

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-053N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods; Renewal

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Rechartering of Committee.

This notice announces the rechartering of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. The Committee is being renewed in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The establishment of the Committee was recommended by a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods."

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is charged with the enforcement of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA). Under these Acts, USDA is responsible for the wholesomeness and safety of meat, poultry, and egg products intended for human consumption. Similarly, the Secretary of HHS is charged with the enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Under this Act, HHS is responsible for ensuring the safety of human foods other than meat, poultry, and egg products and of animal feeds.

In order to continue to meet the responsibilities of FMIA, PPIA, EPIA, and FFDCA, the National Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods is being reestablished. The Committee will be tasked with advising and providing recommendations to the Secretaries on the development of microbiological

criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed, including criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether foods have been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Reestablishment of this Committee is necessary and in the public interest because the development of a sound public policy in this area can best be accomplished by a free and open exchange of information and ideas among Federal, State, and local agencies, and other interested parties. This complexity of the issues to be addressed assures that more than one meeting will be required to accomplish the Committee's tasks.

Members will be appointed by the Secretary of USDA after consultation with the Secretary of HHS. Because of their interest in the matters to be addressed by this Committee, advice on membership appointments will be requested from the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Defense's Veterinary Service Activity.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Amelia L. Wright, Advisory Committee Specialist, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Suite 6913 Franklin Court, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Background materials are available for inspection by contacting Ms. Wright at (202) 501-7343.

Reba Evans,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-25573 Filed 9-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Routt Divide Blowdown Analysis; Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District, Routt County, Colorado

September 16, 1998.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the

environmental effects the South Fork Salvage Analysis of a portion of the Routt Divide Blowdown outside the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District.

The purpose of this action is to implement the Land and Resource Management Plan 1997 Revision for the Routt National Forest in the South Fork Analysis Area, considering the effects, both short and expected long term, resulting from the Routt Divide Blowdown. Actions proposed by the Forest Service include (1) commercial salvage of the windthrown trees in Management Areas 5.11 and 5.13. Associated with this action will be road construction and reconstruction. (2) Silvicultural treatments of timber stands in Management Areas 5.11, 5.13, and 7.1 designed to increase the resistance of these stands to attack by spruce bark beetle. Associated with this action will be road construction and reconstruction.

Additionally, we are attempting to determine the levels of spruce bark beetle infestation and tree mortality that would threaten the wild river, recreational or winter range values in Management areas 1.5, 4.3, 5.41, and whether or not management actions might be effective in protecting those values. If potential spruce beetle attack would threaten those values, then we will determine the actions that would be appropriate to prevent or respond to a beetle epidemic.

There is a need to contribute toward meeting the needs of the nation for timber products in Management Areas 5.11 General Forest and Rangelands—Forest Vegetation Emphasis and 5.13 Forest Products. Within Management Area 1.5 there is a need to protect the Wild River characteristics. Within Management Area 4.3 there is a need to protect recreational opportunities. Within Management Areas 5.11 and 5.13 there is a need to restrict the outbreak of spruce bark beetles. Within Management Area 7.1 there is a need to reduce the risk of spruce bark beetle from spreading into the management area.

DATES: Public Scoping will begin with a mailing to people who expressed an interest in the North Fork Salvage Analysis, land owners within the Forest Service boundaries adjacent to the analysis area, and State, County, and local officials.

On October 7th and 19th, 1998 Forest Service specialists will host open houses for the public to discuss the South Fork Analysis at the Steamboat Springs, Colorado Forest Service Office, 925 Weiss Dr. from 2 pm until 6 pm.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be completed by December, 1998. After a 45 day comment period, a Final Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for South Fork Analysis.

ADDRESSES: Public meetings on South Fork Analysis are scheduled for:

October 15, 1998, 5 pm at the Steamboat Springs USDA Forest Service Office;

October 21, 1998, 5 pm at the Saratoga, Wyoming USDA Forest Service Office;

October 27, 1998, 5 pm at the Clark, Colorado Moon Hill School House;

October 28, 1998, 5 pm at the USDA Forest Service Office in Walden, Colorado.

Responsible Official: Jerry E. Schmidt, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow—Routt National Forest, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY 82070.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andy Cadenhead, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Medicine Bow—Routt National Forest, 925 Weiss Dr, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487, (970) 870-2220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The analysis area location is approximately 12 miles north of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in portions of the following sections:

T9N,R83W; Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

T8N,R85W; Sections 1, 2, 3

T9N,R84W; Sections 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35

There are several management area prescriptions within the South Fork Analysis Area. These include: 1.32 Backcountry Non-Motorized Recreation With Winter Limited Motorized; 1.5 National River System—Wild Rivers, Designated and Eligible; 4.3 Dispersed Recreation; 5.11 General Forest and Rangelands—Forest Vegetation Emphasis; 5.13 Forest Products; 5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range; and 7.1 Residential/Forest Interface.

Forest Service Mission; As set forth in law, the mission of the Forest Service is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple use management concept. This concept is to meet the diverse needs of people. It includes advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity and beauty of forests. It also includes listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in resource decisions. Another

part of our job is to help communities and states wisely use the forests to promote rural economic development and a quality rural environment. Also included in the mission is developing and providing scientific and technical knowledge aimed at improving our capability to protect, manage, and use forests and rangelands.

Jerry E. Schmidt,

Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow—Routt National Forest.

[FR Doc. 98-25540 Filed 9-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Routt Divide Blowdown Analysis; Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District, Routt County, Colorado

September 16, 1998.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects the Buffalo Pass Analysis of a portion of the Routt Divide Blowdown outside the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District.

The purpose of this action is to implement the Land and Resource Management Plan 1997 Revision for the Routt National Forest in the Buffalo Pass Analysis Area, considering the effects, both short and expected long term, resulting from the Routt Divide Blowdown. Actions proposed by the Forest Service include Silvicultural treatments of timber stands in Management Areas 5.11, 5.13, and 7.1 designed to increase the resistance of these stands to attack by spruce bark beetle. Associated with this will be road construction and reconstruction.

Salvage and/or other treatments to kill or remove beetles in the blowdown in Management Area 4.2. Treatments in this management area would be accomplished without new road construction.

Additionally, the level of beetle infestation and tree mortality that threatens wild river, recreational, water quality or winter range values in Management Areas 1.32, 4.2, 4.3, 5.41, 3.23, 8.22 must be determined; once determined, appropriate management actions will be implemented to protect those values.

There is a need to contribute toward meeting the needs of the nation for timber products in management areas 5.11 and 5.13. Within Management Area 4.2, along the Buffalo Pass Road (FDR 60) and State Highway 40, there is a need to protect the scenic qualities of these corridors. Within Management Area 4.3 there is a need to protect recreational opportunities. Within Management Areas 5.11 and 5.13 there is a need to restrict an infestation of spruce bark beetles. Within Management Area 7.1 there is a need to reduce the risk of spruce beetle from spreading into the management area. Within Management Area 8.22 there is a need to protect the site vegetation and facilities. There is a need to test silvicultural treatments in spruce stands and monitor the response of these stands to spruce beetle populations.

DATES: Public Scoping will begin with a mailing to people who expressed an interest in the North Fork Salvage Analysis, land owners within the Forest Service boundaries adjacent to the analysis area, and State, County, and local officials.

On October 7th and 19th, 1998 Forest Service specialists will host open houses for the public to discuss the Buffalo Pass Analysis at the Steamboat Springs, Colorado Forest Service Office, 925 Weiss Dr. from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be completed by December, 1998. After a 45 day comment period, a Final Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for Buffalo Pass Analysis.

ADDRESSES: Public meetings on Buffalo Pass Analysis are scheduled for:

October 15, 1998, 5 pm, at the Steamboat Springs USDA Forest Service Office;

October 21, 1998, 5 pm at the Saratoga, Wyoming USDA Forest Service Office;

October 27, 1998, 5 pm at the Clark, Colorado Moon Hill School House;

October 28, 1998, 5 pm at the USDA Forest Service Office in Walden, Colorado.

Responsible Official

Jerry E. Schmidt, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow—Routt National Forest, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY 82070.

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