

Comments may be sent to L.T. McElvain, Director, Commodity Credit Corporation Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AgBox 1035, Washington, DC 20250-1035.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC April 21, 1999.

**Timothy J. Galvin,**

*Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Acting Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 99-10812 Filed 4-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### White Pine Creek Project; Kootenai National Forest, Sanders County, MT

**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) for the White Pine Creek Project to disclose the effects of timber harvest, prescribed fire, road management including construction, reconstruction and obliteration, fish habitat improvement, stream channel reconstruction, trailhead parking area improvement, and aspen restoration, in the White Pine and Little Trout Creek drainages located approximately 5 air miles south of Trout Creek, Montana. The purpose and need for action is to: (1) Enhance and maintain vegetative communities within the project area that promote overall forest health. Focus management activities on stands which have high levels of mortality due to root disease and white pine blister rust. Focus on stands that need management activities in order to perpetuate old growth ponderosa pine ecosystems. Create forage openings for big game animals and other wildlife; (2) Maintain habitat for big game, specifically wildlife security; (3) Maintain, enhance and restore hydrologic function and fisheries habitat, within the White Pine Project Area; (4) Maintain or enhance visual resources as seen from critical viewpoints within the Trout Creek community; and (5) Provide a transportation system that maintains road and trail access to meet recreational and other public needs.

The DEIS is expected to be filed with the EPA and available for public review by September, 1999.

**DATES:** Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before June 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to James I. Mershon, District Ranger, Cabinet Ranger District, 2693 Hwy 200, Trout Creek, Montana, 59874.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Dave Clay, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Cabinet Ranger District, Phone: (406) 827-3533.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The decision area contains approximately 40,000 acres within the Kootenai National Forest in Sanders County, Montana. All of the proposed projects are located in the White Pine and Little Trout Creek drainages, which are tributaries to the Clark Fork River, near Trout Creek, Montana. The legal location of the National Forest lands within the decision area are as follows: all or portions of Section 4-5, T22N, R32W; Sections 3-11, 14-24, 27-30, T23N, R31W; Section 1-3, 10-17, 20-29, 31-34, T23N, R32W; Sections 31-33, T24N, R31W; Section 24-26, 35-36, T24N, R32W, Principal Montana Meridian.

The Forest Service proposes to harvest approximately 33,000 hundred cubic feet (equivalent to 15 million board feet, MMBF) of timber through the application of a variety of harvest methods on approximately 2,300 acres of forest land. Approximately 1,200 acres would be logged with a helicopter, 700 acres with a skyline yarder, and 400 acres by a tractor. Silviculture systems include 1,200 acres of regeneration harvest and 1,100 of commercial thinning. Vegetation management also includes approximately 5 acres of aspen regeneration. An estimated 5 miles of new permanent road, 12 miles of new temporary roads and 33 miles of road reconstruction would be needed to access timber harvest areas. All temporary roads would be obliterated following completion of sale activities. The proposal also includes prescribed burning on approximately 1,000 acres to reduce natural fuels and enhance wildlife habitat. An estimated 19 miles of road would be obliterated by the timber purchaser and another 31 miles of road would be obliterated with watershed funding by rehabilitation of stream crossings, recontouring, scarification and seeding. The Forest Service also proposes to improve fish habitat through the placement of instream structures and large woody debris on 4 miles of White Pine Creek, stabilize stream channels in 6.7 miles by placing large woody debris and large

rock structures in damaged sections to protect the stream channel and provide fish habitat. Reconstruct the stream channel in 2.7 miles of White Pine Creek and plant riparian vegetation along streamcourses. The watershed and fisheries work would be based on site specific conditions and is contingent on the availability of funding.

Improvement in trailhead parking along the White Pine Creek Road #215 is proposed for both the Reader Gulch trail #749 and the Grays Gulch trail #756. Trailhead work would include providing suitable parking and signing.

Lynx habitat would also be created by small regeneration units in high elevation lodgepole pine stands on approximately 10 acres.

The Kootenai Forest Plan provides guidance for management activities within the potentially affected area through its goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and management area direction. The proposed projects includes activities in several management areas (MAs): 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 19. A portion of the Trout Creek Inventoried Roadless Area #664, is included within the project area. No activities are proposed within this roadless area. This proposal includes 4 openings greater than 40 acres (size range is 60 to 150 acres), to treat and regenerate areas experiencing heavy root disease induced mortality (Regional Forester approval for exceeding the forty acre regeneration harvest would be required prior to signing the Record of Decision); and three Forest Plan project specific amendments for: (1) open road density in MA 12 (big game summer range); (2) removal of snag habitat in MA 10 (big game winter range); and (3) timber harvest in MA 13 (old growth). Forest Plan amendments are allowed when it is determined during project design that the best way to meet the goals of the Forest Plan conflicts with a Forest plan standard (Forest Plan Volume II-20).

White Pine Creek has been designated by the State of Montana as a Water Quality Limited Segment (WQLS), because of stream alterations due to agricultural uses.

### Range of Alternatives

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

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands will be considered. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site-specific mitigation measures, if needed, and their effectiveness.

#### *Preliminary Issues*

Tentatively, several preliminary issues of concern have been identified. These issues are briefly described below:

#### *Transportation Systems*

The implementation of the proposed action would change the overall transportation system within the White Pine Analysis Area which may affect the public's ability to use traditional access routes.

#### *Visual Resources*

Implementation of the proposed action may alter the existing scenic resource within the project area. Even though the proposed action is planned to improve the visuals of the past harvest activities, some members of the public may feel that it will have additional scenic impacts.

#### *Watershed*

Past management activities and those associated with the implementation of the Proposed Action may result in increased peak flows and sediment production.

#### *Wildlife*

The proposed action could potentially reduce security for wildlife species by constructing new roads in wildlife security areas and the reopening of existing roads.

#### *Old Growth*

The implementation of the Proposed Action may have short term effects on old growth characteristics, specifically the snag components of those stands.

#### *Decisions To Be Made*

The Kootenai Forest Supervisor will decide the following:

- Whether or not to harvest timber and, if so, identify the selection of, and site-specific location of, appropriate timber management practices (silvicultural prescription, logging system, fuels treatment, and reforestation), road construction/reconstruction necessary to provide access and to achieve other resource objectives, and appropriate mitigation measures.
- Whether or not water and fish rehabilitation projects (including road

obliteration) and other project area improvements (including trailhead parking area enlargement and control of noxious weeds, etc.) should be implemented and, if so, to what extent.

- Whether or not wildlife enhancement projects (including prescribed burning) should be implemented and, if so, to what extent.
- Whether road access restrictions or other actions are necessary to meet big game wildlife security needs.
- Whether or not project specific Forest Plan amendments for MA 10, 12 and 13 are necessary to meet the specific purpose and need of this project, and whether those amendments are significant under NFMA.
- What, if any, specific project monitoring requirements would be needed to assure mitigation measures are implemented and effective.

#### *Public Involvement and Scoping*

In December of 1998 and April of 1999, preliminary efforts were made to involve the public in looking at management opportunities within the White Pine Creek area. Comments received prior to this notice will be included in the documentation for the EIS. The public is encouraged to take part in the process and 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 and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft and final EIS. The scoping process will include:

- Identifying potential issues.
- Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
- Explore additional alternatives which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
- Identify potential environmental effects of this project and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

#### *Estimated Dates for Filing*

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. The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by September, 1999. At that time EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the

draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. 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**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by January, 2000. 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 a decision regarding the proposal.

#### *Reviewer's Obligations*

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 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 and respond to them in the final EIS.

To be most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternatives discussed. 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.

#### *Responsible Official*

Bob Casteneda Forest, Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest, 1101 US Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923 is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official he will decide if the proposed project will be implemented. He will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision.

I have delegated the responsibility to prepare the EIS to James I. Mershon, District Ranger, Cabinet Ranger District.

Dated: April 17, 1999.

**Bob Castenada,**

*Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 99-10808 Filed 4-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Delaware

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, Delaware.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It is the intention of NRCS in Delaware to issue the following new and revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG: Wetland Creation (Code 658), Field Border (Code 386), Wetland Restoration (Code 657), Shallow Water Area for Wildlife (Code 646), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390), Conservation Cover (Code 327), Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391), Residue Management: No Till and Strip Till (Code 329A), Residue Management: Mulch Till (Code 329B), Residue Management: Ridge Till (Code 329C), Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elesa K. Cottrell, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Suite 101, 1203 College Park Dr., Dover, Delaware 19904-8713, telephone (302) 678-4160. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Delaware will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Delaware regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: April 20, 1999.

**Elesa K. Cottrell,**

*State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 99-10811 Filed 4-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-66-M

### ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

#### Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee; Meeting

**AGENCY:** Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has established an advisory committee to assist it in developing a proposed rule on accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. This document gives notice of the dates, times, and location of the next meeting of the Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee (Committee).

**DATES:** The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 11 and 12, 1999, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. on May 11. On May 12, the Committee will present its final report to the Board beginning at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting on May 11 will be held at 1331 F Street, NW, Washington, DC, in the third floor training room. The presentation of the Committee's final report to the Board will take place at the Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street, NW., Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Doug Wakefield, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-5434 extension 39 (Voice); (202) 272-5449 (TTY). E-mail address: wakefield@access-board.gov. This document is available in alternate formats (cassette tape, Braille, large print, or computer disk) upon request. This document is also available on the Board's Internet Site at <http://www.access-board.gov/notices/eitaacmtg.htm>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 29, 1998, the Access Board published a notice appointing members to its Electronic and Information

Technology Access Advisory Committee (Committee). 63 FR 51891 (September 29, 1998). The Committee will make recommendations to the Access Board on accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The Committee is composed of representatives of Federal agencies and Federal contractors; the electronic and information technology industry; organizations representing the access needs of individuals with disabilities; and other persons affected by accessibility standards for electronic and information technology.

The Committee has met five times since October 1998. This will be the Committee's last meeting. During the meeting in May, the Committee will finalize its recommendations. The Committee will make a presentation to the Access Board at the Board's regular business meeting on May 12th.

The Committee will meet on the dates and at the locations announced in this notice. The meetings are open to the public. The facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening systems and real-time transcription will be available.

**James J. Raggio,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 99-10791 Filed 4-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150-01-P

### 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 commodities 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:** June 1, 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.