

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.

[FR Doc. 95-6551 Filed 3-16-95; 8:45 am]

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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]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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

percent Wood/Forage, 5.3 percent Winter Range, 3.5 percent Semi-Primitive, Motorized Recreation, 19 percent Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized Recreation and 6.4 percent other ownerships.

No harvest will be proposed within the Semi-Primitive, Motorized Recreation, Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized Recreation Management Areas or other ownership areas. These areas are included only for analysis of effects. The proposed action includes portions of the Profanity, Bald Snow, South Huckleberry, and Bangs Roadless Areas which were considered but not selected for Wilderness designation.

Preliminary issues identified include: unroaded areas, recreation, sensitive plants and animals, visuals, water quality, timber production, and noxious weed control.

A range of alternatives will be considered, including a no-action alternative. Based on the issues gathered through scoping, alternatives will vary in (1) the amount and location of acres considered for treatment, (2) the amount of road constructed for access, (3) the silvicultural and post-harvest treatment prescribed, and (4) the number, type and location of other integrated resource projects.

Initial scoping began in March 1995. Scoping will include identifying issues, determining alternative driving issues, and identifying the objectives for the alternatives. An informal public meeting will be held at the Kettle Falls Ranger District office on April 18, 1995. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from other agencies, organizations, Tribes, and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. Your comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process. The draft EIS is to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by November 1995. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, Tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment. EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. It is important that those interested in the management of the Colville National Forest participate at that time.

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 draft EIS statements 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. *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 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 for completion by February 1996. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. Edward L. Schultz, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official. He will decide which, if any, of the alternative will be implemented. His decision and rationale for the decision will be documented in the Record of Decision, which will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR 215).

Dated: March 7, 1995.

George T. Buckingham,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-6627 Filed 3-16-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

**First Creek Basin Restoration Project,
Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan
County, WA**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, USDA, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of a site-specific proposal for the First Creek Basin Restoration Project. The proposed action is partially located within the original Slide Ridge Roadless Area, approximately 15 miles northwest of the town of Chelan, in the First Creek, Baldy, and Granite Falls Creek drainages on the Chelan Ranger District of the Wenatchee National Forest. The purpose of the EIS will be to develop and evaluate a range of alternatives for ecosystem restoration activities within the First Creek Basin. Alternatives may include fuel reduction activities, seeding, reforestation, slope stabilization, wildlife habitat restoration, stream channel stabilization, timber harvest, road/trail construction, and road/trail obliteration.

The alternatives will include a no action alternative, and at least one alternative that maintains the unroaded character of the proposed project area. Other alternatives will be designed to respond to relevant issues. The proposed project will be consistent with direction given in the Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended by the April 13, 1994, Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. This Forest Service proposal is scheduled for implementation in 1995-1997. The agency invites written comments on the scope of this project. In addition, the agency gives notice of this analysis so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope and implementation of this proposal must be received by April 28, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis to Al Murphy, District Ranger, Chelan Ranger District, PO Box 189, Chelan, Washington 98816.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions and comments about this EIS should be directed to Lisa Gowe or John Lampereur, Interdisciplinary Team Leaders, Chelan Ranger District, PO Box 189, Chelan, Washington 98816; phone 509-682-2576.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the summer of 1994, part of the 135,000 acre Tyee Complex wildfire burned through the analysis area, leaving