

A range of alternatives will be considered, including a No Action alternative. Other alternatives will be developed in response to issues received during scoping. Preliminary issues that have been identified include the potential effects of structures and developments on—streams and riparian areas, wildlife habitats, and heritage resources.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed revised master plan 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 part 215. 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 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 comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for review in July 2002. The EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period of the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, Tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the management of the Colville National Forest participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes it is important, at this early stage, to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft 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 connections. *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, 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 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 EIS.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed October 2002. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal.

Nora B. Rasure, Forest Supervisor, Colville National Forest is the responsible official. As the responsible official, she will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the record of decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulation (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: March 25, 2002.

Nora B. Rasure,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Section IV of the Maine State NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) located at www.me.nrcs.usda.gov under "Draft Standards for Comments" for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS to issue revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These revised

standards are the following: 317 Composting Facility; 449 Irrigation Water Management; 595 Pest Management; 614 Watering Facility; 560 Access Road; 362 Diversion; 399 Fishpond Management; 512 Pasture and Hay Planting; 521C Pond Sealing or Lining—Bentonite Sealant; 521B Pond Sealing or Lining—Soil Dispersant; 558 Roof Runoff Structure; 633 Waste Utilization; 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before May 13, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Christopher R. Jones, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology/Planning, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite #3; Bangor, Maine 04401.

A copy of this standard is available from the above individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agricultural 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 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.

Dated: March 25, 2002.

Christopher R. Jones,

Assistant State Conservationist for
Technology/Planning.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Addition of Public Review Meetings for the Draft Revised Management Plan for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSPP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Addition of public review meetings.

SUMMARY: The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was Congressionally