

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Natvig, Williams Mountain Project Area Interdisciplinary Team Leader, (970) 723-8204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) provides a blueprint for a Desired Future Condition (DFC) on public lands administered by the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest. In addition the Forest Plan establishes resource goals and outputs needed to manage the resources while achieving the DFC. The nature and scope of the proposed action includes a combination of prescribed fire and silvicultural treatments to create vegetation patterns consistent with those created through natural process and cycles in order to optimize habitat capability for a range of wildlife management indicator species (Forest Plan, III-125). Treatments and associated activities being considered include timber harvest, road construction, and prescribed fire. Management activities would also be implemented to maintain structural diversity (Forest Plan, III-12), manage aspen for retention (Forest Plan, III-13), prevent or suppress epidemic insect and disease populations (Forest Plan, III-79), and decrease fuel conditions to permit fire suppression forces to meet fire protection objectives for the area (Forest Plan, III-78).

The decision to be made is whether or not to proceed with the vegetation treatments and associated road construction activities. A range of alternative actions will be developed based on public and agency issues raised during the scoping process.

The Forest Service manages the land within the analysis area under "Management Prescriptions 2B, 4B, and 5B." The proposed action is consistent with the Routt National Forest Plan.

The following are preliminary issues and concerns which have been identified: (1) Prescribed fire and/or prescribed natural fire should be considered as a tool to meet management needs. (2) Management activities need to be analyzed in regard to effects on wildlife management indicator species. (3) Management activities should emulate natural processes, their function, and result in a landscape pattern similar to natural disturbance. (4) Management activities may have negative effects on adjacent private lands. (5) Management activities may have a negative effect on visual quality. (6) The unroaded character of the area should be maintained.

The Responsible Official will be Larry W. Ross, Parks District Ranger,

Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grasslands, 612 5th Street, PO Box 158, Walden, Colorado, 80480.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available in October 1996 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement available in January 1997.

A 45-day public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will commence on the day the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a "Notice of Availability" in the Federal Register.

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 environmental impact 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 contents. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement 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.) Please note that comments you make on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be regarded as public information.

Dated: May 14, 1996.

Larry W. Ross,
Parks District Ranger, Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest.
[FR Doc. 96-12980 Filed 5-22-96; 8:45 am]

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Southeast Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council; Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southeast Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council will meet in Juneau, Alaska, on June 4 and 5, 1996, at the Juneau City Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend the meeting, observe the proceedings, and provide oral testimony on two agenda items: (1) The advance notice of proposed rulemaking published April 4, 1996, in the Federal Register (61 FR 15014) concerning modifications to Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 242, and 50 CFR part 100, and (2) revision of the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (61 FR 18587).

DATES: The meeting will be held June 4 and 5, 1996, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Oral testimony will be taken from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on June 5.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Juneau City Council Chambers, 155 S. Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred P. Clark, Council Coordinator, (907) 586-7895.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Southeast Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council is one of the councils established in each subsistence resource region by the Federal Subsistence Board, to provide regional forums for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters related to subsistence taking and uses of fish and wildlife resources on public lands and to provide for public participation in the Federal regulatory process. The councils operate in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and have been established in accordance with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Dated: May 17, 1996.

Kimberly Evart Bown,
Acting Deputy Regional Forester for Resources, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region—Region 10.

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