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FARM SERVICE AGENCY

By:

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[FR Doc. E7-20624 Filed 10-18-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ochoco National Forest, Lookout Mountain Ranger District; Oregon; East Maurys Fuels and Vegetation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: On August 15, 2005, the USDA Forest Service (FS), Ochoco National Forest, published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 47785-47787) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the East Maurys Fuels and Vegetation Management Project. The FS revises that NOI as follows: Except for the sections noted, all prior information remains the same.

DATES: The original NOI states the draft EIS is expected to be available for public comment in May 2006 and final EIS is expected in November 2006. This revised NOI modifies the date the draft EIS is expected to be available to December 2007. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register** when it is available. The final EIS is estimated to be available to the public in April 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barb Fontaine, Project Leader, at the Ochoco National Forest, 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754 or at (541) 416-6500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Possible Alternatives

The original NOI stated that an alternative limited to noncommercial thinning and prescribed fire activities was being considered. That alternative is no longer being considered. Based on

issues identified as a result of scoping efforts, an alternative that limits new road construction is being developed.

Responsible Official

The responsible official for this project is Jeff Walter, Forest Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest, 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Preliminary Issues

As a result of scoping efforts, the Ochoco National Forest has identified two significant issues that will be analyzed in detail. These issues relate to road construction and the effects of roads on water quality and wildlife habitats.

Dated: October 10, 2007.

Arthur J. Currier,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 07-5169 Filed 10-18-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC50

Proposed Directives for Forest Service Outfitting and Guiding Special Use Permits and Insurance Requirements for Forest Service Special Use Permits

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of proposed directives; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is proposing changes to directives governing special use permits for outfitting and guiding conducted on National Forest System lands by simplifying the application and administration process; establishing a flat land use fee for temporary use permits; developing a process for allocation of use on a first-come, first-served basis for temporary use permits to facilitate greater participation in outfitting and guiding by youth, educational, and religious groups; offering the same terms and conditions to educational and institutional permit holders as to other types of permit holders; and clarifying policy for priority use permits governing performance, inspections, and allocation of use. In addition, the Forest Service is proposing changes to a directive governing insurance requirements for Forest Service special use permits. Public comment is invited and will be considered in development of the final directives.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by January 17, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send comments electronically by following the instructions at the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulation.gov>. Comments also may be submitted by mail to U.S. Forest Service, Attn: Carolyn Holbrook, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff (2720), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1125, Washington, DC 20250-1125. If comments are sent electronically, the public is requested not to send duplicate comments by mail. Please confine comments to issues pertinent to the proposed directives, explain the reasons for any recommended changes, and, where possible, reference the specific section and wording being addressed.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received on these proposed directives in the Office of the Director, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff, 4th Floor Central, Sidney R. Yates Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, on business days between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Those wishing to inspect comments are encouraged to call ahead at (202) 205-1426 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Holbrook, (202) 205-1426, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background and Need for the Proposed Directives

Outfitting and guiding conducted on National Forest System lands have become one of the chief means for the recreating public to experience the outdoors. The Forest Service administers approximately 5,000 outfitting and guiding permits, authorizing activities ranging from guided hunting and fishing trips to jeep tours and outdoor leadership programs. The agency anticipates that outfitting and guiding will increase in importance as the public's desire for use of Federal lands increases and as the agency encourages use by increasingly diverse and urban populations, many of whom may lack the equipment and skills necessary in the outdoors. Therefore, agency policy needs to reflect the public's demand for services while incorporating standard business practices and sustaining the natural environment in which these activities occur.

Except for the revision to term length for priority use permits (70 FR 19727),