

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Black Hills National Forest, Bearlodge Ranger District, Wyoming, Dean Project Area Proposal and Analysis**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement on a proposal to implement multiple resource management actions within the Dean Area as directed by the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The Dean Project Area covers about 12,468 acres of National Forest System land and about 2,256 acres of interspersed private land within the Redwater Creek watershed directly north of Sundance, Wyoming. Proposed actions would modify the structure of forest stands across the planning area to reduce fuel loads, potential for uncharacteristically intense wildfire behavior, and risk of insect outbreaks; provide for diverse wildlife habitat and restore hardwoods; and provide a mix of motorized and nonmotorized use opportunities. A previous decision on this project was reversed on appeal. A supplemental EIS will be prepared with the aim to issue another project decision.

DATES: Scoping was conducted as described in the Notice of Intent of November 24, 2004 (69 FR 68303). The original Draft EIS was issued in March 2005 (70 FR 12211), and the comment period was extended once (70 FR 19951). Comments were accepted through May 2, 2005. The Notice of Availability of the Final environmental impact statement was issued June 3, 2005 (70 FR 32610). The project decision was appealed, and reversed in a written appeal decision on September 1, 2005. The Forest Service expects to issue the Supplemental Draft EIS for this project in February 2006, and the Supplemental FEIS and decision in about May 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janis Bouma, Project Coordinator, Black Hills National Forest, Bearlodge Ranger District, 121 S. 21st Street, Sundance, Wyoming 82729, phone (307) 283-1361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The actions are proposed in direct response to management direction provided by the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), as amended by the Phase II Forest Plan amendment. The site-specific

actions are based on Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines to promote existing resource conditions in the Dean Project Area toward meeting Forest Plan Goals and Objectives. The project area lies in the Bear Lodge Mountains in the Black Hills National Forest, directly north of Sundance, Wyoming. Issues considered include: Fire and fuel hazard reduction; impacts of vegetation treatment and multiple forest uses on wildlife and fish habitat; and travel management and recreation.

Purpose of and Need for Action

There is a need to reduce the potential for uncharacteristically intense wildfire behavior and insect infestation, provide diverse wildlife habitat, and manage motorized recreation in the Dean Project Area. This project will address Forest Plan Goals 1 (protect basic soil, air, water and cave resources); 2 (provide for biologically diverse ecosystems); 3 (provide for sustained commodity uses); 4 (provide for scenic quality and recreation opportunities, and protect heritage resources); 7 (cooperate with outside parties); and 10 (establish and maintain a mosaic of vegetation conditions to reduce the occurrences of large-scale fire and insect/disease events), consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

Proposed Action

Actions proposed in the Dean Project Area include:

- Modifying stand structure across the planning area to reduce potential for uncharacteristically intense wildlife behavior and benefit wildlife. This action includes thinning the forest, removing conifers from stands of hardwoods such as aspen, bur oak, and birch, and expanding and/or creating meadows.
- Reducing fuel loads by decreasing the volume and arrangement of both existing fuels and those resulting from other vegetation treatment activities. Treatment could include lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning, and prescribed burning on up to 2,971 acres.
- Reducing the density of pine stands on up to 4,840 acres to decrease the potential for spreading crown fires, increase tree growth and vigor, and lessen the risk of insect infestation and disease. This may be done by using commercial timber harvest to thin out merchantable trees and using other methods to thin small, unmerchantable trees. These actions would provide wood fiber to local industry and would require construction of up to 5.7 miles of new specified roads.

- Modifying the Forest Plan through a non-significant amendment to change management area (MA) designation in part of the project area to better reflect actual conditions. The entire project is currently in MA 5.4 (Big Game Winter Range Emphasis). The lower elevations and south aspects on the east side of the project area currently provide appropriate and important winter range for deer and elk and are utilized as such. However, the remainder of the project area is heavily used by deer and elk only during the spring, summer, and fall, including calving and fawning periods. Therefore, the Forest proposes to change the Management Area designation in a portion of the project area to MA 5.6 (Forest Products, Recreation, and Big Game Emphasis) to better reflect the actual utilization, better manage the project area to benefit a variety of wildlife, including big game species, and better reflect existing non-motorized recreation opportunities.

- Providing a mix of motorized and non-motorized opportunities and protecting wildlife in the area by closing the project area to off-road motorized travel and restricting ATV use to designated routes. Main system routes currently open to motorized travel would remain open. Approximately 23.5 miles of roads would also be decommissioned.

Alternatives Considered

Four alternatives will be analyzed in the Supplemental Draft EIS. These alternatives are:

- Alternative A, No Action—Proposed actions would be deferred at this time.
- Alternative B—Promote late succession habitat and increase diversity while reducing fuels and insect infestation risk.
- Alternative C—Proposed Action—Aggressively treat forest vegetation to reduce fire and fuels hazard; prohibit off-road motorized travel in the project area; amend the Forest Plan to allow for a change in management area designation.
- Alternative D—Focus treatments near private lands and in other strategic locations; de-emphasize the use of commercial timber harvest and feature broadcast burning and fuel breaks.

Responsible Official

Craig Bobzien, Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest, is the responsible official. The address is Black Hills National Forest, 1019 N. 5th Street, Custer, South Dakota 57730. The telephone is (605) 673-9200.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decisions to be made are whether to implement the proposed action or alternatives at this time; and whether to amend the Revised Forest Plan to allow a change in management area designation for part of the project area.

Dated: February 16, 2006.

Craig Bobzien,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-1692 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Willows, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Web site Update, (5) Project Proposals/Possible Action, (6) Update on Noxious Weed Project, (7) General Discussion, (8) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 27, 2006, from 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 96939. (530) 935-1268; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by February 24, 2006 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: February 16, 2006.

Janet Flanagan,

Acting Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 06-1735 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Announcement of Value-Added Producer Grant Application Deadline; Correction

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a notice that was published on December 21, 2005 (70 FR 75780-75790), which contained errors that may prove misleading and is in need of clarification. All applications must still be submitted by the deadline date of March 31, 2006.

Accordingly, the notice that was published on December 21, 2005 (70 FR 75780-75790) is corrected as follows:

On page 75781 in the second column, under the definition for "Bioenergy Project", remove the words "other than an anaerobic digester."

On page 75787 in the second column, paragraph vii, in the second sentence, revise the number "\$300,000" to read "\$100,000".

On page 75788 in the second column, paragraph vii, revise the second sentence to read as follows:

"The allocation of points for this criterion shall be as follows: \$1-\$25,000 equals 2 points, \$25,001-\$50,000 equals 1 point, \$50,001-\$300,000 equals 0 points."

Dated: February 17, 2006.

Thomas Dorr,

Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. E6-2659 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

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 is proposing to add to the Procurement List a product and services to be furnished by

nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and to delete products and a service previously furnished by such agencies.

Comments Must Be Received on or Before: March 26, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly, Telephone: (703) 603-7740, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or e-mail SKennerly@jwod.gov.

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 proposed actions.

Additions

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in this notice for each product or service will be required to procure the product and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

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. If approved, 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 product and services to the Government.

2. If approved, the action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the product 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 product 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.

End of Certification

The following products and services are proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed: