

Inspection Act. The Agency's activities are intended to prevent the distribution in domestic and foreign commerce, as human food, of unwholesome, adulterated, or misbranded meat, poultry, and egg products, including products that may transmit diseases or that may be otherwise injurious to health.

In January 2000, the Agency issued its latest revision of the recall procedures, FSIS Directive 8080.1, rev. 3. This revised directive was an improved recall procedure designed to inform meat and poultry producers of the need for swift action to prevent contaminated or adulterated meat or poultry from reaching the public. It includes methods for recovering those products and procedures for public notification.

While this process has functioned well, in recent months there have been questions raised on the efficiency and effectiveness of the recall process in light of several large recalls. Therefore, to address these concerns and to solicit possible means of improving the recall system, FSIS is holding this public meeting.

#### Public Meeting

At the meeting, the Agency will describe and invite discussion and comments on FSIS's recall authority, how FSIS approaches recalls, and how FSIS works with states on recalls. Also, presentations are expected to be made on approaches to recalls by industry and by other agencies.

The Agency will host three panel discussions to solicit ideas and proposals for making the recall process more effective. The discussions will cover the implications of mandatory recall authority, when public notification is needed, whether the Agency should approach establishment-initiated recalls differently from Agency-initiated recalls, and whether product should be withheld from commerce until sample results are received. The Agency intends to seek information from academia, industry sources, and consumers on ways to improve the recall process with a particular emphasis on improving public health and to provide a forum for discussion on how best to handle them. The Agency will open the discussion to include, and solicit comment from, the attendees.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and

make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail Subscription service. In addition, the update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on: December 4, 2002.

**Dr. Garry L. McKee,**  
Administrator.

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**BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Keystone-Quartz Ecosystem Management Project, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests, Beaverhead County, MT

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare a supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare a supplement to the final Environmental Impact Statement to document additional soils analysis and disclose the environmental impacts to the soils resource of the preferred alternative to manipulate forest and range vegetation on 684 acres. The Preferred Alternative 6 would thin and prescribe burn 540 acres of Douglas-fir forest to restore open Douglas-fir forest habitat, release 58 acres of aspen/shrub to restore aspen/shrub communities, thin 19 acres of dense lodgepole pine to improve overall forest health, and

restore shrub/grass habitat by removal of small conifers and prescribed burning on 67 acres of shrub/grass habitat that has been lost to conifer succession. Forest product recovery would occur on 58 acres to remove the large conifers (aspen/shrub release only); on 260 acres to remove special forest products (small diameter trees), and on 19 acres to remove post and pole size lodgepole pine. Slashing would remove smaller conifers in most treatment areas as a pre-treatment prior to prescribed burning. Existing roads would be used and no new roads would be built. This area lies at the northern end of the Pioneer Mountains, three miles south of Wise River, Montana. The prior notice of intent for this proposed action appeared in the **Federal Register** on April 9, 1999, 64 FR 17310-11. The NOA for the DEIS appeared on April 6, 2001, 66 FR 18243. A Final Environmental Impact Statement and a Record of Decision were issued on December 3, 2001. The legal notice of the Record of Decision for the FEIS appeared on the Montana Standard on December 31, 2001. The decision was appealed, and later reversed on March 15, 2002.

**DATES:** Initial comments concerning the supplement to the EIS should be received in writing no later than 30 days after the publication of this NOI in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** The responsible official is the District Ranger, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Dillon, Montana. Please send comments to Charlie Hester, District Ranger, Wise River Ranger District, P.O. Box 100, Wise River, MT 59762. Comments may be electronically submitted to [r1\\_bd\\_comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:r1_bd_comments@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Trejo, project leader, P.O. Box 100, Wise River, MT or phone (406) 832-3178 or by e-mail to [jtrepo@fs.fed.us](mailto:jtrepo@fs.fed.us). People may visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision.

The draft supplement to the EIS is anticipated to be available for review in January 2003. The final supplement to the EIS is planned for completion in April 2003.

The Environmental Protection Agency will publish the notice of availability of the draft supplement to the environmental impact statement in the **Federal Register**. The Forest will also publish a legal notice of its availability in the Montana Standard Newspaper, Butte, Montana. A 45-day comment period on the draft supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement will

begin the day following the publication of the legal notice.

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 supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement must structure their participation in the environmental review of the preferred alternative 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 supplement to the environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final supplement to the 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 supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns, comments on the draft supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages of the draft supplement. 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 responsible official will make the decision on this proposal after considering comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final supplement to the EIS, the EIS, applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision.

Dated: December 2, 2002.

**Thomas K. Reilly**,  
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-30980 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Georgetown Vegetation Management, Philipsburg Ranger District, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, Granite and Deer Lodge Counties, MT**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Revised notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact settlement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of proposed actions to manage forest and rangelands to reduce fuel levels, improve forest health, and improve vegetative structure in the Flint Creek, North Flint Creek, and upper Warm Springs drainages. The proposed project includes the Georgetown and Echo Lake recreation areas which are located approximately 10 miles south of Philipsburg, Montana. A portion of the project proposes to treat forested lands comprised of vegetation condition classes 2 and 3 within and adjacent to areas defined as wildland urban interface and intermix communities. Areas with these conditions have been identified as priorities for fuel treatment under the National Fire Plan and Cohesive Strategy because of the potential for severe and damaging wildfire.

The Forest Service proposes fuel reduction and forest health treatments by thinning and shelterwood harvest on 1,000 to 1,200 acres. As estimated 1.0 to 1.3 million board feet (2,000 to 2,600 hundred cubic feet, CCF) of sawtimber and approximately 1.0 to 1.5 million board feet equivalent (2,000 to 3,000 CCF) of posts and poles would be harvested. Also, 1,100 to 1,200 acres would be treated with prescribed fire and mechanical methods to control conifer encroachment and reduce grassland fuels.

This project originally appeared in the **Federal Register** on August 3, 1998, page 41223, as the Double Sec Timber Sale and Vegetative Management, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Granite and Deer Lodge Counties, MT. A draft environmental impact statement was completed and a notice of availability was published in the **Federal Register** on October 8, 1999, page 54882, as EIS No. 990357, Draft EIS, AFS, MT, Double Sec Timber Sale and Vegetation Management Project.

**DATES:** Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing no later than 30 days after the

publication of this NOI in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** The responsible official is Forest Supervisor Thomas K. Reilly, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Dillon, MT. Please send written comments to Bob Gilman, District Ranger, Philipsburg Ranger District, 88 10A Business Loop, Philipsburg, MT 59858. Comments may be electronically submitted to [rl\\_b-d\\_comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:rl_b-d_comments@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Giacoletto, Fire Management Officer, Philipsburg Ranger District, 88 10A Business Loop, Philipsburg, MT, 59858, or phone: (406) 859-3211.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The project area is located in T4 &5N, R13 &14W. The scope of this proposal is to initiate vegetative practices throughout the Georgetown Lake area that would help maintain the recreational setting over time. Treatments would reduce stand densities and fuel levels, especially in areas near private property, developments, and homes.

The original environmental analysis for this area was initiated in the spring of 1997. The original proposed action would have harvested approximately 11.5 million board feet, from 1,250 acres, and constructed 4.5 miles of system roads and 4.5 miles of temporary roads. Alternatives to the proposed action reduced harvest levels, reduced or eliminated road construction, and changed travel management by closing up to 14.5 miles of roads and motorized trails.

The revised project would implement the goals and objectives outlined in the National Fire Plan, Cohesive Strategy and Goal 2 of the 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy.

Public participation will be re-initiated due to the substantial changes in project design. Part of the goal of public involvement is to identify issues to the revised project. During initial scoping, over 900 letters were sent to interested people, adjacent landowners, organizations, business, as well as Federal, State, County, and Tribal organizations. Thirty-two individual responses were received. A field trip was held during the summer of 1997; two people attended. A public meeting was held in Anaconda, MT on December 15, 1999. Articles describing the project were published in local newspapers.

The analysis will consider all reasonably foreseeable activities. The interdisciplinary team has not yet developed alternatives to the proposed action. Alternatives will be developed