

directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Washington, DC 20503, or to Thomas W. Bickerton; EPAS, FSA, USDA, STOP 0516, Room 3734-South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0516; e-mail thomas—bickerton@wdc.fsa.usda.gov. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on December 7, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-31956 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment, Decision Notice, and Finding of No Significant Impact for An Amendment to the Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan; Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Perry Counties, Indiana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: On November 22, 2000, Hoosier National Forest Supervisor, Kenneth G. Day (Responsible Official) decided to amend the 1991 Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Copies of the Environmental Assessment, Plan Amendment pages, Decision Notice, and Finding of No Significant Impact, are available upon request. This amendment modifies the boundaries of the existing Management Area 8.2 special areas, makes a decision on the final allocation of the Management Area 9.2 proposed special areas, and allocates five new areas identified since the signing of the Forest Plan for special area status. The boundaries incorporate all of the special features responsible for designating the area as a special area and provides for protection of these special features. This notice is provided pursuant to National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning regulations (36 CFR 219.35, 65 FR 67579, November 9, 2000).

DATES: On November 22, 2000, Hoosier National Forest Supervisor, Kenneth G. Day (Responsible Official) decided to

amend the 1991 Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). A legal notice was published in the Sunday Herald-Times, Bloomington, Indiana newspaper in accordance with 36 CFR 217.8(a)(2) on November 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send requests for documents to: Forest Supervisor, Hoosier National Forest, 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421.

Alternatively, direct electronic mail to: "r9 hoosier website"@fs.fed.us ATTN: Plan Amendment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Regis Terney, Forest Planner, at 812-275-5987. TDD 812-275-7817; or direct electronic mail to: "r9 hoosier website"@fs.fed.us, or access the forest web page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier.

Responsible Official: Kenneth G. Day, Forest Supervisor, 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, Indiana, 47421.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These special areas are located throughout the Hoosier National Forest on about 17,500 acres of National Forest System land. The boundaries incorporate all of the special features responsible for designating the area as a special area and provides for protection of these special features. Boundaries are designed to be easily recognizable by using physical features on the ground such as roads, ridges, and creeks. This is a non-significant amendment.

Public involvement was an important part of the decision making process for this proposal. On November 6, 1997, we started scoping with mailing of letters to interested parties and the mailing of a news release to newspaper, television, and radio news organizations. We requested that people send their comments on the scoping proposal to our office by December 6, 1997. A second round of public involvement occurred with the issuance of the pre-decisional environmental assessment on February 27, 2000. We published a legal notice notifying the public of the availability of the EA for review in the Sunday Herald-Times, Bloomington, Indiana on February 27, 2000, and the Perry County News, Tell City, Indiana on February 28, 2000. A 30-day formal comment period followed release of the predecisional EA on February 27, 2000 for review (until March 28, 2000).

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to USDA Forest Service regulations 36 CFR 217.3. Any written appeal must be postmarked or submitted to the Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region, 310 West Wisconsin Ave., Suite 500, Milwaukee, WI 53203, within 45 days of the date of the legal notice was

published in the Sunday Herald-Times, Bloomington, Indiana in accordance with 36 CFR 217.8(a)(2). The appeal period begins the day following the legal notice publication in the Sunday Herald-Times. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 217.9. The Forest Service is an equal opportunity organization.

Dated: December 7, 2000.

Kenneth G. Day,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-31983 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and Oklahoma; Proposed Projects in the Invasive Plant Analysis Area, Carson National Forest, Portions of Rio Arriba, Mora, Taos, and Colfax Counties; Santa Fe National Forest, Portions of Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, Sandoval, San Miquel, and Mora Counties, New Mexico

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Carson National Forest, and Santa Fe National Forest will prepare a joint environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze information relevant to reduce and control existing populations of invasive plants within the boundaries of the two national forests. Proposed projects can be accomplished using one, or a combination of methods including mechanical, herbicidal, biological, and cultural treatments.

DATES: It is estimated that the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be completed and distributed by the end of March 2001. A 45 day comment period will follow issuance of the DEIS. The final environmental impact statement is estimated to be released in June 2001.

ADDRESSES: The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be available upon request from the Carson Forest Supervisor's Office, 208 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571, Attn: Range and Wildlife; or Santa Fe Forest Supervisor's Office, 1471 Rodeo Road, P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1689, Attn: Range and Wildlife. Comments related to this NOI can be sent to the contractor Mike, Tremble, Ecosystem Management Inc., 4004 Carlisle Blvd., NE, Suite C1, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107; or via e-mail at mtremble@nmia.com.

Responsible Official: The Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, is the responsible official and will decide whether or not projects will be implemented by the Forest Service in the Carson National Forest; The Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe National Forest, is the responsible official and will decide whether or not projects will be implemented by the Forest Service in the Santa Fe National Forest. The Forest Supervisor of each National Forest will decide what projects and where, how and when they will be implemented.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Resource Staff Officer (Project Leader), Charles Jankiewicz, Santa Fe National Forest, 505-438-7820, or Daniel Rael, Carson National Forest, 505-758-6200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Location: The analysis area is the two national forests, Carson, and Santa Fe, lying predominantly in the Sange de Cristo, the Jemez, and the Tusas mountains all in central to north central New Mexico.

Purpose: The purpose of treating the invasive plant infestations within the boundaries of the Carson, and Santa Fe National Forests is to reduce the likelihood of ecological change from native plant species to introduced plant species, noxious, or detrimental to native plant communities, wildlife species, and domestic livestock.

Decisions To Be Made

The Decisions To Be Made Are

- Whether areas should be allocated to no treatment of invasive weeds (plants). If so, where and how much?
- Whether areas should be treated to reduce and control invasive weeds (plants). If so, where and how much?
- Whether one, or a combination of methods should be used, including mechanical, herbicidal, biological, or cultural treatments should be used. If so, where and how much should be treated.

Supplemental Information for Public Participation

Comments received in response to this NOI, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record 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 decisions under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.23(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 should be aware that, under the FOIA; 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 comment may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

Dated: December 8, 2000.

Steve Okamoto,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest.

Dolores Maese,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe National Forest.

[FR Doc. 00-31952 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Griffin Springs Resource Management Project, Dixie National Forest, Garfield County, Utah

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. (The original Notice of Intent was published on November 16, 1998 and a revised NOI changing the project name from Aquarius Ecosystem Restoration Project (AERP) to Griffin Springs Resource Management Project (GSRMP) was published on July 26, 1999.) Comments originally collected under the NOI for the Aquarius Ecosystem Restoration Project will be used for the Griffin Springs Resource Management Project.

SUMMARY: The Dixie National Forest, Garfield County, Utah, announced November 16, 1998, its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would analyze management proposals within the Aquarius Ecosystem Restoration Project. Because a portion of the area was affected by 36 CFR part 212, Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System: Temporary Suspension of Road Construction and Reconstruction in Unroaded Areas, and there are existing roadless areas within the project area, the project area was divided into smaller decision blocks. A Revised NOI for the Griffin Springs Resource Management Project was published in the Federal Register on July 26, 1999.

Comments received during the AERP scoping period or in response to the original or revised NOI will be addressed in the GSRMP analysis. Since the revised NOI was published the GSRMP proposed actions and analysis area have been changed. The southern portion of the analysis area located on Barney Top has also been made a separate decision block, and the analysis area has been expanded to include an adjacent area located in section 8, T33S; R1E; SLBM that is experiencing tree mortality from bark beetles. The Proposed Action now includes sanitation and salvage harvesting that would remove spruce beetle infested trees and recently killed trees on 714 acres. Implementation of the GSRMP would not require new road construction.

The proposed action no longer includes construction of a trailhead for the Powell Point trail (#6.0) at the junction of the Powell Point non-motorized trail and the end of FS road (#1516), construction of a trailhead for the Gap trail (#1.51) at the end of Forest road (#1370), construction of a trailhead at Clayton Guard Station to serve Grass Lakes (#1.61), Pacer Lake (#4.0), Poison Creek (#3.0) and Antimony Lake (#2.0) motorized trails, or construction of a trailhead for the North Creek lakes non-motorized trail (#1.5). The previously proposed trailhead construction at the above locations included, parking areas, signs and an information kiosk. The proposed parking area at the end of the road #0176 at Row Lakes has also been dropped.

Travel management proposals have also been eliminated. Previously, travel management proposals within the AERP project area included: the closing of 16.3 miles of existing roads with physical barriers and obliteration; and the revegetation of 54.6 miles of existing roads.

A portion of the prescribed burning located in sections 10 and 15; T34S; R1W; SLBM has also been dropped. This proposal would have regenerated approximately 200 acres of aspen within the spruce/fir type, with a stand replacing prescribed fire.

An updated scoping notice is available at the office listed below. The DEIS is expected to be available for review by March 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Calbaum, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, (435) 826-5400, Escalante Ranger District, PO Box 246, Escalante, Utah 84726.