

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

thousands of acres of intensely-burned vegetation, altered soils, and increased fuel loads. The slopes in the area are steep and subject to severe erosion. This analysis was initiated to identify treatments that will lessen long-term losses in productivity and increase the rate of recovery of the ecosystems in the area. The analysis area is approximately 14,210 acres in size. About 280 acres of the area are unoccupied spotted owl habitat, with approximately 100 acres of this habitat being within a Late Successional Reserve. In addition, about 6,400 acres of the analysis area is unroaded.

The proposed action is to treat: (1) Approximately 4,700 acres in the ponderosa pine zone; (2) approximately 1,600 acres in the mesic Douglas-fir zone; and (3) approximately 340 acres in the high elevation zone. Treatments will be made through a combination of activities including: fuel disposal through the use of prescribed fire; harvest of dead and damaged trees; thinning; and slope stabilization. This proposal will include helicopter yarding as the preferred method of tree removal, but may require the construction of approximately 3 miles of temporary access roads. A transportation plan for the unroaded portion of the project area would also be developed.

To date, the following key issues have been identified:

- Roadless Area management
- Late Successional Reserves
- Public safety and property
- Economics
- Cultural resources
- Control of noxious weeds
- Channel protection/restoration
- Access management
- Forest fuel management
- Scenic quality
- Recreation opportunities
- Wildlife habitat
- Revegetation
- Water quality
- Biodiversity/forest health
- Fish/water/soil stability

The decision to be made through this analysis is where, how, and to what extent should the various vegetation management, fuels reduction and slope stabilization treatments be implemented within the First Creek analysis area, and what roading, if any, should occur within the currently unroaded area.

A range of alternatives will be considered, including a no action alternative, and an alternative that maintains the unroaded character of the area. Other alternatives will be developed in response to issues received during scoping. All alternatives will need to respond to specific conditions in the First Creek Basin.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, tribes, and local agencies, as well as individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions. This information will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminating non significant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process.
4. Exploring additional alternatives.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).
6. Determining potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in June, 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 very important that those interested in the management of the Wenatchee National Forest participate at that time.

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 those points).

At this early stage, the Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice 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. (*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 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.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in August 1995. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. Sonny O'Neal, Forest Supervisor, Wenatchee National Forest, is the responsible official. As the responsible official he will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations (36 CFR 215).

Dated: March 9, 1995.

Mark Morris,

Administrative Officer.

[FR Doc. 95-6628 Filed 3-16-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Michigan Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Michigan Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 1995, at the Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48243. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss current issues and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Janice G. Frazier at 313-259-8180, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD