersburg, AK, 99833, phone (907) 772-3841.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public participation will be part of the planning process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from federal, state, and local agencies, and from individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and, (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written scoping comments will be solicited through a scoping package sent to a project mailing list. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by May 1, 1999; however, scoping comments will be accepted at any time. Tentative issues identified for analysis in the EIS include subsistence, wildlife habitat, road development and access management, and timber sale economics and timber supply. Based on the results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives including a no-action alternative will be developed for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The Draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 1999. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), are planned during the comment period on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is anticipated by March, 2000.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage 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 of the proposed action, comments during scoping and comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific areas with the project areas or 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.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision

regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

Permits: Those required for implementation include the following:

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
  - Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
2. Environmental Protection Agency
  - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (402) Permit;
  - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
  - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
4. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
  - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification)
5. State of Alaska, Division of Governmental Coordination
  - Coastal Zone Consistency Determination concurrence

#### Responsible Official

Carol J. Jorgensen, Assistant Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 309, Petersburg, AK 99833, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: March 8, 1999.

**Carol J. Jorgensen.**

*Assistant 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:** April 21, 1999.

**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 will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

3. 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

Impulse Merchandising Program (IMP)  
 Party Items  
   M.R. 1500—2000  
 Cooking Utensils  
   M.R. 1550  
 Health and Beauty Aids  
   M.R. 1600  
 Cleaning Aids  
   M.R. 1650  
 Pet Items  
   M.R. 1700  
 Baby Items  
   M.R. 1750  
 Children Items  
   M.R. 1800  
 Household Items  
   M.R. 1850  
 NPA: Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
 Tool, McLeod  
   4210-00-203-3512  
 NPA: Mississippi Industries for the Blind, Jackson, Mississippi at its facility in Meridian, Mississippi  
 Vegetable Oil  
   8945-00-NSH-0001  
 NPA: Advocacy and Resources Corporation (ARC), Cookeville, Tennessee

#### Services

Commissary Shelf Stocking, Custodial and Warehousing  
 Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington  
 NPA: Pre-Vocational Training Center, Spokane, Washington

#### Janitorial/Custodial

MG William Weigel USARC, Edison, New Jersey  
 NPA: Edison Sheltered Workshop, Inc., Edison, New Jersey

#### Janitorial/Custodial

Wheeling Courthouse, 12th and Chaplin Streets, Wheeling, West Virginia  
 NPA: Russell Nesbitt Services, Inc., Wheeling, West Virginia  
 Operation of Postal Service Center, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona  
 NPA: Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

#### 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 will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities to the Government.

3. 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 proposed for deletion from the Procurement List.