

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Intermountain Region, Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests; ID; Amendment to the 2003 Land and Resource Management Plans: Wildlife Conservation Strategy (Forested Biological Community)**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Third correction of notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: On September 14, 2007, the Forest Service published an NOI to prepare an EIS to disclose the environmental effects of proposed non-significant amendments to the three Southwest Idaho Ecogroup (SWIE) 2003 Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans). The September 2007 NOI noted that amendments to the 2003 Forest Plans for the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests (NFs) will add and/or modify existing management direction, as needed, to implement a comprehensive, Forest Plan-level, wildlife conservation strategy (WCS). A correction to the September 14, 2007 NOI was published on December 8, 2008. The December 2008 correction was published to reflect a delay of more than a year in filing the draft EIS. The December 2008 correction also provided notice of a change in the approach to the amendment process, dividing the WCS and amendment process into four phases, each with an individual environmental impact statement. The December 8, 2008 NOI was corrected on April 22, 2009 to reflect that three EISs will be prepared (one for each Forest) instead of one EIS addressing all three Forests. This NOI corrects the April 22, 2009 NOI to reflect a change in the level of documentation from an EIS to an environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the analysis of the proposed amendment for the Sawtooth Forest Plan. Analysis for the Boise and Payette Plan amendments will continue to be documented in individual EIS's.

DATES: Comments concerning this correction must be received within 30 days following the date of publication of this NOI. The final EIS for the Boise Forest and the draft EIS for the Payette Forest are expected to be available in the summer of 2010. The EA and FONSI for the Sawtooth NF are expected to be available in the late summer/early fall of 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Sharon LaBrecque, Planning Staff Officer, Sawtooth National Forest; 2647

Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, ID 83301; or by fax at (208) 737-3236; or you may hand-deliver your comments to the Sawtooth Forest Supervisor's Office, located at 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, during normal business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to: comments-intermtn-sawtooth@fs.fed.us.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to appeal the subsequent decision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon LaBrecque, Planning Staff Officer, Sawtooth National Forest, 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, ID 83301, telephone 208-737-3200. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Separate RODs for revised Forest Plans were issued in July 2003 for the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth NFs. The RODs implemented Alternative 7, as identified in the single 2003 final EIS that disclosed the environmental effects of the seven alternatives. Implementation of the three revised Forest Plans began in September 2003. Assessments supporting the 2003 Forest Plan revision identified more habitat areas in need of restoration for a variety of species within each planning unit than could be moved toward desired conditions by natural processes or management activities within the 10- to 15-year planning period. As a result, the 2003 Forest Plans for the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth NFs identified that maintaining and restoring habitats for species of concern should be prioritized based upon the greatest risks to the persistence of certain species (Boise and Payette Forest Plans, p. 11-10 and Sawtooth Forest Plan, p. 11-9). To address this need, each Forest Plan included a wildlife objective, WIOB03, to prioritize wildlife habitat to be restored at a mid- or Forest-scale, using information from sources such as species habitat models and fine scale analyses. On September 14, 2007, the Forest Service published an NOI to

prepare an EIS to disclose the environmental effects of proposed non-significant amendments to the three SWIE 2003 Forest Plans (**Federal Register**, Vol. 72, No. 178, pp. 52540-52542). The intent of the amendments was to address wildlife objective WIOB03 to prioritize wildlife habitat to be restored at a mid- or Forest-scale. A correction to the September 14, 2007 NOI was published on December 8, 2008 to reflect a delay of more than a year in filing the draft EIS. Given the complexity of species and associated habitats found across the three Forests, the December 2008 correction also provided notice of a change in the approach to the amendment process, dividing the WCS amendments into four phases. The first phase addresses the forested biological community, with subsequent phases slated to address rangeland; unique combinations of rangeland and forest; and riparian/wetland biological communities. The WCS amendments will include a prioritization framework for implementation of the 2003 Forest Plan direction that managers can use to help focus limited resources and funds for restoration on areas most important to species of concern. The December 2008 NOI correction stated that one EIS would be published for each phase of the WCS. On April 22, 2009, a correction to the December 2008 NOI was published to reflect that three EISs will be prepared (one for each Forest) instead of one EIS addressing all three Forests.

Assessments completed to date for the forested biological community WCS indicate that fewer changes to the Sawtooth Forest Plan direction are needed to implement a prioritized WCS than the Boise and Payette forest plans will require. This is in part due to that fact that the Sawtooth does not have the low elevation pine forests found on the Boise and Payette. Across southwest Idaho, it is the low elevation pine forests that are the most highly departed from historic conditions; pose the highest need for restoration; and affect the greatest need for change in management direction to be addressed in the forested biological community WCS plan amendments. The mid- to high elevation forests more typical of the Sawtooth National Forest are less departed. The Sawtooth Forest Plan did not include the MPC (Management prescription Category) 5.2 allocation unit that emphasized commodity production that resulted in forest conditions substantially outside their historic range of variation. And finally, management direction in the 2003

Sawtooth Forest Plan already provides most of the specific restoration objectives for many of the Forest's species of greatest conservation concern associated with the forested biological communities. Because of this, the Sawtooth Forest Plan will require only the identification of priority watersheds for restoration and minor amendments to management direction. Preliminary assessment results indicate that the effects of implementing the proposed plan amendment should have only minor environmental effects to the forested biological community on the Sawtooth NF, as well as outputs and services envisioned under the 2003 Forest Plan.

Dated: June 28, 2010.

Terence O. Clark, III,

Acting Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2010-16275 Filed 7-2-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rehabilitation of Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 10 of the Mountain Creek Watershed, Ellis County, TX

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the rehabilitation of Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 10 of the Mountain Creek Watershed, Ellis County, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 101 South Main, Temple, Texas 76501-7682, Telephone (254) 742-9800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is not

needed for this project. The project will rehabilitate Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 10 to maintain the present level of flood control benefits and comply with the current performance and safety standards.

Rehabilitation of the site will require the dam to be modified to meet current performance and safety standards for a high hazard dam. The modification will consist of raising the net elevation of the top of dam elevation 3.1 feet to 602.4 feet, install a new two-stage principal spillway (standard drop inlet type) with a port at elevation 575.14 feet and crest at elevation 576.8 feet, install a new 42 inch pipe, and install an impact basin to replace the existing plunge pool. The new principal spillway crest elevation will be raised by 1.5 feet. Flatten the back slope to a 3½:1 slope, lime treat the embankment slopes, and install a new toe drain system along back toe of dam. Lower the crest of the auxiliary spillway 1.4 feet to elevation 592.6 feet and reshape the outlet section of the auxiliary spillway. All disturbed areas will be planted to adapted native and/or introduced plant species. The proposed work will not have a significant effect on any prime farmland, endangered or threatened species, wetlands, or cultural resources.

Federal assistance will be provided under authority of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000 (Section 313, Pub. L. 106-472). Total project cost is estimated to be \$2,805,600, of which \$1,981,100 will be paid from the Small Watershed Rehabilitation funds and \$824,500 from local funds.

The notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: June 28, 2010.

Donald W. Gohmert,
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 2010-16240 Filed 7-2-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ashley National Forest, UT, High Uintas Wilderness—Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Habitat Enhancement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Ashley National Forest in cooperation with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) proposes to restore genetically pure Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT; *Onchorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*) populations to suitable habitats within the High Uintas Wilderness. Implementation of this proposal would require the use of rotenone (a fish toxicant) to remove competing and hybridizing nonnative fish species from selected streams and lakes within the High Uintas Wilderness on the Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District. Nonnative fish species to be removed are primarily brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Onchorhynchus clarki bouvieri*) and hybridized cutthroat trout. Removal of nonnative fish is necessary to enhance habitat and restore genetically pure CRCT populations to suitable habitats within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Headwater subdrainages and basins proposed to be treated and monitored over a period of ten or more years include selected lakes and associated stream segments in the Garfield Basin and Swasey Hole in the Yellowstone River drainage, Fish Creek (a tributary to Moon Lake), Ottoson Basin and Oweep Creek in the Lake Fork River drainage, and Fall Creek in the Rock Creek drainage.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 5, 2010. The draft environmental impact statement is expected February 2011 and the final environmental impact statement is expected June 2011.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Ron Brunson, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, P.O. Box 981, Duchesne, Utah 84021. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to rbrunson@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to (435) 781-5215.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.