

Preliminary issues identified as a result of internal and public scoping include: equal value of land being exchanged, plus, effects of the proposal on wildlife habitat, old growth habitat, water quality, riparian areas, fisheries, roadless areas, federal investigations already made, revenues to the counties, road access, deferred road maintenance, fire protection boundaries, timber program, visual quality of the area, recreation, and effects on threatened, endangered and sensitive species. This list will be verified, expanded and/or modified based on continued scoping for this proposal.

Public participation is important all through the analysis process. Two key time periods have been identified for receipt of formal comments on the proposal and analysis:

1. Scoping period, which starts with publication of this notice and continues for the next 45 days; and
2. Review of the Draft EIS in September and October, 1995.

The Forest Service expects to file the Draft EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency in August 1995. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are expected in December 1995.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wisc. 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues 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.)

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Clearwater National Forest, Forest Supervisor's Office, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

Dated: March 8, 1995.

James L. Caswell,
Forest Supervisor.

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Nosiy Divide Timber Sale and Other Integrated Resource Projects, Colville National Forest, Pend Oreille County, WA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation Notice.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, USDA, is no longer involved in the preparation of an environmental impact statement for the Noisy Divide Timber Sale and Other Integrated Resource Projects on the Sullivan Lake Ranger District of the Colville National Forest (Pend Oreille County, Washington). The Notice of Intent, published in the **Federal Register** on January 2, 1991 is hereby rescinded (56 FR 58).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tim Bertram, Project Leader, Sullivan Lake Ranger District, Colville National Forest; at Metaline Falls, Washington 99153, or phone 509-446-2681.

Dated: March 7, 1995.

George T. Buckingham,
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-6626 Filed 3-16-95; 8:45 am]

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North Sherman and Fritz Timber Sales, Colville National Forest, Ferry County, WA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, USDA, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest and regenerate timber and to construct and reconstruct roads. The proposed

projects will be in compliance with the 1988 Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (The Plan) which provides the overall guidance for management of this area for the next ten years. The projects are proposed within portions of the Sherman Creek and South Fork Sherman Creek drainages on the Kettle Falls Ranger District in fiscal year 1996. The Colville National Forest invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process that will occur on the proposal so as to provide interested and affected people awareness as to how they may participate and contribute in the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by April 30, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions concerning the management of this area to Meredith Webster, District Ranger, 225 W. 11th, Kettle Falls, Washington 99141.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed project work and EIS should be directed to Ralph Egan, Planning Assistant, 225 W. 11th, Kettle Falls, Washington 99141 (phone: 509-738-6111).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action includes harvesting timber and constructing roads on North Sherman and Fritz timber sales.

The timber sales are proposed within the Sherman Creek and South Fork Sherman Creek drainages on the Kettle Falls Ranger District. This analysis will evaluate a range of alternatives for implementation of the timber sales. The area being analyzed is 69,557 acres.

The North Sherman timber sale would be located north of Washington State Highway 20 with the proposed harvest centered between McGahee and Elbow Creeks. The majority of the harvest would be landscape scale selection harvest. The proposed sale would harvest 10.0 MMBF from 2,000 acres.

The Fritz timber sale would be located south of Washington State Highway 20 with the proposed harvest centered around upper Fritz Creek, Scalawag Ridge and Paradise Peak. The majority of the harvest would be landscape scale selection harvest. The proposed sale would harvest 10.0 MMBF from 2,000 acres.

The Draft EIS will be tiered to The Plan. The Plan's Management Area direction for this analysis area is approximately 4.1 percent Old Growth Dependent Species Habitat, 8.3 percent Recreation, 30 percent Scenic/Timber, 1.3 percent Scenic/Winter Range, 22.1