

values. This list may be verified, expanded, or modified based on public scoping for this proposal.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives in the EIS. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes as well as to respond to the issues and other resource values. The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Known past, present, and scheduled activities on both private and national forest lands will be considered.

In addition to the scoping that has already occurred for this project, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from federal, state, and local agencies and other organizations and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. No further public meetings are scheduled at this time.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in September 2000. At that time, the 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 that the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in the management of the Lost Moose area participate at that time. To be most helpful, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed in January 2001.

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 EISs 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 (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 scoping 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 developing issues and alternatives.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues related to the Proposed Action, comments should be as specific as possible. 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 responsible official for this EIS is Craig Bobzien, District Ranger, Darby Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, P.O. Box 388, Darby, Montana 59829. The decision to be made is what, if anything, should be done in the Lost Moose Project Area to: (1) Reduce the fuels hazard; (2) restore site productivity and return ecosystems to a more sustainable condition; (3) restore watersheds; (4) promote aspen reproduction to restore hardwood tree and shrub communities; and (5) provide goods and services such as wood products and recreation opportunities. He will document the decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

Dated: November 16, 1999.

Susan L. Heald,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest.

[FR Doc. 99-30826 Filed 11-26-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lakeface-Lamb Fuel Reduction, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County, 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) to disclose the potential environmental effects of reducing the wildfire risk and treating stands with insect and disease problems in the Lakeface-Lamb project area on the Priest Lake Range District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County, Idaho.

The proposed action includes unit-specific fuel and silvicultural treatments as well as reforestation needs, harvest techniques, and other site-specific

connected actions. The proposed action is divided into several themes based on treatment needs responding to the purpose and need.

These management activities will be administered by the Priest Lake Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Bonner County, Idaho. This EIS will tier to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan (September 1987).

DATES: Comments should be postmarked on or before December 29, 1999. Please include your name and address and the name of the project you are commenting on.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or request to be placed on the project mailing list to Kent Dunstan, Priest Lake Ranger District, 32203 Highway 57, Priest River, Idaho 83856.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Asleson, Project Team Leader, Priest Lake Ranger District, 32202 Highway 57, Priest River, ID 83856.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The public has raised concern about the threat of fires escaping from National Forest lands and endangering private land values. On a landscape level, the threat of severe lethal fires as defined in the Interior Columbia Basin Science Assessment has increased by nearly 20 percent, including the moist forest types found in the project area. The buildup of natural fuels is outside acceptable levels and the frequency and

intensity of fire is not within historic pattern for this area. The developed and natural resources on the National Forest lands and private property within the area are of considerable value both locally and regionally. For these reasons, this area has been identified as a top priority to reduce the wildfire potential.

The project includes approximately 7200 acres, encompassing 2030 acres of private lands and 5100 acres of National Forest lands. The area is situated totally within Bonner County, Idaho, approximately 22 airmiles north of the community of Priest River, Idaho. The legal description for the project includes all or portions of the following sections: Sections 5-8; Township 59 North;

Range 4 West
Sections 1-3 and 10-12; Township 59 North; Range 5 West
Sections 5-7, 17, 19, 20 and 29-32;
Township 60 North; Range 4 West
Sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-27, and 34-36;
Township 60 North; Range 5 West.

As Deciding Officer, I will decide how much and what, if any, actions including fuel treatments, timber harvesting and related activities, and road construction/reconstruction will occur on National Forest lands. I also will decide specific project mitigation measures, as necessary, to achieve Forest Plan objectives and standards for affected resources.

Public participation plays an important role in the environmental analysis process. The initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7) for this analysis began October 1999. Earlier public participation occurred during the preparation of the Lakeface-Lamb Fuel Reduction environmental assessment beginning in 1995. This environmental assessment led us to the conclusion that we needed to further the assessment in the format of an EIS, hence the issuance of this NOI. The mailing list for public scoping will include those individuals who have previously expressed interest in this project as well as those responding to this NOI and to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions, October 1999. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will also be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process is used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminate minor issues or those covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis
4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives including cumulative effects.

Some public concerns have already been expressed through earlier scoping and the following significant issues have been identified: scenery; social; and white-tailed deer winter range.

This list will be verified, expanded, or modified based on public scoping and interdisciplinary review for this proposal.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in January 2000. The final environmental impact statement is expected to be completed in March 2000. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice 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 contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental 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 final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concern on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental

impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapter of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environment impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in statement. Reviews 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.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Dated: November 22, 1999.

David J. Wright,

Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: December 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.