

Agency representatives and other interested people are invited to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the EIS process. Two specific time periods are identified for the receipt of formal comments on the analysis. The two comment periods are: (1) During the scoping process, the next 30 days following publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, and (2) during the formal review period of the Draft EIS.

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 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 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 reviewers' position and intentions.

*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts.

*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Circuit, 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 the final environmental impact statement. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft environmental impact statement 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, 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

It is projected the final release of the EIS to be March 4, 2002. The Forest

Supervisor for the Manti-La Sal National forest is the responsible official for the EIS. After considering the comments, responses, and environmental consequences discussed in the Final Environment Impact Statement, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies a decision by this official will be made regarding the proposal. The reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. The Forest Supervisor's office of the Manti-La Sal National Forest is located at 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501, phone: 435-637-2817.

Dated: April 27, 2001.

**Elaine J. Zieroth,**

*Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### I-90 Wilderness Study for the Wenatchee National Forest, Kittitas County, WA

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Title VI of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (also known as the Interstate 90 Land Exchange Act) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to review an area of land comprising approximately 15,000 acres, as generally depicted on an October 1998 map entitled "Alpine Lakes Wilderness Study Area", for its suitability for preservation as wilderness. This study is to be completed no later than three years after the date of enactment of the Act. As directed by section 610 of the Interstate 90 Land Exchange Act, the Forest Service is undertaking the I-90 Wilderness Study in accordance with the process outlined in 40 CFR 1506.8. This process includes development of a legislative environmental impact statement (EIS) to provide a basis for the Secretary's recommendations as to suitability of specific lands for wilderness designation by Congress. This is a non-ground disturbing action that may result in a land management allocation change and Wenatchee National Forest Plan amendment. The agency invites written comments on the scope of this project. In addition, the agency gives notice of this analysis so that interested and affected people are

aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments and suggestions to the Cle Elum Ranger District, Attn: Floyd Rogalski, Project Manager, 803 West 2nd Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Floyd Rogalski, Project Manager, Cle Elum Ranger District 803 West 2nd Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922, (509) 674-4411.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277, 122 Stat. 2681) included special Title VI legislation known as the Interstate 90 Land Exchange Act of 1998. Section 610 of this act provides that:

In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act, if the land exchange directed by this Act is consummated, the area of land comprising approximately 15,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Alpine Lakes Wilderness Study Area," dated October 1998, shall be reviewed by the Secretary of Agriculture as to its suitability for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary shall submit a report and findings to the President, and the President shall submit his recommendation to the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate no later than three years after the date of enactment of this Act.

As a result of the passage of this Act, the Forest Service is undertaking the preparation of a legislative EIS to support the recommendation to be made to Congress in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.8. Enactment of the I-90 Exchange Act occurred with the exchange of deeds between the Forest Service and their partners in the exchange, Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. on December 28, 1999. Accordingly, the EIS and subsequent wilderness recommendations must be presented to Congress no later than December 28, 2002.

The area subject to this study is comprised of Forest Service System lands adjacent to the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness boundary north of the I-90 corridor on the Cle Elum Ranger District. The major issues that have been identified to date include: the impacts on the mineral potential of the lands in the study area; the impacts to existing recreation uses and to existing special use permittees; identification of those lands having the characteristics that would make them valuable as designated wilderness; and the nature and effect of the management restrictions or opportunities that would exist with respect to any lands allocated as wilderness. Based on these and other issues, a range of alternatives will be

developed to serve as the basis for the recommendation to be made to Congress.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, Tribe, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions. This information will be used in preparation of the draft legislative EIS. Public open houses to discuss this study are scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m. at the following locations: Monday, May 7, 2001, Snoqualmie Ranger District, 42404 SE North Bend Way, North Bend, Washington; Tuesday, May 8, 2001, Summit Inn, 603 State Route 906, Snoqualmie Pass, Washington; and Thursday, May 10, 2001, Hal Holms Community Center, 201 N. Ruby, Ellensburg, Washington.

The draft legislative EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is to be available for public review by October 2001. The comment period on the draft legislative EIS will be 60 days from the date the EPA 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 ruling related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft legislative EIS 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 Cor. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft legislative EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final legislative 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 60 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 the final legislative EIS.

To assist the Forest Service is identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft legislative 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 also address the adequacy of the draft legislative 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 at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The final legislative EIS is schedule to be completed by October 2002. The Forest Service will respond to the comments received during the comment period in the final legislative EIS. These comments will be forwarded to the Congressional committee with jurisdiction over the proposal along with the final legislative EIS and study report.

Dated: April 24, 2001.

**Sonny J. O'Neal,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List Additions

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

**ACTION:** Additions to the procurement list.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the Procurement List commodities and a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 4, 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 August 25, 2000, February 16 and March 9, 2001 the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (65 FR 51794, 66 FR 10664 and 14123) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and service and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities and

service 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 commodities and service to the Government.

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

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities and service 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 commodities and service proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodities and service are hereby added to the Procurement List:

#### Commodities

Power Duster  
7045-00-NIB-0164  
7045-00-NIB-0165  
7045-00-NIB-0166  
Wipes, White Board  
7510-01-454-1159

#### Service

Microfilming, Commodities Future Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, Washington, DC.

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

**Patrick T. Mooney,**  
*Director, Pricing and Program Operations.*  
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## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

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

**ACTION:** Proposed Additions to and Deletions from Procurement List.