

www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/nacmpi, which is a sub-web page of the FSIS home page at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. Submit one original and two copies of written comments to the FSIS Docket Room, reference docket #02-038N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 205-0381. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the address provided above. All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record and will be available for reviewing in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles L. Gioglio for technical information at (202) 205-0010 and Sonya L. West for meeting information at (202) 720-2561, FAX (202) 205-0157, or e-mail sonya.west@usda.gov. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. West by October 30, 2002, at the above numbers or by e-mail. Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/nacmpi>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 19, 2001, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the charter for the NACMPI. The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture pertaining to the Federal and State meat and poultry inspection programs pursuant to sections 301(a)(4), 7(c), 24, 205, 301(a)(3), and 301(c) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and sections 5(a)(3), 5(a)(4), 5(c), 8(b), and 11(e) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The Administrator of FSIS is the chairperson of the Committee. Membership of the Committee is drawn from representatives of consumer groups; producers, processors, and marketers from the meat and poultry industry; State government officials; and academia. The current members of the NACMPI are: Dr. Gladys Base, Spelman College; Nancy Donley, Safe Tables Our Priority; Sandra Eskin, American Association of Retired Persons; Dr. James Denton, University of Arkansas; Carol Tucker Foreman, Food Policy Institute, Consumer Federation of America; Michael Govro, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Martin Holmes, North American Meat Processors; Dr. Lee C. Jan, Texas

Department of Health; Dr. Alice Johnson, National Food Processors Association; Collette Schultz Kaster, Premium Standard Farms; Dr. Daniel E. Lafontaine, South Carolina Meat Poultry Inspection Department; Dr. Irene Leech, Virginia Tech; Charles Link, Cargill Turkey Products; Dr. Catherine Logue, North Dakota State University; Dr. Dale Morse, New York Department of Health; John Neal, Courseys Smoked Meats, and Michael Mamminga, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The Committee has three subcommittees to deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations to the whole Committee.

All interested parties are welcome to attend the meetings and to submit written comments and suggestions concerning issues the Committee will review and discuss.

Members of the public will be required to register before entering the meeting.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail Subscription service. In addition, the update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on: October 29, 2002.

Dr. Garry L. McKee,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-27841 Filed 10-29-02; 2:40 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Boise National Forest; Idaho; Upper Middle Fork Payette River Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a resource management project in the Middle Fork of the Payette River drainage. The project involves 864 acres of timber stand treatment in the 15,881-acre project area, less than a mile of road construction, nearly 3 miles of road reconstruction, and less than a mile of road decommissioning. The entire project area is located within watersheds that drain directly into the Middle Fork of the Payette River or its tributaries. The project area is located 12 miles east of Cascade, Idaho, and about 100 miles north of Boise, Idaho.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be postmarked within 30 days following publication of this announcement in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in January 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in April 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Keith Dimmett, Cascade Ranger District, P.O. Box 696, Cascade, ID 83611.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Dimmett, Project Leader, Cascade Ranger District at the address mentioned above or by calling (208)382-7430.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NFMA planning for this project was initiated in the spring of 2001 with the Upper Middle Fork Payette River Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS). A letter announcing plans to complete the EAWS and soliciting comments was mailed to interested individuals and/or groups in March of 2001.

A notice of intent to prepare an EIS for a similar project in the same location appeared on page 24097 of the **Federal Register** on May 11, 2001. This revised notice is being provided due to minor changes since the original notification,

changed on-the-ground conditions, and because of the time that has elapsed since the original notice of intent. In July 2001 the Forest Supervisor elected to delay the Upper Middle Fork Payette River Project until a variety of road restoration measures aimed at reducing road-related sedimentation and enhancing bull trout habitat in the project area were implemented. A large portion of those restoration activities were implemented in the summer of 2002 as part of the Middle Fork Roads Restoration Project, with the remaining activities scheduled for implementation in the summer of 2003.

Roughly 70 percent of the project area occurs within one of two inventoried roadless areas (IRA's). A portion of the Peace Rock IRA occupies an estimated 8,947 acres, and a section of the Stony Meadows IRA another 2,357 acres of the project area. A large portion of the project area also occurs within Management Area 43 (Peace Rock). The Proposed Action does not include any management activities within either IRA or within Management Area 43. Instead, management activities associated with the Proposed Action have been confined to the roaded portion of the project area, consisting of roughly 4,302 acres. The Middle Fork Payette River originates within, and runs through the center of the project area. The Forest Plan discloses that that segment of the river from Railroad Pass to the Middle Fork Bridge on the #409 road is potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system as a "wild" river. However, in June of 1991 the Forest Plan corrected to show that this segment of the river is potentially eligible as a "recreational" river.

Purpose and Need for Action

Two primary objectives have been identified for the project: (1) Reduce current and future stand susceptibility to western spruce budworm, Douglas-fir beetle, and/or mountain pine beetle, and; (2) improve long-term stand growth to or near levels indicative of healthy, sustainable forests.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would treat an estimated 864 acres in the 15,881 acre project area. Proposed activities would occur within a portion of the 67,637 acre Gold Fork/Clear Creek Management Area 53. An estimated 4.0 MMbf of timber would be harvested using ground-based (683 acres), skyline (24 acres), and helicopter (157 acres) yarding systems. The Proposed Action would employ a variety of silvicultural prescriptions including commercial thin (169 acres), improvement cut/sanitation

(427 acres), seed cut shelterwood (92 acres), final removal shelterwood (141 acres), and clearcut with reserve trees (35 acres). The existing transportation system would be improved to facilitate log haul and reduce sedimentation with individual sections of 2.9 miles of road being reconstructed. An estimated 0.7 miles of specified road and 0.2 miles of temporary road would be constructed to facilitate harvest. In addition, 0.9 miles of the #409F road, currently closed year-round would be decommissioned.

Possible Alternatives

One alternative to the Proposed Action, a No Action Alternative, has been discussed thus far. Other alternatives will likely be developed as issues are identified and information received.

Responsible Official

Suzanne C. Rainville, Acting Forest Supervisor, Boise National Forest, 1249 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Boise National Forest Supervisor will decide the following. Should roads be built and timber harvested within the project area at this time, and if so; where within the project area, and how many miles of road should be built; and which stands should be treated and what silvicultural systems should be used? What design features and/or mitigation measures should be applied to the project? Should the decommissioning of existing roads be implemented at this time?

Scoping Process

The agency invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. In addition to this notice, a proposed action letter will be sent to interested government officials, agencies, groups, and individuals. No public meetings are currently planned.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary concerns with the Proposed Action include: (1) Potential impacts on sediment delivery to area streams; (2) potential impacts on bull trout, and; (3) potential impacts on the visual quality of the area.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Specific written comments on the proposed action will be most helpful.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. 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. NRCD*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 409 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 and concerns on 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 at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: October 21, 2002.

Suzanne C. Rainville,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-27737 Filed 10-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Toolbox Fire Recovery Project, Fremont National Forest, Lake County, OR

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) on a proposal to assist the recovery of areas burned in 2002 by the Toolbox Complex Fires (includes Toolbox Fire, Silver Fire and small portion of Winter Fire). This will include proposals to salvage burned timber, implement re-forestation and implement projects to alleviate the potential for future damage to riparian and aquatic resources as a result of the Toolbox Complex Fires. The 48,000 acre project area is located on the Silver Lake Ranger District and is centered approximately 13 miles south of Silver Lake, Oregon, within the Silver Creek, Silver Lake and Summer Lake Watersheds.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 2, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Carolyn Wisdom, District Ranger, Silver Lake Ranger District, PO Box 129, Silver Lake, OR 97638.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Elston, Toolbox Fire Recovery Project Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Silver Lake Ranger District, Phone: (541) 576-7569. E-mail relston@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In July 2002 the Toolbox Complex Fires burned approximately 85,000 acres, of which 49,500 occur on the Fremont National Forest. The remainder of the fire includes approximately 8,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management Administered lands and 27,500 acres of private land. The 48,000 acre decision area for the Toolbox Fire Recovery Projects includes those portions of the Toolbox Complex Fires that occurred within the Silver Creek, Silver Lake and Summer Lake Watersheds on National Forest System lands.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for action in the project planning area is to create conditions that would facilitate our efforts to:

- Recover habitat lost and soil damaged as a result of intense fire and reduce the likelihood of future loss or damage from reburn;
- Restore damaged riparian areas resulting from the Toolbox Complex Fire;
- Protect remaining live stands from insect infestations associated with fire-killed trees;
- Develop a long term sustainable forest through re-forestation and fuels reduction; and
- Salvage burned timber, while it retains some merchantable value.

Proposed Action

The proposed project would include the following activities:

- Reforestation of areas that sustained high tree mortality including existing plantations that were affected by the fire;
- Re-vegetation of burned riparian areas;
- Reconstruction of roads open to the public and repair of roads closed to the public but still required for administrative use; decommissioning of degraded roads;
- Riparian Restoration including adding large wood to deficient stream channels; and
- Salvage harvest of approximately 21,500 acres in the Silver Creek, Silver Lake and Summer Lake Watersheds and removal of hazardous trees along open roads and at recreational facilities.

Most of the proposed timber salvage units would be harvested using ground-based logging systems. Access for salvage would require reconstruction of about 9 miles of existing roads, primarily by adding surfacing, and construction of approximately 12 miles of new temporary roads and 14 miles of temporary roads located on old road locations. The temporary roads would be closed and obliterated after completion of project activities. Approximately 10 to 15% of the area to be salvaged would be harvested using helicopter based logging systems, including areas salvaged within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA's). All activities within RHCA's would be in accordance with Fremont National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Standards and Guidelines, as amended by the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH). Other connected actions in association

with salvage include water barring and erosion control measures such as scattering of slash on skid trails and treatment of slash.

Planting of tree seedlings following site preparation would occur on approximately 28,500 acres, including areas that are salvage harvested and existing plantations or young stands in which fire damage occurred. Most or all seedlings would be ponderosa pine. Reduction of fuels, including those created by the fire, by salvage activity and by site preparation would occur throughout the project area. A variety of fuel treatment methods would be used, including removing marketable timber through salvage harvest, burning in place, piling and burning, yarding tops to landings to be burned, or lopping and scattering to speed decay. In order to meet desired fuels conditions some areas may be "pretreated" (by thinning very small diameter trees) and prescribed burned. In some instances this may require a Forest Plan amendment.

Additional proposed activities include:

- Approximately 35 miles of road decommissioning to promote watershed recovery;
- Approximately 880 acres of aspen stand protection;
- Placement of large woody debris or other in-stream structures to meet Riparian Management Objectives in approximately 8 miles of Silver Creek and 6 miles of West Fork Silver Creek;
- Approximately 10 acres of riparian area deciduous plantings;
- Approximately 1,300 acres of contour falling (using dead trees) on steep slopes to protect water quality;
- Culvert replacement where Forest Road 27 crosses West Fork Silver Creek to improve fish passage;
- Approximately 2,500 acres of plantation thinning; and
- Re-routing sections of the Fremont National Recreation Trail if necessitated by salvage activity.

All proposed activities are responsive to the stated purpose and need for this project.

Possible Alternatives

A full range of alternatives will be considered, including a "no-action" alternative in which none of the activities proposed above would be implemented. Based on the issues gathered through scoping, the action alternatives would differ in (1) The silvicultural and post-harvest treatments prescribed (2) the amount and location of harvest (3) the amount and location of fuels reduction activity. Tentative