

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 69, No. 54

Friday, March 19, 2004

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

Foreign Agricultural Service

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

The Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), today denied a petition for trade adjustment assistance (TAA) that was filed on February 13, 2004, by the Michigan Fish Producers' Association, representing channel catfish fishermen in Michigan.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Upon investigation, the Administrator determined that landed prices for channel catfish did not decline by more than 20 percent during the January–December 2003 marketing year, a condition required for certifying a petition for TAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean-Louis Pajot, Coordinator, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers, FAS, USDA, (202) 720–2916, e-mail: trade.assistance@fas.usda.gov.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. 04–6191 Filed 3–18–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Payette National Forest, Idaho; Meadows Slope Wildland Fire Protection Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service published a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Meadows Slope Wildland Fire Protection Project in the **Federal Register** on December 2, 2002 (Volume 67, Number 231, pages 71531–71532). A revised Notice of Intent is being issued for several reasons (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, part 21.2):

1. It has been more than six months since filing the original Notice of Intent;
2. Specifics of the proposed action have been refined and better described due to more site-specific information;
3. The Payette National Forest's revised Land and Resource Management Plan was approved in July 2003; and
4. The project falls under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, Pub. L. 108–148.

The USDA Forest Service will prepare the Meadows Slope Wildland Fire Protection Project EIS. The proposed action is to create a half-mile wide fuelbreak on National Forest System lands to reduce the risk of damage to rural homes, private property, and National Forest resources from wildland fires. The agency gives notice of the full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decision-making process so that interested and affected people know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments need to be received by April 19, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Kimberly A. Brandel, District Ranger, New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box J, New Meadows, Idaho, 83654.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action should be directed to Sylvia Clark, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at the above address, phone (208) 347–0300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Meadows Slope project area is about four miles east of New Meadows and three miles northwest of McCall, and approximately 6,450 acres in size. It is located in Sixmile-Threemile, Lower Goose, Little Creek, Little Goose Creek, Middle North Fork Payette River, and Payette Lake sub-watersheds on the New Meadows and McCall Ranger Districts. The purpose and need for this action is to (1) reduce crown fire risk, (2) reduce forest fuel loading, and (3) reduce risk to life, property, natural

resources, and suppression resources on National Forest System lands surrounding the Timber Ridge, Rock Flat, King's Pine, and Crescent Rim Subdivisions, and additional private developments adjacent to the project area.

The proposed action includes a variety of activities to meet the purpose and need. (1) Harvest timber on approximately 3,292 acres, producing approximately 12.7 million board feet (MMBF), using tractor and skyline logging systems. The silvicultural method used would be free thinning with reserve shelterwood/seed tree. (2) Hand pile and burn approximately 939 acres within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. (3) Non-commercial thin approximately 1481 acres. (4) Salvage dead and dying timber killed by fir engraver beetle and other pests or weakened due to light, water, or nutrient competition which may increase the fire potential within the project area. (5) Restore 74 acres of unproductive soil by obliterating roads, skid trails and/or landings in order to meet the Forest Plan Standard for total soil resource commitment (TSRC). (6) Road management would include 43 miles of maintenance, 20 miles of reconstruction, and 1.25 miles of new construction. (7) Ensure desired species composition by planting and/or natural regeneration of fire-tolerant Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and western larch seedlings on 804 acres following fuelbreak activities. (8) Treat harvest-generated fuels on approximately 4,773 acres (both commercial and non-commercial harvest acres). Treatments would include machine piling and burning (excavator piling would be used where slopes exceed 35 percent); broadcast burning; and/or yarding tops. (9) Monitor and treat noxious weeds, if created, within the fuelbreak area. A total of 5,712 acres would be treated with this proposed action.

Preliminary issues for this project include effects on water quality, soil productivity, wildlife, habitat, recreation, access management, visual quality, forest vegetation, and fish habitat.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act, Title I, Section 104(c), sets forth requirements on alternatives to be analyzed. This document will analyze a no-action alternative, the proposed action, and an additional alternative