

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 78, No. 14

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

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

Annual List of Newspapers To Be Used by the Alaska Region for Publication of Legal Notices of Proposed Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects Subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process at 36 CFR 218, Subpart A

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Alaska Region will use to publish legal notices of the opportunity to object to proposed hazardous fuel reduction projects authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notice of actions subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process at 36 CFR 218, thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of the proposed actions, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the pre-decisional review process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers begins on February 1, 2013. This list of newspapers will remain in effect until it is superseded by a new list, published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Robin Dale, Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; Forest Service, Alaska Region; P.O. Box 21628; Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robin Dale; Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; (907) 586-9344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice provides the list of newspapers that Responsible Officials in the Alaska Region will use to give notice of

proposed hazardous fuel reduction projects subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process at 36 CFR part 218. The timeframe for objection to a proposed hazardous fuel reduction project subject to this process shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the project in the newspaper of record identified in this notice.

The newspapers to be used for giving notice of Forest Service projects in the Alaska Region are as follows:

Alaska Regional Office

Decisions of the Alaska Regional Forester: Juneau Empire, published daily except Saturday and official holidays in Juneau, Alaska; and the Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Chugach National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor and the Glacier and Seward District Rangers: Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Decisions of the Cordova District Ranger: Cordova Times, published weekly in Cordova, Alaska.

Tongass National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor and the Craig, Ketchikan/Misty, and Thorne Bay District Rangers: Ketchikan Daily News, published daily except Sundays and official holidays in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Decisions of the Admiralty Island National Monument Ranger, the Juneau District Ranger, the Hoonah District Ranger, and the Yakutat District Ranger: Juneau Empire, published daily except Saturday and official holidays in Juneau, Alaska.

Decisions of the Petersburg District Ranger: Petersburg Pilot, published weekly in Petersburg, Alaska.

Decisions of the Sitka District Ranger: Daily Sitka Sentinel, published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and official holidays in Sitka, Alaska.

Decisions of the Wrangell District Ranger: Wrangell Sentinel, published weekly in Wrangell, Alaska.

Supplemental notices may be published in any newspaper, but the timeframes for filing objections will be calculated based upon the date that legal notices are published in the newspapers of record listed in this notice.

Dated: January 7, 2013.

Beth G. Pendleton,
Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 2013-01015 Filed 1-18-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, Shoshone County, ID; Beaver Creek Project

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) on a proposal to accomplish vegetation management in the Beaver Creek Resource Area, which is located on National Forest System lands administered by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Shoshone County, Idaho.

The proposed action would include timber harvest (commercial thin, shelterwood, improvement cut, and seed tree treatments); hazardous fuels treatment (underburning, jackpot burning, mastication, grapple piling and yarding tops associated with the timber harvest); prescribed burning not associated with timber harvest; and watershed restoration (decommissioning roads currently not open to motorized use, upgrading aquatic organism passage barriers; and road construction (both permanent and temporary). Other activities included in the proposed action are road storage, road reconstruction and maintenance, site preparation, reforestation, and fuel break development.

This project is designed to achieve the goals of enhanced forest stand resilience and resistance, hazardous fuel reduction, and restoration of water quality and aquatic habitats.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by February 21, 2013. Additional opportunity for formal comments will be accepted after release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is expected to be published in April 2013. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is expected to be published in August 2013.

ADDRESSES: Send or hand-deliver written comments to the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, Attn: Project Leader Lauren Goschke, 2502 E Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814. Comments may also be sent via email to comments-northern-idpanhandle-coeur-dalene@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 208-769-3062.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Goschke, Project Leader, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, 2502 E. Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene ID, 83814; telephone (208) 769-3046, email lgoschke@fs.fed.us, or Jeanne White, Ecosystems Staff Officer, telephone (208) 769-3022, email jwhite@fs.fed.us, also at the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District. Additional information is available on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests internet web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/ipnf/landmanagement/projects>.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the Beaver Creek proposed action is to move the project area towards the desired conditions identified by the Forest Plan. There is a need to maintain existing and recruit additional long-lived early seral species to facilitate greater forest health and increased resiliency to disturbance. There is a need to manage the landscape arrangement of forest structure and age class within the Beaver Creek watershed to ensure diverse and sustainable forest stands.

Dead and dying trees throughout the project area are increasing fuel loading throughout the watershed. Treatment is needed to reduce the risk of hazardous fuels which could threaten wildland urban interface areas.

There is also a need to restore water quality and aquatic habitats in the Beaver Creek watershed to meet State water quality standards, improve the abundance of fisheries and other aquatic organisms, and improve the longevity of road conditions by reducing maintenance costs and providing for long term public access.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would harvest timber (commercial thin, shelterwood, improvement cuts, and seed tree treatments) and treat hazardous fuels (underburning, jackpot burning, mastication, grapple piling and yarding

tops associated with the timber harvest) on approximately 2,000 acres. Prescribed burning would occur on an additional 2,300 acres NOT associated with the timber harvest.

Watershed restoration activities would include decommissioning 64 miles of road currently not open to motorized use, upgrading 20 aquatic organism passage barriers, constructing 1.5 miles of permanent road and 1.2 miles of temporary road. Other activities included in the proposed action are road storage, road reconstruction and maintenance, site preparation, reforestation, and fuel break development.

Possible Alternatives

Scoping comments will be used by the Forest Service to develop a range of alternatives in response to any significant issues that are identified. A no-action alternative will be analyzed during the analysis process.

Responsible Official

The responsible official for the decision on this project is the Forest Supervisor for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to implement the action as proposed or as modified by an alternative, or whether to take no action at this time. If it proceeds, she will also decide what project design features and monitoring requirements will be applied to the project.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary concerns identified by the project team include (1) effects of the proposed activities on forest vegetation; (2) effects of the proposed activities on hazardous fuel levels; (3) effects of the proposed activities on elk thermal cover, (4) effects of the proposed activities on public recreation access, (5) effects of the proposed activities on water quality, water quantity, and fish distribution; and (6) revenues and the local economy.

Permits or Licenses Required

Due to the nature of some of the restoration activities, such as culvert upgrades to facilitate aquatic organism passage or to improve hydrologic function, it is anticipated that permits associated with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

Scoping Process

This project was previously scoped as an Environmental Assessment. This

notice of intent, which guides the development of the EIS, continues the scoping process. A scoping document was mailed to potentially interested or affected members of the public on October 5, 2012. It is available on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests internet Web site (<http://fs.usda.gov/goto/ipnf/projects>). Please refer to the October 5, 2012 scoping document to obtain project details and project maps. It is not necessary to resubmit your comments if you responded to the October 5, 2012 scoping letter. Comments already submitted in response to the October 5, 2012 scoping letter will be used in the preparation of the EIS. While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, additional comments can best be used to prepare the EIS if received within 30 days of publication of this notice.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative or judicial review.

Dated: January 14, 2013.

Mary Farnsworth,

Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

[FR Doc. 2013-01126 Filed 1-18-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Annual List of Newspapers To Be Used by the Alaska Region for Publication of Legal Notices of Proposed Actions and Legal Notices of Decisions Subject to Administrative Appeal Under 36 CFR Part 215

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Alaska Region will use to publish legal