

Bitterroot National Forest, and complete analysis is expected by mid February 2002. Special concerns have risen within the perimeters of the 2000 wildfires because of the anticipated increase of noxious weeds due to the loss of canopy coverage, competitive native vegetation, and the increased ground disturbance. Noxious weeds are a problem of the past, present, and future. A shift from timber, shrubs, and bunchgrass vegetation to noxious weeds will cause a decrease in wildlife forage, reduction of species diversity, increased soil erosion, a decline in soil productivity, and a long term increase in overland flow, due to a decrease in surface cover. This analysis will focus on restoring native species and wildlife habitat while reducing runoff and erosion by controlling the spread of existing weeds and preventing the establishment of new weed species.

Public participation will be an integral component of the study process, and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments and assistance from federal, State, County, and local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues, (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth, and (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written scoping comments will be solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list and local newspapers. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by May 31, 2001. Preliminary issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects and relationship of the project to human health risk, water quality, fisheries and native plant communities, wildlife habitat, soil productivity, recreation, scenery, heritage resources, sensitive plants.

Based on the results of scoping and the resource conditions within the project area, alternatives (including a no-action alternative) will be developed for the draft EIS. The draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 2001. The final EIS is anticipated in February 2002.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date that the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

At this early stage, the Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers

notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EIS's 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 have been raised at the draft EIS stage, but that are not raised until the 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, 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 on the draft EIS, so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when they can be meaningfully considered and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may address the adequacy of the draft EIS, 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 in 40 CFR 1503.3, in addressing these points.

Permits/Authorizations: The proposed action will not require any site-specific amendments to the Bitterroot Forest Plan.

Responsible Official: Rodd Richardson, Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest, is the responsible official. In making the decision, the responsible official will consider the comments; responses; disclosure of environmental consequences; and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The responsible official will state the rationale for the chosen alternative in the Record of Decision.

Dated: April 5, 2001.

Rodd Richardson,

Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) will meet on May 3, 2001, at the World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon, Portland, Oregon 97204. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be discussed include, but are not limited to: Soliciting advice regarding the Future Direction of Adaptive Management Areas, sharing information about the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Framework, and illustrating how IAC advice was used in the development of the draft Aquatic Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Plan and the FERC/ACS Short- and Long-Term Questions. The IAC meeting will be open to the public and is fully accessible for people with disabilities. Interpreters are available upon request in advance. Written comments may be submitted for the record at the meeting. Time will also be scheduled for oral public comments. Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Steve Odell, Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, 333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (Phone: 503-808-2166).

Dated: April 14, 2001.

Stephen J. Odell,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 01-9809 Filed 4-19-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section 4 of the Alaska State Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Alaska NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Alaska

that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in practice standard 590, Nutrient Management to account for improved technology. This practice can be used in systems that include additions of organic and non-organic plant nutrients.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before May 21, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chuck Bell, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 800 West Evergreen, Palmer, Alaska, 99645; phone (907) 761-7760; or FAX (907) 761-7790.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you would like to review the Nutrient Management practice standard in view of making comments, contact Chuck Bell at the above address or phone number to receive a copy of the draft standard.

For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standard.

Dated: April 13, 2001.

Chuck Bell,

State Conservationist, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 01-9803 Filed 4-19-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in New Mexico

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Mexico, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in New Mexico for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in New Mexico to issue a series of new conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. These revised standards include: 595-Pest Management, 332-Contour Buffer Strips, and 382-Fence.

The NRCS New Mexico State Conservationist has chosen to revise and supplement the National Standards adapted to the State of New Mexico. These will be incorporated into Section IV of the New Mexico Field Office

Technical Guide (FOTG). Some of these practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land and wetlands. Copies of these standards are available from NRCS in Albuquerque, NM and are also available electronically on the NRCS New Mexico Internet Homepage at: <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/techserv/sec4home.htm>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 on the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to these proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before May 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Inquire in writing to Mr. Rosendo Treviño, State Conservationist, NRCS, 6200 Jefferson NE, Suite 305, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109.

Dated: April 2, 2001

Rosendo Treviño III,

State Conservationist, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions and Deletion

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

ACTION: Additions to and deletion from the procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes from the Procurement List a commodity previously furnished by such agencies.

DATES: EFFECTIVE DATE: May 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick T. Mooney (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 2, 2001 the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (66 F.R. 13041) of proposed additions to and deletion from the Procurement List:

Additions

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4. I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following services are hereby added to the Procurement List:

Services

Administrative Services

U.S. Army Space Command, 1670 N. Newport Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Administrative Services

Health Care Financing Administration, 7500 Security Blvd, Baltimore, Maryland

Janitorial/Custodial

Social Security Building, Lewiston, Idaho

Janitorial/Custodial

FAA Flight Standards District Office, 9191 Plank Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective