

State Office, 5353 Yellowstone (P.O. Box 1828), Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Service will determine if and how the current Forest Plan oil and gas leasing decision, as it relates to the 44,720 acres, should be changed based on new information. If a new decision is determined not to be needed following preparation of the Supplemental environmental impact statement, that determination is not subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 215.12. The BLM will then decide whether or not the revised FS NEPA analysis is adequate, and subsequently whether to lift the suspension on the existing leases and whether or not to issue leases on the other lease parcels.

Scoping Process

Scoping for a supplemental statement is not required (40 CFR 1502.9(c)(4)), but due to the length of time since scoping associated with the current leasing decision was conducted, the agencies are soliciting comments specific to new issues or information. Letters will be sent to the forest mailing list of known interested parties. Public meetings held in 2006 in association with forest plan revision efforts generated issues relative to oil and gas leasing. Comments received during those meetings will be considered in this supplemental analysis. The scoping process will assist the agencies in identifying specific issues to be addressed related to the purpose and need and the scope of the decision. Mail comments to the addresses given above for further information. Ongoing information related to the proposed action and related analysis will be posted on the Bridger-Teton National Forest Web site <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf>.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues associated with the proposed action include:

(1) The drilling and production of wells subsequent to leasing could impact air quality and air quality related values, with emphasis on cumulative effects due to extensive development in the Pinedale area.

(2) The T&E listed Lynx, or its habitat, could be impacted by subsequent exploration and development activities.

(3) Impacts to water quality due to subsequent surface disturbing activities could adversely affect the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout.

(4) The development of a transportation system to support field development could adversely affect

mule deer migration routes in the area and fragment habitat.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the supplemental environmental impact statement.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A Supplemental DEIS will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the SDEIS will be for a period of 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 a DEIS 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. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS 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*, 490 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 DEIS 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 DEIS 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: January 25, 2008.

Kniffy Hamilton,

Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Jane D. Darnell,

Acting Wyoming State Director, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 08-472 Filed 2-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Clearwater National Forest, ID; Travel Management Plan

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement. The original notice was published in the **Federal Register** Vol. 72, No. 228, November 28, 2007/Notices, pages 67268-67270. A revised notice was published in the **Federal Register** Vol. 72, No. 243, December 19, 2007/Notices, pages 71874-71876.

SUMMARY: On November 28, 2007, the USDA Forest Service announced its intent to prepare a travel planning environmental impact statement (EIS). The proposed action would designate a site-specific transportation system and prohibit indiscriminate cross-country traffic. The EIS will analyze the effects of the proposed action and alternatives. A Revised Notice was published to extend the due date for scoping comments to January 11, 2008. This Revised Notice is being published because the due date for scoping comments has been extended to February 29, 2008. The Clearwater National 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: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by February 29, 2008. A 45-day public comment period will follow the release of the draft environmental impact statement that is expected in June 2008. The final environmental impact statement is expected in January 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send written or electronic comments to: Lochsa Ranger District, Kamiah Ranger Station; Attn: Lois Foster, Interdisciplinary Team Leader;

Rt. 2, Box 191; Kamiah, ID 83536; Fax 208-935-4275; E-mail comments-northern-clearwater@fs.fed.us.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Purpose and Need for Action* is to (1) Implement national OHV Rule direction, (2) Limit indiscriminate cross-county motorized travel, (3) Designate selected roads and trails for motorized travel, (4) Designate appropriate areas or routes for travel with oversnow vehicles, (5) Balance travel opportunities with maintenance and management capability including costs, (6) Provide for a better spectrum of motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized travel opportunities across the CNF in recognition of the need to retain the character of lands recommended for Wilderness designation and the CNF's ability to provide for non-motorized recreation opportunities that are not available on other land ownerships, (7) Manage impacts to Forest resources, (8) Improve clarity and consistency of existing travel restrictions, and (9) Amend the 1987 Forest Plan as necessary to accomplish the actions described above.

The need for revision of the Forest Plan is supported by nationwide awareness within the Forest Service of the negative effects of indiscriminate off-road travel by motorized users. These concerns led to publication of the Travel Management final rule on November 9, 2005 in the **Federal Register**, 36 CFR Parts 212, 251, 261, 295 "Travel Management: Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use" (**Federal Register** 2005: 79 FR 68264). The rule requires each National Forest to designate those roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use. The rule prohibits use of motor vehicles off the designated system, as well as use of motor vehicles on routes and in areas that are not consistent with the designation. The rule does not require that over-snow vehicles, such as snowmobiles, are limited to a designated system by exempting them under 121.51, but also states in 212.81 that "use by over-snow vehicles * * * on National Forest system lands may be allowed, restricted, or prohibited." The CNF chose to include over-snow vehicles in the analysis.

The Proposed Action would designate motorized road and trail routes for summer travel on the Clearwater National Forest. Existing conditions include roads and trails identified as open to motorized travel in the 2005 Travel Guide, plus any error corrections or project-level NEPA decisions made

since then. The Proposed Action would include any changes from existing conditions, such as road to trail conversions, designating some roads previously not thought to be travelable, and not designating some roads that were previously thought to be travelable.

The transportation system for snow-free travel would include:

- 1,623 miles of roads open yearlong to all highway-legal vehicles (an increase of 8 miles compared to existing conditions);
- 509 miles of roads open yearlong to small vehicles such as ATVs and motorcycles, but not including UTVs (an increase of 9 miles);
- 663 miles of roads open seasonally to all highway-legal vehicles (a decrease of 13 miles);
- 151 miles of roads open seasonally to small vehicles (a decrease of 1 mile);
- 93 miles of trails open yearlong to small vehicles (a change of 0 miles);
- 226 miles of trails open yearlong to motorcycles (a decrease of 178 miles);
- 75 miles of trails open seasonally to small vehicles (an increase of 2 miles); and
- 93 miles of trails open seasonally to motorcycles (a change of 0 miles).

The proposed action would also modify the dates of seasonal restrictions for roads and trails to reduce the variety of restricted periods, and ultimately improve the clarity of the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). Motorized travel up to 300 feet off of designated routes to access established campsites would be permitted in most areas. In certain areas, off-route travel would be permitted only to access specifically designated campsites.

Existing restrictions for bicycles on all but one road would be eliminated. Bicycle restrictions on roads would drop from a total of 10 miles currently to only 1 mile, which would be entirely within the CNF seed orchard. Areas recommended for wilderness by the Forest Plan would become off limits to bicycles. System trails available to bicycles would drop from 811 miles to 730 miles (a reduction of 81 miles).

Over-snow vehicle use would be restricted in areas recommended for wilderness by the Forest Plan. Within the areas where over-snow vehicle use would generally be permitted, there would continue to be some specific routes where over-snow vehicles would be restricted. Over-snow vehicle use would be prohibited forest-wide from October 1 to November 4. The transportation system for over-snow vehicles would include:

- 364 miles of groomed snowmobile routes (no change from existing conditions);
- 1,322,943 acres generally open to over-snow vehicles except for certain restricted routes;
- 3,484 miles of roads where over-snow vehicles would be permitted from November 5 until snowmelt in the spring, compared to 3,174 acres available currently (an increase of 310 acres); and
- 503,057 acres closed to over-snow vehicles, compared to 302,856 acres available currently (a decrease of 200,201 acres).

The numbers above are only approximate at this time.

The existing Forest Plan will be amended. When the Forest Plan was completed in 1987, trail vehicles were few and travel planning was focused almost completely on roads and highway vehicles. Motorized use has increased dramatically since then, and modern vehicles such as snowmobiles, ATVs, and motorcycles have capabilities that could not have been envisioned in 1987. The Forest Plan also contains some conflicting information regarding the intent for management of certain areas. Changes may include:

- Better coordination between the level of motorized travel and the focus of certain management areas, primarily those in roadless areas;
- Additions or changes to Forest Plan standards to permit implementation of the national Travel Management rule; and
- Other goals, objectives, and standards affecting travel management.

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 Thomas K. Reilly, Clearwater Forest Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest, 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 Period for the EIS is being extended with this notice. The scoping process will identify issues to be analyzed in detail and will lead 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 part of the project record and available for public review. Public meetings were held on December 18, 19, and 20, 2007. If additional public meetings are scheduled, the times, dates and locations for them will be published in the Lewiston, Idaho *Lewiston Morning Tribune*.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The second major opportunity for public input will be when the Draft EIS is published. 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 Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in June 2008. The comment period on the Draft EIS 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. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (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*, 490 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 comment period for the Draft EIS 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.

After the comment period for the Draft EIS ends, the Forest Service will analyze comments received and address them in the Final EIS. The Final EIS is scheduled to be released by January 2009. The Responsible Official (Forest Supervisor Thomas K. Reilly) will document the decision and rationale in a Record of Decision (ROD). The decision will be subject to review under Forest Service appeal regulations at 36 CFR Part 215.

Preliminary Issues identified by the Forest Service interdisciplinary team include: changing motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities, costs of road and trail management and maintenance, soil issues, effects on aquatic environments and species, effects on wildlife, the spread of noxious weeds, changes in motorized access to roads, trails and areas that are not designated as part of the travel planning analysis, and motorized access for people with disabilities.

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

Dated: January 24, 2008.

Thomas K. Reilly,

Clearwater Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 08-470 Filed 2-1-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on February 15, 2008 at the U.S. Forest Service Office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. This Committee, established by the

Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998 (64 FR 2876), is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 15, 2008, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 10:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Forest Service Office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arla Hains, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 543-2773.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Items to be covered on the agenda include: (1) Aquatic Invasive Species update; (2) SNPLMA Round 9; and, (3) Public Comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend at the above address. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: January 25, 2008.

Terri Marceron,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 08-462 Filed 2-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee will meet in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed rule for the management of roadless areas on National Forest System lands in the State of Idaho and to discuss other related roadless area matters.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 20 to February 21, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), Richard Tam Alumni Center,