

Dated: July 24, 1995.

James Caswell,

Acting Deputy Regional Forester, Northern Region, USDA Forest Service.

Dated: July 24, 1995.

Jack Blackwell,

Deputy Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service.

Dated: July 24, 1995.

Martha Hahn,

State Director, Idaho, USDI Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: July 24, 1995.

Larry Hamilton,

State Director, Montana, USDI Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 95-19376 Filed 8-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M; 4310-84-M

North Powder Wild and Scenic River Management Plan Environmental Assessment, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Baker County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: On July 13, 1995, Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor, R.M. Richmond, signed a Decision Notice which adopted into the Forest Plan the North Powder Wild and Scenic River Management Plan which required an amendment to the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plan.

This management plan outlines use levels, development levels, resource protection measures, and outlines a general management direction for the river corridor. This amendment is necessary to implement the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which required the Forest Service to develop a management plan for the North Powder River. Interim direction was identified in the Forest Plan as Management Area 7 (Wild and Scenic Rivers). The environmental assessment documents the analysis of alternatives to managing the North Powder Wild and Scenic River in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations 36 CFR Part 217. Appeals must be filed within 45 days from the date of publication in the Baker City Herald. Notices of Appeals must meet the requirement of 36 CFR 217.9.

The environmental assessment for the North Powder River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan is available for the public review at the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office in Baker City, Oregon.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Implementation of this decision shall not occur within 30 days

following publication of the legal notice of the decision in the Baker City Herald.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For further information, contact Steve Davis, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, Oregon 97814 or phone (503) 523-1316.

Dated: July 13, 1995.

R.M. Richmond,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-19377 Filed 8-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Augusta Timber Sale, Willamette National Forest, Lane County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to harvest trees and build roads in the Augusta drainage of the Blue River Ranger District. Approximately 200 acres of trees will be harvested and approximately 0.5 miles of road will be constructed. The proposal results from an extensive landscape design and watershed analysis conducted in the Augusta area. The dominant theme for that design was to base landscape and watershed objectives, designs, and prescriptions on an interpreted range of "natural" variability of disturbance processes.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by September 10, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Lynn Burditt, District Ranger, Blue River Range Station, P.O. Box 199, Blue River, Oregon, 97413.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Geary, Resource Planning Assistant, (503) 822-3317.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Augusta Creek timber sale proposal is one result of the Augusta Creek Project, a natural disturbance-based landscape "design" for a managed forest. The landscape design was projected for 200 years into the future using 20 year time steps. This specific timber sale proposal includes writing prescriptions for the nine blocks that would be in early seral conditions at the end of the first 20-year time step. This will result in harvesting approximately 200 acres of trees in the first timber sale entry and building approximately 0.5 miles of roads to access the trees. The nine blocks are located in T19S, R5E, Section 1; T19S, R51/2E, Sections 9 and 16; T18S, R5E, Sections 35 and 36; T18S, R51/2E, Sections 31, 32, and 33 (Lat 43°56'00", Long 122°7'30").

Detailed ground review and alternative development will be concentrated on these nine landscape blocks. Decisions will include identification of the timing and location of timber harvests, silvicultural prescriptions, levels of green and dead tree retention, and the spatial patterns of retention trees.

The Augusta Creek Landscape Design Project was initiated to establish and integrate landscape and watershed objectives into a landscape design to guide management activities within a 19,000 acre planning area in western Oregon. The objectives were to maintain native species, ecosystem processes and structures, and long-term ecosystem productivity in a Federally owned and managed landscape with substantial acreage allocated to timber harvest. A dominant theme has been to base landscape and watershed objectives, designs, and prescriptions on an interpreted range of "natural" variability of disturbance processes. A fire history study characterized fire patterns and regimes over the last 500 years. Changes in the existing and surrounding landscape due to past intensive human uses were also factored into the landscape design. Landscape prescriptions include a small-watershed based aquatic reserve system and major valley bottom corridor reserves. Where timber harvest is allocated, four landscape management areas prescribe varying rotation ages (100-300 years), green tree retention levels (15-50%), and spatial patterns as derived from interpretations of fire regimes. These prescriptions were linked to specific blocks of land, which provides an efficient transition to site-level planning and project implementation.

The EIS will tier to the Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990) as amended by the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat For Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994).

Scoping will include public meetings and potentially visits to the site. The first public meeting is scheduled for August 3, 1995 and will be held at the Lane Transit District office in Eugene, Oregon. Additional public meetings will be held in August and September.

Preliminary scoping identified a few issues. One of the issues is the location of some of the units and possible road construction in the Chucksney inventoried roadless area. This is the reason the Forest Service is preparing an EIS. Other issues identified at this point include water quality in Augusta Creek