

pseudorabies and to present a significant risk of introducing the diseases into commercial swine populations. Does the plan accurately present the risk that feral swine pose of transmitting these diseases? Are there other significant potential sources of introduction that APHIS should consider?

- **Responsibility.** The plan outlines an approach in which States and Tribes would play a significant role in identifying and monitoring possible sources of introduction of pseudorabies or swine brucellosis into the commercial swine herd in their State or Tribe, with the ultimate goals of quickly identifying and responding to outbreaks and thereby preventing the spread of swine brucellosis or pseudorabies through the interstate movement of commercial swine. What role should a State or Tribe have for ensuring that swine moved from the State or Tribe do not spread these diseases? What role lies with APHIS, or with the commercial swine industry?

- **Swine Health Plan.** Would the Swine Health Plan concept described in the action plan be sufficient to prevent the spread of swine brucellosis and pseudorabies through the interstate movement of diseased swine? If the plan concept would be sufficient, do States and Tribes currently have sufficient personnel and resources to draft and implement such a plan? How long is it likely to take a State or Tribe to draft such a plan and arrange resources as specified in their plan?

- **Program consolidation.** The action plan considers consolidating the swine brucellosis and pseudorabies programs, and the regulations pertaining to these programs, into one domestic swine health program. Does such a consolidation make sense? If not, how would the two regulatory programs need to differ?

- **Indemnity.** The plan considers consolidating the existing regulations governing indemnity paid for swine destroyed because they are known to be infected with swine brucellosis with those governing indemnity paid for swine destroyed because they are known to be infected with pseudorabies, as well as streamlining certain provisions of the regulations. Does such a consolidation make sense?

We will consider all comments that we receive as we continue to explore potential new approaches to managing swine brucellosis and pseudorabies.

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of February 2013.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-02772 Filed 2-6-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; ID; Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** This is a corrected notice. This notice updates information about proposed actions in the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS will include two site-specific, nonsignificant amendments of the Nez Perce Forest Plan (1987). The proposed amendments would clarify the Forest's interpretation of old growth standards found in the Nez Perce Forest Plan, and would adopt the Regional soils standard for the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration project area. The original notice was published in the **Federal Register** on January 6, 2012, pages 775 and 776. The Forest Service gives notice of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project. The Proposed action would use a combination of timber harvest, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed fire and reforestation to achieve the desired range of age classes, size classes, vegetative species distributions, habitat complexity (diversity) and landscape patterns across the forested portions of the project area. Road decommissioning, culvert replacements and road improvements are also proposed to improve watershed health. The EIS will analyze the effects of the proposed action and alternatives. The Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest invites comments and suggestions on the issues to be addressed. The agency gives notice of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decision making process on the proposal so interested and affected members of the public may participate and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected in March 2013, and will be followed by a 45-day public comment period. The Final

Environmental Impact Statement is expected in November 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written or electronic comments to Lois Hill, Interdisciplinary Team Leader; Kamiah Ranger Station; 903 3rd Street; Kamiah, ID 83536; FAX 208-935-4257; Email *comments-northern-nezperce-moose-creek@fs.fed.us*. Include your name, address, organization represented (if any), and the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. Electronic comments will be accepted in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text formats. 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 Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lois Hill, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, (208) 935-4258.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The objective of the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project is to manage forest vegetation to restore natural disturbance patterns; improve long term resistance and resilience at the landscape level; reduce fuels; improve watershed conditions; improve elk habitat effectiveness; improve habitat for early seral species; and maintain habitat structure, function, and diversity. Timber outputs from the proposed action would be used to offset treatment costs and support the economic structure of local communities and provide for regional and national needs.

### **Purpose and Need for the Proposal**

#### *Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement*

**Purpose:** Trend vegetation species composition, structure, and distributions toward desired conditions described in the Forest Plan.

**Need:** There is a need to change tree species composition by retaining and planting early seral species, such as ponderosa pine, western larch and western white pine. The project area has a high proportion of grand fir/Douglas fir habitat. These habitats tend to be more susceptible to insects and diseases. Grand fir is unlikely to survive a wildfire. There is a need to trend the area toward a more diverse and resilient forest structure by creating a range of age classes, size classes, habitat complexity (diversity) and disturbance patterns that more closely emulate natural mixed severity disturbance.

Increasing early seral species in managed areas would help trend the area toward, or maintain, desired habitat conditions and would make these habitats more resistant and resilient to change agents such as insects, diseases, and fire.

There is a need to increase diversity within previously harvested areas to begin restoring long-term habitat quality for sensitive and old growth associated species. Historic logging practices and fire suppression have created a landscape that is more highly fragmented than would be expected to result from natural disturbances. Ladder fuels have increased and there has been a shift to shade tolerant species. Habitat structure and patch sizes of young forests are simplified and smaller than would be expected to result from natural disturbances. Edges of patches are straight and even.

There is a need to increase young forest habitats on this landscape. Age classes are dominated by middle-aged and mature forest habitats. Forest management would increase high quality early seral wildlife habitats by retaining large trees and promoting establishment of tall shrubs and hardwood tree species by using variable retention regeneration harvest. In the short term, this would benefit wildlife species that use early seral habitats, such as neotropical migratory birds, resident birds, small mammals, and big game species. In the long term, large tree retention would help maintain habitat structure and complexity needed by old growth associated species.

#### **Goods and Services**

*Purpose:* To utilize timber outputs produced through restoration activities to support the economic structure of local communities and provide for regional and national needs (Forest Plan page II-1).

*Need:* There is a need to provide a sustained yield of resource outputs, as directed by the Forest Plan. Much of the area consists of grand fir dominated stands that have insect and disease infestations that are contributing to increased tree mortality, or are at risk from stand replacing events. Stands proposed for treatment are currently losing volume and value due to insects and diseases. Harvest of the timber would provide materials to local industries.

#### **Fire Regime/Natural Disturbance Restoration and Fuel Reduction**

*Purpose:* Reduce ladder fuels created by shade-tolerant species and create more natural patch sizes by emulating

mixed severity fire (Forest Plan page II-2).

*Need:* There is a need to increase patch sizes to shift age and size class distributions to increase high quality early seral wildlife habitats. Effective fire suppression in this area began in the 1930's. As a result, there has been a vegetative shift to less fire resistant species, and an increase in ladder fuels that can contribute to the risk of high intensity and potentially resource damaging wildfire. Some portions of the project area have been identified as being up to five times outside of their normal fire return intervals. Past harvest patterns do not emulate natural disturbance patterns nor do they emulate natural habitat structure. Landscape burning and timber harvest that mimics natural fire would help increase forest resilience, help reduce risk of wildfires, and help create high quality habitats that would benefit neotropical migratory birds, resident birds, small mammals, and big game species. Fire dependent wildlife species would benefit from landscape burning.

#### **Watershed Improvement**

*Purpose:* Reduce potential sediment inputs into the aquatic ecosystem from roads.

*Need:* There is a need to drain roadside ditchline water away from streams by installing cross drain pipes near live stream crossings. The cross drain pipes collect ditchline water and direct it onto the forest floor. There is also a need to replace existing undersized, damaged, or rusting culverts on streams to minimize failure potential.

There are 283 miles of road within the project area, 200 of which are needed for current and future management. The remaining 83 miles of road have been cleared for decommissioning under the South Fork-West Fork Clear Creek Road Decommissioning Environmental Assessment (2011). The roads needed for management can contribute sediment to streams through road surface erosion and potential culvert failures. Surface erosion occurs during spring snowmelt and rain events. Dirt coming off roads is diverted into ditchlines which are often directed into streams. Preliminary surveys show most roads in the area are drained by ditches. Culvert failures can result from undersized, damaged or rusting culverts which can plug with debris and then fail as water saturates the surrounding fill. Failures can contribute large pulses of sediment into streams. Surveys indicate at least 60 miles of road with culverts that are in need of replacement or cleaning. There is a minimum of 40

high or moderate priority culverts in need of replacement, and 12 in need of cleaning. There are an additional 40 low priority culverts in need of replacement and 15 in need of cleaning. The surveyed roads pose the highest risk to streams in the project area.

The desired condition for roads is to have ditchlines that drain road surface water away from streams and onto forest the forest floor. All culverts at stream crossings are appropriately sized to allow for the passage of material within minimal risk of plugging.

The Proposed Action would:

#### **Improve Forest Health, Provide Goods and Services, Reduce Fuels and Improve Wildlife Habitat**

- Conduct "variable retention" regeneration harvest and post harvest burning activities on up to 2,500 acres to create early successional plant communities and improve wildlife habitat while re-establishing long-lived early seral tree species. Variable retention harvest would include areas of full retention (clumps), irregular edges, and retention of snags and legacy trees to provide structure and a future source of woody debris. Openings will likely exceed 40 acres.

- Commercially thin approximately 7,810 acres to reduce stand densities improve forest health and reduce the chance of crown fire.

- Apply improvement harvest to approximately 311 acres (thin from below) to remove encroachment and ladder fuels from ponderosa pine dominated stands.

- Construct a minimum temporary road system to carry out the proposed action. Roads would be decommissioned after use.

- Pre-commercially thin approximately 1,865 acres to reduce stand densities improve forest health and reduce fuels.

- Restore approximately 42 acres of bunchgrass communities through prescribed burning and revegetation with native grasses to improve wildlife winter range through reestablishment of native grasses and forbs.

- Apply approximately 1,400 acres of low and mixed severity prescribed fire within the Clear Creek Roadless area to restore natural fire regimes, reduce fuels, improve wildlife habitat and create mosaic forest conditions. Proposed activities are consistent with Idaho Roadless Rule. There is no timber cutting planned within the Clear Creek Roadless area.

- Site-specifically amend the Nez Perce Forest Plan (1987) to clarify the Forest's interpretation of old growth features described in the Forest Plan.

The amendment would replace the definitions for old growth found in Appendix N of the Forest Plan with the definitions found in "Old Growth Forest Types of the Northern Region" (Green, et al., 1992, errata corrected 02/05, 12/07, 10/08, 12/11).

### Reduce Sediment Production and Address Transportation Needs

- Conduct maintenance on or improve 100–130 miles of system roads including culvert installation or replacement, ditch cleaning, and riprap placement for drainage improvement. It may also include gravel placement, road grading and dust abatement.

- Additional site specific maintenance or improvements would occur to improve watershed conditions on up to 20 miles of roads outside of proposed treatment areas.

- Decommission 2–5 miles of system roads no longer considered necessary for transportation needs.

- Site-specifically amend the Nez Perce Forest Plan (1987) to adopt the Region 1 soil standard of 15% for detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled soils for the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration project area.

Possible Alternatives the Forest Service will consider include a no-action alternative, which will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. The proposed action will be considered along with additional alternatives that will be developed to meet the purpose and need for action, and to address significant issues identified during scoping.

The Responsible Official is Rick Brazell, Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

The Decision To Be Made is whether to adopt the proposed action, in whole or in part, or another alternative; and what mitigation measures and management requirements will be implemented.

The Scoping Process for the EIS was initiated with the original notice published on January 6, 2012. The scoping process identifies issues to be analyzed in detail and leads to the development of alternatives to the proposal. The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribal Governments; and organizations and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Comments received in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be a part of the project record and available for public review.

*Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared for comment. The next major opportunity for public input will be when the DEIS is published. The comment period for the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in March 2013.*

Dated: January 28, 2013.

**Joyce E. Thompson,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 2013–02750 Filed 2–6–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–11–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Proposed New Fee Sites

**AGENCY:** Bighorn National Forest, Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed New Fee Sites.

**SUMMARY:** The Bighorn National Forest is proposing to charge new fees at two recreation rental sites under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, (Title VIII, Pub. L. 108–447). Fees are assessed based on the level of amenities and services provided, costs of operation and maintenance, market assessment, and public comment. Funds from the fees will be retained locally and used for the operation and maintenance of these recreation sites.

The Sheep Mountain Fire Lookout on the Powder River Ranger District will be available for overnight rental. The facility is located approximately 25 miles southwest of Buffalo, Wyoming, at the end of Forest Road 28. The lookout offers an extraordinary experience in a historical structure. Renting a historical lookout is widely popular on national forests. The fee proposed for this facility is \$50 per night. The lookout can accommodate two to four people. A single vault toilet will be available nearby; water and electricity are not available. This facility will be available from approximately Memorial Day to the end of October, weather permitting.

The Powder River Ranger District is also proposing rental of the Pole Creek cabin, located off Forest Road 456. The cabin is located along both a winter snowmobile trail and a trail within the Pole Creek Cross Country Ski Area. The cabin can accommodate up to four people; water and electricity are not

available. A single vault toilet is located nearby. The proposed fee for this site is \$35 per night. The Pole Creek Cabin will be available all year.

An analysis of nearby private cabins and recreation rental facilities with similar amenities indicates that the proposed fees are comparable with similar sites in the area.

**DATES:** Send any comments about these fee proposals by August 1, 2013, so comments can be compiled, analyzed, and shared with a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee. New fees would begin in late summer 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent by regular mail to Bill Bass, forest supervisor, 2013 Eastside 2nd Street, Sheridan, WY 82801 or by email to [comments-bighorn@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-bighorn@fs.fed.us).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposal should be addressed to Brian Boden, natural resource specialist, Powder River Ranger District, 1415 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834, [bboden@fs.fed.us](mailto:bboden@fs.fed.us), or 307.684.7806. Information about the proposed fee sites can also be found on the Bighorn National Forest Web site at [www.fs.usda.gov/bighorn/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bighorn/).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Recreation Lands Enhancement Act (Title VII, Pub. L. 108–447) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a six month advance notice in the **Federal Register** whenever new recreation fee areas are established.

This new fee will be reviewed by a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee prior to a final decision and implementation.

People wanting to rent Pole Creek Cabin or Sheep Mountain Lookout would do so through the National Recreation Reservation Service at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 877.444.6777, when the facilities become available. The National Recreation Reservation Service charges a \$9 fee for reservations.

Dated: January 31, 2013.

**William T Bass,**

*Forest supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 2013–02577 Filed 2–6–13; 8:45 am]

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