

are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS 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).

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in December 2002. In the final EIS, The Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal.

John Berry, Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest is the responsible official. As the responsible official he will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: February 19, 2002.

**John D. Berry,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Airport Forest Health Timber Sale, Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District, El Dorado County, California**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Cancellation of Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice of cancellation of the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest timber, prescribe burn, and improve wildlife habitat on the Pacific Ranger District.

**DATES:** The draft environmental impact statement was originally scheduled for August 2000 with a 45-day public review and comment period. The

publishing and distribution of this draft EIS is cancelled.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Don Errington, Project Leader, Pacific Ranger Station, 7887 Highway 50, Pollock Pines, California, 95726, Phone (530) 644-2349.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Airport Forest Health Timber Sale was published in the **Federal Register** on June 27, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 124, pp 39594-39596) announcing the intent to prepare and release a draft EIS in August 2000 with a final EIS scheduled for September 2000.

The original notice of intent informed the public of the agency's intention to document the analysis in an EIS. The primary reason for the cancellation is a change in management direction for the project area.

Dated: February 19, 2002.

**John Berry,**

*Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Yates Duck Creek Federal Oil Well #1 Environmental Impact Statement: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland**

**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) on a proposal to drill for and develop conventional oil and gas resources with one (1) well on National Forest System lands in Campbell County, Wyoming. The well would be located on Federal Lease #WYW-141191, issued in 1997, in section 30, T.55N., R.69W., 6th P.M.

The purpose of the project is to determine the potential for oil and gas development, by drilling one exploratory well in the Duck Creek area. The project potentially includes three phases: drilling, development and/or production of oil and/or gas if discovered in producible quantities, and abandonment. The initial phase of the project would include constructing access to the drill site, constructing a well pad, and drilling and testing the well. If results of testing indicate that oil and/or gas are present in producible quantities, production equipment and facilities would be installed.

Development could include the installation of tanks and treatment equipment on the wellsite and a pipeline to transport the product. The project proposal also includes a plan for abandonment of the well. If oil and/or gas are not present in quantities that justify completion and production, the well would be abandoned and the site and access road reclaimed immediately. If the well is put into production, well abandonment and reclamation of the well site and access road would be performed to achieve a pre-project condition after the reservoir is depleted. The proposed well would be located in the Duck Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. If approved as proposed, the decision would permit road construction and reconstruction to occur in the roadless area. The EIS will comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. sections 4321-4370a), the National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1600-1614), and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), and their implementing regulations.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the proposal and the scope of the analysis will be accepted and considered at any time after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and prior to a decision being made.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Liz Moncrief, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2486 Jackson Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070. Electronic mail may be sent to: [emoncrie@fs.fed.us](mailto:emoncrie@fs.fed.us), FAX may be sent to 307-745-2398.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Liz Moncrief, Forest Service Project Leader, 307-745-2456.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Yates Petroleum Corporation has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management for a permit to drill and complete one exploration well. Drilling and completion of the well requires construction of access roads, and may include installation of testing and production equipment. As surface management agency, the Forest Service proposes to permit surface operations associated with the development of oil and/or gas resources with the drilling of one (1) well including construction of access roads and production facilities. The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. This EIS will disclose the environmental effects of the proposed oil and gas development.

In 1994, the Forest Service prepared the Thunder Basin Oil and Gas Leasing EIS and issued a Record of Decision