

States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Heritage Fare, Ltd has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Michael D. Ruff,

Assistant Administrator.

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BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent to Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Molecular Staging, Inc. of New Haven, Connecticut, an exclusive license to U.S. Patent No. 6,054,300, "Single-Site Amplification (SSA): Method for Accelerated Development of Nucleic Acid Markers," issued on April 25, 2000. Notice of Availability of this invention for licensing was published in the **Federal Register** on January 8, 1998.

DATES: Comments must be received within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Rm. 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights in this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Molecular Staging, Inc. has submitted a complete and sufficient

application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Michael D. Ruff,

Assistant Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Garver EIS; Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana

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) for a proposal to improve forest health and wildlife habitat, reduce urban interface fuels, and make access management changes to improve grizzly bear habitat. The project is located on the Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, approximately 30 air miles northeast of Troy, Montana.

SCOPING COMMENT DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received by June 17, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to Michael L. Balboni, District Ranger, Three Rivers Ranger District, 1437 Hwy 2, Troy, MT 59935.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Mohar, Team Leader, Three Rivers Ranger District, 1436 Hwy 2, Troy, MT 59935. Phone: (406) 295-4693.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area is approximately 43,096 acres and is located in portions of T36N, R32W; T36N; R31W; T37N; R32W; and T37N, R31W, PMM, Lincoln County, Montana. The project area encompasses the West Fork Yaak River, Pete Creek, Lap Creek, Waper Creek, and Mud Creek, as well as several small drainages that are tributary to the Yaak River. The West Fork Yaak Inventoried Roadless

Area is located along the north and western border of this project area.

The purpose and need for this project is to: (1) Improve and Maintain Forest Health; (2) Improve and Maintain Winter Range Conditions; (3) Improve and Maintain Old Growth Characteristics; (4) Reduce Fuels In The Wildlife Urban Interface; (5) Improve Growing Conditions and Long-Term Management Options for Overstocked Sapling Pole Stands; (6) Improve Quality and Quantity of Grizzly Bear Habitat; and (7) Contribute Forest Products to the Economy.

To meet the purpose and need, this project proposes treatments to manage for vegetative conditions that are most suitable to a fire-dependent ecosystem, and in the long term to encourage more resilient and sustainable forest conditions. Intermediate harvest treatments are proposed where forest conditions are generally healthy but some undesirable trends have been noted. Regeneration harvest methods would be implemented in areas with high levels of insect and disease, uniform mature lodgepole pine stands, and/or where restoration of species at risk are identified. This treatment may also be used in site-specific areas where small forage openings would be created for the benefit of big games species. Precommercial thinning is proposed for overstocked sapling/pole stands.

Mechanical treatments and/or burning would be used in other areas to reduce fuels, including urban interface areas, and to improve big game habitat. Burning is proposed for the Dusty Peak area within the West Fork Yaak Inventoried Roadless Area and in designated old growth.

Access management changes are proposed with this project to improve grizzly bear security and habitat conditions. Best Management Practices, including activities such as outslowing, waterbarring, and culvert replacement would be applied to haul roads being used for this project.

Range of Alternatives

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative in which none of the proposed activities will be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and location for the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes, as well as to respond to the issues and other resource values.

Public Involvement and Scoping

The public is encouraged to take part in the process and to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the

analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft and final EIS. The scoping process will include:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Identifying alternatives to the proposed action.
4. Exploring additional alternatives that will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of this project and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

Estimated Dates for Filing:

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in July 2001. At that time EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in September 2001. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and to applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

Reviewer's Obligations

The Forest Service believes 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 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 and respond to them in the final EIS.

To be most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternatives discussed. 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.

Responsible Official

The District Ranger of the Three Rivers Ranger District, Michael L. Balboni, is the Responsible Official. As Responsible Official, he will decide if the proposed project will be implemented and will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision.

Dated: May 6, 2002.

Cami Winslow,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-11829 Filed 5-10-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Virginia Forest Management Project Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Virginia Area. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to manage approximately 101,000 acres of federal land. The proposed action would provide approximately 35 to 45 million board feet of timber to local and regional timber markets; final harvest approximately 5,000 acres of 60+ year-old aspen and jack pine experiencing substantial mortality from blowdown, decay and old age; reduce fuel loading on approximately 2,500 acres of mature red and white pine communities that are converting to balsam fir and brush through prescribed under-burning and other treatments to remove ladder fuels;

hand release approximately 2,000 acres of regenerated red pine, white pine and black spruce communities from competing vegetation, and provide access to non-federally owned lands within the project boundaries. A road analysis will be done in conjunction with the Virginia project, to develop a mutual transportation plan. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed, including a no-action alternative. The proposed project is located on the Laurentian Ranger District, Aurora, MN, Superior National Forest. In addition, the Laurentian Ranger District may create temporary openings greater than 40 acres under 36 CFR 219.27 (d)(ii).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by June 20, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to: Laurentian Ranger District, Superior National Forest, ATTN: Virginia EIS, 318 Forestry Road, Aurora, MN 55705.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allan Bier, District Ranger, or Barbara Stordahl, Team Leader, Laurentian Ranger District, Superior National Forest, 318 Forestry Road, Aurora, MN 55705, or at (218) 229-8800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participation will be an integral component of the study process, and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments and assistance from federal, State and local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested or affected by the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues, (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth and (3) elimination of insignificant issues, or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written comments will be solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list and local newspaper. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by June 20, 2002. Issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project and the relationship of the project to age class distribution, species composition, reforestation, fuel reduction treatment, temporary roads, rare resources, and others.

Based on the results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives, including a no-action alternative, will be developed for the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is