

designated (36 CFR 212.81(c)). The public shall be allowed to participate in the designation of National Forest System roads, trails, and areas, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (36 CFR 212.52).

On the 2.2-million-acre Kootenai National Forest, there is a need to designate trails and areas which would be open to motorized over-snow vehicle use. There is also a need to designate trails and areas open to motorized over-snow vehicle use within the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area of the Kootenai National Forest.

### Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to designate approximately 1,302,000 acres of the Kootenai National Forest, including the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area, as areas open to cross-country motorized over-snow vehicle use. Approximately 987,000 acres are proposed as areas open for all classes of cross-country motorized over-snow travel from December 1 to May 31 each year. Approximately 315,000 acres are proposed as areas open for all classes of cross-country motorized over-snow travel from December 1 to March 31 and would be closed to motorized over-snow vehicle use on March 31 each year to accommodate grizzly bear den emergence. Areas designated for over-snow vehicle use would be identified on an Over-Snow Vehicle Use Map, in accordance with 36 CFR 212.81. Over-Snow Vehicle Use Maps would specify the classes of vehicles and the time of year for which use is designated (36 CFR 212.81(c)).

Additionally, the Forest Service proposes to designate approximately 380 miles of trails in the Kootenai National Forest, including in the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area, as open to motorized over-snow vehicle use. Approximately 285 miles of groomed over-snow trails and approximately 49 miles of ungroomed over-snow trails are proposed to be open to any over-snow vehicle class between December 1 and March 31 each year. Approximately 16 miles of groomed over-snow trails and 30 miles of ungroomed over-snow trails are proposed to be open to any over-snow vehicle class between December 1 and March 31 each year. Trails designated for over-snow vehicle use would be identified with the publication of an Over-Snow Vehicle Use Map, in accordance with 36 CFR 212.81.

An amendment to the Kootenai National Forest 2015 Land Management Plan may be considered to modify the boundaries of management area 5a

(Backcountry-Non-motorized Year-round).

### Expected Impacts

The minimization criteria were applied to the identification of the National Forest System areas and trails. Impacts to wolverine, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and whitebark pine will be assessed in a biological assessment, and consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to occur. An amendment to the Kootenai National Forest 2015 Land Management Plan may be considered to modify the boundaries of management area 5a (Backcountry-Non-motorized Year-round) as it currently is mapped in the 2015 Land Management Plan. The following substantive requirements are likely to apply (219.13(b)(2)) to the potential amendment: 36 CFR 219.8(b) to guide the plan area's contribution to social and economic sustainability, taking into account: (1) social, cultural, and economic conditions relevant to the area influenced by the plan; (2) sustainable recreation; (3) multiple uses that contribute to local, regional, and national economies in a sustainable manner; and 36 CFR 219.9(a)(2) the plan must include plan components that maintain or restore the diversity of ecosystems and habitat types throughout the plan area.

### Responsible Official

Kootenai National Forest Supervisor.

### Scoping Comments and the Objection Process

Public scoping of this project occurred in April 2015 and July through September 2023; those scoping efforts have informed this proposed action. Public scoping will not be repeated; however, additional opportunities for public comment will be provided when the Draft EIS is available.

Any decision about this project may be subject to 36 CFR 218 and/or 36 CFR 219 pre-decisional review (objection). Unless received anonymously, public comments received during the scoping period from July 13, 2023 through September 29, 2023 or other designated opportunities for public comment may establish eligibility for participation in pre-decisional administrative review. Issues raised in an objection must be based on previously submitted comments, unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities.

### Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision will determine the designation of trails and areas of the Kootenai National Forest which will be

open to motorized over-snow use, as well as determining the classes of vehicles and times of year for which motorized over-snow use will be allowed on designated trails and areas.

### Substantive Provisions

An amendment to the Kootenai National Forest 2015 Land Management Plan may be considered to modify the boundaries of management area 5a (Backcountry-Non-motorized Year-round) as it currently is mapped in the 2015 Land Management Plan. The following substantive requirements are likely to apply (219.13(b)(2)) to the potential amendment: 36 CFR 219.8(b) to guide the plan area's contribution to social and economic sustainability, taking into account: (1) social, cultural, and economic conditions relevant to the area influenced by the plan; (2) sustainable recreation; (3) multiple uses that contribute to local, regional, and national economies in a sustainable manner; and 36 CFR 219.9(a)(2) the plan must include plan components that maintain or restore the diversity of ecosystems and habitat types throughout the plan area.

Dated: April 22, 2024.

**Troy Heithecker,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

### Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; Idaho; End of the World Project

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

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

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service ("Forest Service"), United States Department of Agriculture, is giving notice of its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the End of the World Project on the Salmon River Ranger District of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests in Idaho. The Forest received an unpublished order in *Friends of the Clearwater v. Cheryl F. Probert*. The court ordered the environmental assessment (EA), decision notice (DN), and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the End of the World project to be remanded to the United States Forest Service for further evaluation under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA). The EIS will further analyze old growth in the project area and evaluate the cumulative impacts with the neighboring Hungry Ridge Project to ensure old growth was retained per the 1987 Nez Perce National Forest land management plan requirements.

**DATES:** The Forest Service is not conducting a scoping period because we are using the information we collected during the development of the previous EA. The draft EIS will be published for public comment as required by 40 CFR 1503.1. Notice of the draft EIS availability will be announced for public review and comment in the **Federal Register** and on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' project website, as well as other local media. The comment period for the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The Forest Service anticipates that the draft EIS will be available for public review in spring/summer 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests, 1008 Highway 64, Kamiah, Idaho 83536.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Shinn, Salmon District Ranger, [jeffrey.shinn@usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.shinn@usda.gov) or 208-839-2103. Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The End of the World project area is located approximately six (6) miles south of Grangeville, Idaho. The name of this project is a tribute to local community members who often gather at the previous Fish Creek Lookout site (located prominently within the project area) which they affectionately call "The End of the World" because of the extensive viewscape. The EIS will expand the analysis from the End of the World Final EA (January 2021) by providing an updated analysis of the environmental effects related to old growth and analysis of cumulative effects of the Hungry Ridge and End of the World projects. The End of the World Final EA evaluated the potential effects of three alternatives, including No Action and two action alternatives. The final Decision Notice was signed January 25, 2021. The EIS will provide updated information about the project's ability to meet Forest Plan standards for old growth in the project area and the cumulative effects between the End of the World and Hungry Ridge projects.

Other resources will be addressed by following 40 CFR 1502.2(b).

The Forest Supervisor of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) after evaluating the EIS and public comments.

#### Purpose and Need for Action

The End of the World Project area is designated as part of an insect and disease treatment program in accordance with Title VI, Section 602, Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), as amended by Section 8204 of the Agriculture Act (Farm Bill) of 2014. Based on observed existing conditions, as well as other supporting information (*e.g.*, annual insect and disease aerial detection surveys, national insect and disease risk maps, community wildfire protection plan (CWPP), and input from local community members), there is a need to:

- Change the nature and arrangement of fuels to reduce wildfire risk to the local communities and surrounding Federal lands;
- Reduce the risk or extent of, or increase resilience to, insect or disease infestation;
- Restore forest vegetation, dry meadows, and grasslands to a healthy condition; and
- Improve water quality and aquatic habitats.

This project is in the heart of the Forests' Wildland Fire Crisis Emergency Landscape. The project lies entirely within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for the Grangeville area as defined by the CWPP of Idaho County. It was originally authorized as part of an insect and disease treatment program in accordance with title VI, section 602, HFRA, as amended by section 8204 of the Agriculture Act (Farm Bill) of 2014. This project meets Executive Order (E.O.) 14072 because it was created using science-based modelling that indicated that this area is in high need for treatment through sustainable forest and land management activities. The project conserves America's mature and old-growth forests through authorization under title VI, section 602, HFRA as well as application of the 1987 Nez Perce Forest Plan Standards. Proposed activities will improve the resilience of our lands, waters, wildlife, and communities in the face of increasing disturbances and chronic stress arising from climate impacts.

#### Proposed Action

The goal of this project is to treat at a landscape scale to increase the resilience of the forest to insects, disease, fire, and future climate impacts.

The project is also designed to improve water quality, aquatic habitats, and resources important to the Nez Perce Tribe (project area is fully within the ceded territory). Finally, the project is adjacent to the community of Grangeville, Idaho, and actions are designed to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires to both private residences in and adjacent to the Forest and to the community of Grangeville.

Pre-commercial thinning, intermediate harvest, regeneration harvest, and aquatic improvements are proposed to change the nature and arrangement of fuels and reduce wildfire risk. The project proposes to remove hazard trees in campgrounds and dispersed camping areas, create a fuel break on Forest Service Road 221, conduct prescribed landscape burning, treat invasive plant species, improve range conditions and restore dry meadows, conduct trail restoration or reconstruction, decommission roads, replace culverts, improve cross drains, and complete stream crossing hardening. There will be no regeneration harvest in old growth. Project activities will maintain or promote old growth characteristics consistent with the regional definition of old growth.

The EIS will provide updated information about the project's ability to meet the 1987 Forest Plan standards for old growth in the project area and the cumulative effects on old growth between the End of the World and Hungry Ridge projects as directed by the court.

#### Preliminary Alternatives

The alternatives from the EA will be incorporated into the EIS. The End of the World EA (January 2021) evaluated the potential effects of three alternatives, including No Action and two action alternatives. Both the Proposed Action and Alternative B meet the purpose and need of the project. Alternative B was created in direct response to collaboration and public comments that requested alternative treatments near private properties, less harvest, fewer temporary roads, and less potential sediment production. The No Action alternative provided the baseline for the comparison of the environmental effects of the action alternatives to the existing condition. The No Action Alternative would continue to elevate the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and would not address fuel accumulations in the WUI, nor would it respond to the priority landscapes identified by the Governor of Idaho. It would not further implementation of the National Wildfire Crisis or National Cohesive Strategies.

### Expected Impacts

The Forest Service will evaluate potential impacts to old growth in the project area and cumulative effects on old growth by the End of the World and Hungry Ridge projects.

### Responsible Official

Cheryl F. Probert, Nez Perce—Clearwater Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor's Office, 1008 Highway 64, Kamiah, Idaho 83536.

### Comments and the Objection Process

A legal notice was published in the *Lewiston Tribune* on February 16, 2018. This notice started a 30-day scoping/comment period. In accordance with 40 CFR 1502.9(d)(3), there will be no scoping conducted for this EIS. The scope of the End of the World final EA established the scope for this EIS. The Forest Service will be seeking comments on the draft EIS. The Forest Supervisor will be requesting Emergency Action Determination authority under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, section 40807, since the project is within two of the 250 high-risk western fireheds. If the Emergency Action Determination authority is approved, the End of the World project would not be subject to the pre-decisional objection review process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B.

The Forest Service will be soliciting future participation via the GovDelivery email notification system, rather than postal mail. Details about the upcoming project will be sent through GovDelivery. To sign up for GovDelivery and take advantage of electronic notifications, visit the End of the World Project web page at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52541>. On the right side of the screen, under "Get Connected," select "Subscribe to Email Updates." When you click on that item, you will be prompted to provide your email address and select a password in the GovDelivery program. Once you have logged in, you will be able to manage your account by subscribing to projects by National Forest, Ranger District, project type, or project purpose. Select the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Salmon River Ranger District, and/or End of the World Project to receive any updates on the project. Once you are subscribed, you will continue to receive all project information and updates via email. Updates will not be sent via postal mail.

### Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will review the information and analysis in the EIS

to determine whether direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on old growth in the End of the World project area meet the requirements of appendix N of the 1987 Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan); if there are cumulative impacts to old growth by the End of the World Restoration Project and the Hungry Ridge Restoration Project; and which alternative best meets the purpose and need of the project and complies with the Plan.

Dated: April 22, 2024.

#### Troy Heithecker,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD878]

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will host a Seminar Series presentation on Electronic Self-Reporting Programs in Recreational Fisheries via webinar on May 14, 2024.

**DATES:** The webinar presentation will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The presentation will be provided via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Information, including a link to webinar registration will be posted on the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/safmc-seminar-series/> as it becomes available.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 302-8439 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will host a presentation on electronic self-reporting programs in U.S. marine recreational fisheries by

staff from The Nature Conservancy. The presentation will present information on the "appscape" used to collect information from recreational fisheries and identify successes, challenges, and lessons learned. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. Members of the public will have the opportunity to participate in the discussion. The presentation is for informational purposes only and no management actions will be taken. The presentation is part of an ongoing Seminar Series hosted by the Council featuring scientific studies relevant to fisheries in federal waters of the South Atlantic.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the meeting.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 22, 2024.

#### Key Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD897]

#### Permanent Advisory Committee To Advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission; Meeting Announcement

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces a public meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) on May 13, 2024. Meeting topics are provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**DATES:** The meeting of the PAC will be held via web conference on May 13, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hawaii standard time (HST) (or until business is concluded). Members of the public