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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Proposed Sloan-Kennally Timber Sale, Payette National Forest, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Sloan-Kennally Timber Sale in the **Federal Register** March 19, 1991, (Vol. 56, No. 53, p. 11541-11542). The Forest Service then published a revised notice of intent in the **Federal Register** September 23, 1994, (Vol. 59, No. 184, p. 48878) changing the dates for release of the draft EIS (DEIS) and final EIS (FEIS). The revised notice is hereby revised to show another change in the project schedule. In addition, the Payette National Forest is offering another scoping opportunity for comments on the scope of analysis and issues to address in this revised DEIS.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by June 7, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written scoping comments to: Dan Anderson, Sloan-Kennally Timber Sale Team Leader, New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box J, New Meadows, Idaho 83654, Fax (208) 347-0309.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the project should be directed to Dan Anderson, phone (208) 347-0300.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Payette National Forest issued a DEIS on the Sloan-Kennally Project in August 1994, but because large fires burned on the Payette later that year and the priorities of the Forest shifted to subsequent timber salvage efforts, the FEIS was never issued. Due to the elapsed time, the incorporation of the Inland Native

Fish Strategy (INFISH) into the Forest Plan, the issuance of an interim roadless policy for the agency, and the listing of bull trout under the Endangered Species Act, the Forest expects to issue a revised DEIS in June 1999, and a FEIS in October 1999.

The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process that is continuing on the proposal so that interested and affected people know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision. The Forest conducted public scoping and addressed comments in the DEIS. The Forest now invites additional comments on the scope of the analysis and the issues to address in the revised DEIS.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis, particularly during scoping of issues and during review of the revised DEIS.

The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in detail.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
4. Determining potential cooperating agencies and responsibilities.

Issues that were considered and analyzed in the DEIS were water quality, soil productivity, wildlife habitat, roadless character and wilderness potential, biodiversity, economics and socio-economics, fish habitat, recreation, and visual quality. It is important to bring any new issues to the attention of the Forest now so that they may be considered in the revised DEIS.

The Responsible Official is David F. Alexander, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest.

Dated: April 30, 1999.

**Miera Crawford,**

*External Relations Branch Chief.*

[FR Doc. 99-11336 Filed 5-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Proposed Little Weiser Landscape Vegetation Management Project, Payette National Forest, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Little Weiser Landscape Vegetation Management Project, Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest, Idaho. The proposed action would harvest timber on 3,000 to 3,800 acres, construct about 8 miles of new road, reconstruct approximately 30 miles of system and non-system roads, obliterate 4.2 miles of roads, close approximately 40 miles of existing non-system roads, treat fuels, and plant conifer seedlings on 2,300 to 2,600 acres after harvest. The Forest Service will develop a range of alternatives, including a no action alternative, to address issues.

The agency invites public comments on the scope of the analysis and issues to be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). In addition, the agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process that is beginning on the proposal so that interested and affected people can know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by June 18, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments and suggestions to: Dautis Pearson, Team Leader, Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 567, Council, Idaho 83612. Fax (208) 253-0109.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the proposed action should be directed to Dautis Pearson, phone (208) 253-4215.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Payette National Forest prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on this Little Weiser proposal in March 1997. The Forest Supervisor signed a Decision Notice approving the project on December 23, 1997. In 1998, a lawsuit challenged this project, among others. In response to a settlement agreement resolving the litigation, the Forest Supervisor in February 1999, agreed to withdraw the decision and prepare an environmental impact statement that would update the analysis in the EA. The Forest Supervisor will then issue a new decision.

The Payette National Forest Plan (1988) provides Forest-wide direction