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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

Little Blacktail, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County, Idaho; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

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) to disclose the potential environmental effects of proposed treatments within the Little Blacktail project area on the Sandpoint Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County, Idaho.

The proposed action includes unit-specific fuel and silvicultural treatments as well as reforestation needs, harvest techniques, and other site-specific connected actions. The Forest Service intends to manage using a variety of silvicultural treatments and harvest methods to begin trending vegetation in the Little Blacktail area toward more sustainable conditions. Prescribed fire would be used to improve site conditions, reduce the risk of wildfire and improve wildlife habitat. There would be approximately 4.5 miles of temporary road construction and approximately 2.0 miles of road reconstruction. All newly constructed roads would be closed and decommissioned following project activities. There may be an opportunity to close some roads or portions of roads that are causing resource damage.

These management activities will be administered by the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Bonner County, Idaho. The EIS will tier to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan (September 1987).

DATES: Comments should be postmarked on or before January 6, 2000. Please

include your name and address and the name of the project you are commenting on.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or request to be placed on project mailing to, Little Blacktail Project, Sandpoint Ranger District, 1500 HWY 2, Suite 110, Sandpoint, ID 83864.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine Hinson, Project Team Leader, Sandpoint Ranger District, 1500 HWY 2., Suite 110, Sandpoint, ID 83864.

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. For persons requesting such confidentiality, it 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 10 days.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project includes treatment on 1250 acres of the 2295 acre project area. The area is situated totally within Bonner County, Idaho, approximately 12 miles south of Sandpoint, Idaho and three miles east of Cocolalla Lake. The legal description for the project area includes all or portions of sections 14, 15, 21–23, 26, 27; Township 55 North; Range 2 West.

As Deciding Officer, I will decide what, if any, actions including fuel treatments, timber harvesting and related activities, and road construction/reconstruction will occur on National Forest lands. I will also decide specific project mitigation measures, as necessary, to achieve Forest Plan

objectives and standards for affected resources. My decision will be made after considering comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the Final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations and policies. The decision and supporting reasons will be documented in a Record of Decision.

Public participation plays an important role in the environmental analysis process. This process was initially presented in a letter to the public in October of 1998. Since that time there have been numerous phone conversations, one on site meeting requested by an individual and Forest Service participation in a local home owners quarterly meeting. The mailing list for public scoping will include those individuals who have previously expressed interest in this project as well as those responding to this NOI or to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will also be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to identify potential issues and concerns, identify potential alternatives to the proposed action and promote communications with members of the public or other agencies who are interested in this project.

Some public issues have already been identified. In some cases issues may result in development of an alternative to the proposed action, issues may be mitigated through project design, dismissed from analysis or discussed in the analysis without resulting in developing of an alternative. Issues and concerns will be verified, expanded, or modified based on public scoping and interdisciplinary review for this proposal. Based on the public and internal issues already identified the following alternatives to the proposed action may be developed: harvest timber without new road construction, no regeneration openings over 40 acres,

vegetation management without commercial harvest.

People may visit with the Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. Two periods are specifically designated for comments on the analysis: (1) During the scoping process and (2) during the draft EIS comment period.

During the scoping process, the Forest Service is seeking additional information and comments from Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted concerning any effects to threatened and endangered species. The agency invites written comments and suggestions on this action, particularly in terms of identification of issues and alternative development.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and made available for public review in February of 2000. The final environmental impact statement is expected to be completed in May 2000. 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**.

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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Agoon 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 related to 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 as 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Dated: December 1, 1999.

David J. Wright,

Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

[FR Doc. 99-31603 Filed 12-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

East Kentucky Power Cooperative; Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request from East Kentucky Power Cooperative for financing assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to finance the construction of the J.K. Smith Unit #4 Combustion Turbine to be located in Clark County, Kentucky.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468, e-mail at bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The J.K. Smith Unit #4 Combustion Turbine will be installed adjacent to three existing combustion turbines located at East Kentucky Power Cooperative's J.K. Smith Combustion Turbine Site located in a rural area approximately 9 miles southeast of Winchester, Kentucky, on Kentucky Highway 89. The combustion turbine will be fired by natural gas or #2 fuel oil. Natural gas and fuel oil will be supplied by an existing natural gas pipeline and fuel oil storage facilities on site. The electric output from the combustion turbine will be feed to the electric transmission grid via the existing J.K. Smith Substation. No additional electric transmission lines are needed at this time to operate the additional combustion turbine.

Copies of the FONSI are available from RUS at the address provided herein or from Jeff Hohman, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, PO Box 707, Winchester, Kentucky 40391, telephone (606) 744-4812.

Dated: November 24, 1999.

Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 99-31366 Filed 12-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-412-810]

Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products from the United Kingdom: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Administrative Review

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

ACTION: Notice of preliminary results of antidumping duty administrative review.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel products from the United Kingdom in response to requests by the respondent, British Steel Engineering Steels Limited, and the petitioners, Ispat Inland Inc. and USS/KOBE Steel Co.