

additional Plum Creek lands. This document would supplement the September 2000 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and NFHCP for federally protected native fish species on Plum Creek Timber Company lands.

A public meeting will be held from 3–7 p.m. MST on February 6, 2002, at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Headquarters, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, Montana 59901. Comments and participation in the process are solicited.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held from 3–7 p.m. MST on February 6, 2002, at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Headquarters, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, Montana. Written comments from all interested parties must be received on or before February 21, 2002 to be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, materials, and requests for information should be sent to Tim Bodurtha, Plum Creek Scoping Comments, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 780 Creston Hatchery Road, Kalispell, Montana 59901, telephone (406) 758–6882, facsimile (406) 758–6877.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Bodurtha, Kalispell Sub-office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES** above).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), prohibits the “taking” of any threatened or endangered species. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened and endangered wildlife species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are outlined in 50 CFR 17.22.

### Background

On October 24, 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Service issued an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act to Plum Creek Timber Company. The permit authorizes the incidental take of 17 native fish species, as identified in the FEIS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2000), from certain Plum Creek activities on Plum Creek timberlands covering approximately 1.6 million acres in Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Plum Creek is proposing to amend this current NFHCP by adding the grizzly bear to the permit and by extending coverage of the NFHCP to additional Plum Creek lands in

Montana. The NFHCP Project Area lands addressed in the proposed amendment encompass 70,826 acres of timberlands owned and managed by Plum Creek within the range of the grizzly bear. Approximately 38,148 acres are in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem and 32,678 acres in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. In addition, the amendment would extend coverage of the NFHCP to an additional 14,892 acres which was evaluated in the original FEIS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2000). However, coverage was postponed until an amendment to the NFHCP for the addition of grizzly bear was completed.

Of the total acres of Plum Creek lands covered under the NFHCP in Montana (1.4 million acres), the proposed amendment applies to 70,826 acres, or 5.0 percent and portions of the following counties in western Montana—Lincoln, Sanders, Flathead, Lake, Missoula, Powell, and Lewis and Clark. The proposed amendment requests incidental take authorization for take that occurs as a result of the following activities as described in the FEIS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2000)—(1) Commercial forestry and associated activities—Silvicultural activities such as tree planting, site preparation, timber harvest in riparian and upland areas, stand maintenance, prescribed burning, and forest nurseries and seed orchards; Logging road construction and maintenance; Gravel quarrying primarily for logging road construction; (2) Forest fire suppression; (3) Open range cattle grazing; (4) Miscellaneous forest and land product sales; Gravel and landscaping stones; (5) Conservation activities—Habitat enhancement and restoration; Scientific surveys and studies; (6) Special forest use permits—Commercial outfitting; Special recreation permits, such as club activities; Electronic facility sites; (7) Manufacturing of forest products, such as milling activities, lumber mills, plywood mills, and remanufacturing plants.

The proposed amendment to the Plum Creek NFHCP provides for conservation of the threatened grizzly on Plum Creek lands in Montana. It further would extend conservation commitments for the threatened bull trout and four unlisted native salmonids; the redband and westslope cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish, and pygmy whitefish. The proposal to amend the NFHCP would not affect the 30-year term of the permit.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as

amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 4, 2002.

**Elliott Sutta,**

*Regional Director, Region 6, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO–220–01–1020–JA–VEIS]

#### Changes to the Schedule and Scope of Public Scoping Meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatments, Watersheds and Wildlife Habitats on Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Western United States, Including Alaska

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Supplemental Notice to Change to Dates for Public Scoping Meetings and change the scope of the EIS.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the BLM will prepare a national, programmatic EIS and conduct public scoping meetings on BLM’s use of prescribed burning, biological control, cultural practices, mechanical, and chemical treatment of vegetation, including noxious weeds and other invasive species in public lands management. These methods will continue to be integrated into BLM’s efforts to conserve and restore native vegetation, watersheds and wildlife habitats to protect people, sustain natural resources and provide for long-term multiple uses. The EIS addresses public lands administered by BLM in 16 western states, including Alaska. The public may submit comments during the initial scoping period through March 29, 2002.

**DATES:** You may submit written comments through March 29, 2002. The BLM will hold public scoping meetings to focus on human and environmental concerns, identify possible alternatives, and identify significant issues related to the proposed action.

New dates for the postponed Salt Lake City, Utah; Rock Springs, Wyoming; Socorro, New Mexico; and Phoenix, Arizona meetings are as listed in the following schedule:

Date and time	Locations	BLM contact
January 22, 6–9 p.m. ....	BLM Office Conference Room, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, UT .....	Kim Leany (435) 688–3208.
January 23, 5–8 p.m. ....	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources Bldg., 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT.	Verlin Smith (801) 539–4055.
January 24, 2–5 p.m. and 6–9 p.m.	Grand Vista Hotel, 2790 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction, CO .....	Harley Metz (970) 244–3076.
January 29, 4–7 p.m. ....	Miles Community College—Room 106, 2715 Dickinson, Miles City, MT .....	Jody Weil (406) 896–5258.
January 30, 3–6 p.m. ....	Western Wyoming Community College, Room 1003, 2500 College Drive, Rock Springs, WY.	Lance Porter (307) 352–0252.
January 31, 4–7 p.m. ....	Elks Lodge, 604 Coburn Avenue, Worland, WY .....	Janine Terry (307) 347–5194.
February 4, 3–5 p.m. and 6–9 p.m.	Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, 2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, AZ .....	Deborah Stevens (602) 417–9215.
February 5, 5–8 p.m. ....	Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 507 East 4th Street, Alturas, CA .....	Jennifer Purvine (530) 233–7932.
February 11, 5–8 p.m. ....	U.S. Forest Service, Helena National Forest Headquarters, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT (across from airport).	Jody Weil (406) 896–5258.
February 13, 6–9 p.m. ....	Vista Inn, 2645 Airport Way, Boise, ID .....	Barry Rose (208) 373–4014.
February 14, 6–9 p.m. ....	College of Southern Idaho, 315 Falls Ave, Shields Bldg, Room 117, Twin Falls, ID.	Eddie Guerrero (208) 736–2355.
February 19, 4–7 p.m. ....	BLM-Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV .....	JoLynn Worley (775) 861–6515.
February 21, 2–5 p.m. and 6–9 p.m.	Hilton Garden Inn, 3650 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV .....	Mike Brown (775) 753–0200.
February 25, 6–9 p.m. ....	Holiday Inn Express—Neptune Room, 1100 North California, Socorro, NM .....	Margie Onstad (505) 838–1256.
February 26, 5–8 p.m. ....	Holiday Inn Select, 801 Truxton Ave, Bakersfield, CA .....	Stephen Larson (661) 391–6099.
February 28, 6–9 p.m. ....	Valley Library, 12004 East Main, Spokane, WA .....	Kathy Helm (509) 536–1252.
March 4, 6–9 p.m. ....	Days Inn City Center, 1414 SW 6th, Portland, OR .....	Chris Strebeg (503) 952–6003.
March 6, 3–6 p.m. ....	Anchorage Field Office—BLM, 6881 Abbott Loop Road, Anchorage, AK .....	Gene Terland (907) 271–3344.
March 12, 9 a.m.–12 noon	Washington Plaza Hotel—Franklin Room, 10 Thomas Circle, (Massachusetts and 14th Street), Washington, DC.	Sharon Wilson (202) 452–5130.

**ADDRESSES:** For further information, to provide written comments, or to be placed on the mailing list for this EIS, contact Brian Amme, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520–0006; telephone (775) 861–6645. Comments will be available for public inspection at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd.; Reno, Nevada 89502.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish your name and/or address withheld from public review or disclosure, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This national, programmatic EIS will support implementation of the Department of the Interior's cohesive strategy plan for restoring fire-adapted ecosystems. The EIS will also provide a comprehensive cumulative analysis of the variety of vegetation treatments BLM employs for the conservation and restoration of vegetation communities, watersheds and wildlife habitats that are designed to protect people, sustain natural resources and provide for long-term multiple uses (as specified in locally developed land use plans). Conservation

and restoration activities analyzed in this document include prescribed fire, riparian restoration, native plant community restoration, invasive plants and noxious weeds treatments, understory thinning, forest health treatments, or other activities related to restoring fire-adapted ecosystems. The EIS will:

- Consider state-specific, reasonably foreseeable activities, including hazardous fuels reduction treatments.

- Address human health risk assessments for proposed use of new chemicals on public lands.

The EIS is not a land-use plan or a land-use plan amendment. It will provide a comprehensive document to allow effective tiering to the EIS and serve as a baseline cumulative impact assessment for other new, revised or existing land use and activity level plans that involve vegetation, wildlife habitat and watershed treatment, modification or maintenance.

- An updated EIS is necessary for BLM to analyze proposed treatments on more than 6 million acres annually. Treatments will include prescribed and managed natural fire, Integrated Weed Management, hazardous fuels reduction, Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation, and landscape-level restoration initiatives such as Great Basin Restoration Initiative. Current average annual acres of treatment selected in the existing BLM records of decision (RODs) equate to about 500,000 acres for the combined western states.

- The analysis area includes only surface estate public lands administered by 11 BLM state offices: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana (Dakotas), New Mexico (Oklahoma/Texas/Kansas), Nevada, Oregon (Washington), Utah and Wyoming (Nebraska).

- This EIS will consolidate four existing BLM vegetation treatment EISs developed between 1986 and 1992 into one programmatic document for the western United States, including Alaska. The EIS will update information and change to reflect new information and changed conditions on public lands since that time.

The BLM has initially identified the following issues for analysis in this programmatic EIS: hazardous fuels reduction and treatments, including mechanical treatments, treatments benefitting wildlife habitat, restoration of ecological processes (predominately fire), watershed and vegetation community health treatments. It will consider the effects of these treatments on new listings of threatened and endangered species and on other sensitive and special status species, cultural properties and Native American/Alaskan Native subsistence practices. The EIS will also analyze new chemical formulations for herbicides deemed to be more environmentally favorable, smoke management and air quality, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation treatments following wildfire, and the effects of treatments on

vegetation, soils, watershed and water quality.

**Henri Bisson,**

*Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-092-02-1430-EU: GP2-0026; OR 55981 and OR 55502]

**Realty Action; Direct Sale of Public Lands; Oregon**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action—Direct Sale of Public Lands in Lane County, Oregon.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of two small parcels of public land in Lane County, Oregon, for sale using direct sale procedures.

**DATES:** For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments to the Field Manager, South Valley Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, at the address below. Objections will be reviewed by the Eugene District Manager who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In absence of any objections, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

**ADDRESSES:** Detailed information concerning the sale, including the reservations, sale procedures and conditions, rehabilitation plan, planning and environmental documents, is available at the Eugene District Office, PO Box 10226 (2890 Chad Drive), Eugene, Oregon 97440.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steve Madsen, Realty Specialist, Eugene District Office, at (541) 683-6948.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following land is suitable for direct sale under Sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, (43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719), at no less than the appraised fair market value. The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after publication of this notice:

**Willamette Meridian, Oregon**

Parcel OR 55981, appraised fair market value: \$1,100.00

T. 21 S., R. 1 W.

Sec. 31: Lot 38

Containing 0.16 acre.

Parcel OR 55502, appraised fair market value:

\$8,000.00

T. 21 S., R. 2 W.

Sec. 1: Lot 9

Containing 0.45 acre.

The above described lands are hereby segregated from appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not from sale under the above cited statute, for 270 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or until title transfer is completed or the segregation is terminated by publication in the **Federal Register**, whichever occurs first.

These lands are difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and are not suitable for management by another Federal agency. No significant resource values will be affected by this disposal. The sale is consistent with BLM's planning for the land involved and the public interest will be served by the sale.

Purchasers must be U.S. citizens, 18 years of age or older, a state or state instrumentality authorized to hold property, or a corporation authorized to own real estate in the state in which the land is located.

Parcel OR 55981 is being offered to Tony and Sonya Bratton and Parcel OR 55502 is being offered to James L. Bean using the direct sale procedures authorized under 43 CFR 2711.3-3. Direct sale is appropriate since the land, in both cases, has been inadvertently occupied and utilized for many years as portions of residential yards, including buildings. Direct sale will resolve the unauthorized use while preserving the occupants' equity in the property.

The terms, conditions, and reservations applicable to the sale of both parcels are as follows:

1. A right-of-way for ditches and canals will be reserved to the United States under 43 U.S.C. 945.
2. The mineral interests being offered for conveyance have no known mineral value. The acceptance of a direct sale offer will constitute an application for conveyance of the mineral estate in accordance with section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Direct purchasers must submit a non-refundable \$50.00 filing fee for the conveyance of the mineral estate upon request by the Bureau of Land Management.
3. Patent will be issued subject to all valid existing rights and reservations of record.

4. Parcel OR 55502 will not be offered for sale until the purchaser has completed and the Authorized Officer has accepted and approved the restoration of riparian vegetation on public land adjacent to the sale parcel. Restoration of the lands damaged

without authorization will be at the expense of the purchaser and in accordance with the rehabilitation plan developed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: December 26, 2001.

**Steven Calish,**

*Field Manager, South Valley Resource Area.*

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BILLING CODE 4310-33-U

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-092-02-1430-EU: GP02-0002; OR 55429]

**Realty Action; Modified Competitive Sale of Public Lands; Oregon**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of two small parcels of public land in Lane County, Oregon, for sale using modified competitive sale procedures.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following land is suitable for modified competitive sale under sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, (43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719), at no less than the appraised fair market value (FMV). The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after publication of this notice:

**Willamette Meridian, Oregon**

*Parcel A*

T. 21 S., R. 3 W.

Sec. 2: Lot 6

Containing 1.77 acres.

Appraised fair market value: \$6,100.00.

*Parcel B:*

T. 21 S., R. 3 W.

Sec. 2: Lot 9

Containing 1.97 acres.

Appraised fair market value: \$16,600.00.

The above described land is hereby segregated from appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not from sale under the above cited statute, for 270 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or until title transfer is completed or the segregation is terminated by publication in the **Federal Register**, whichever occurs first.

This land is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal agency. No significant resource values will be affected by this