

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andy Colaninno, District Ranger, Apalachicola Ranger District, PO Box 579, Bristol, Florida 32321; Jerri Marr, District Ranger, Lake George Ranger District, 17147 Highway 40, Silver Springs, Florida 34488; Jim Thorsen, District Ranger, Seminole Ranger District, 40929 State Road 19, Umatilla, Florida 32784; Will Metz, District Ranger, Osceola Ranger District, PO Box 70, Olustee, Florida 32072.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Prior to 1999, vehicles could travel off roads (cross-country) on the National Forests in Florida except in areas specifically posted closed. The policy of allowing cross-country access contributed to a proliferation of travelways in portions of the Forests. As a result of this situation, vehicle access was addressed in the revision of Land and Resource Management Plan for the National Forests in Florida (Forest Plan).

Upon approval in 1999, the Forest Plan changed access for motorized vehicles in two ways: "cross-country" travel on land with no existing roads or trails is prohibited anywhere in the forests; and restricted areas were established where travel will be limited to designated roads and trails. The Forest Plan provided that a system of roads and trails would be designated in the restricted areas in cooperation with the public and user groups.

In January 2000 a series of public meetings was held near each National Forest in Florida. At these meetings, attendees selected a variety of stakeholder representatives to provide information on access preferences and needs. The group developed a proposed system for consideration by the Forest Service along with a set of guiding principles and designation criteria. The Forest Service began an environmental assessment of the proposed action in 2001. During the assessment, it became evident that an accurate inventory of roads, trails, and travelways was needed in the restricted areas. An inventory using the global positioning system (GPS) began in August 2001 and was completed in April 2002. It also became evident that the proposed action may have a significant effect on the human environment leading to preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The scoping process, as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), will be utilized to involve Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested persons and organizations. Interested persons and organizations wishing to participate in the scoping process should contact the Forest Service at the above mentioned

address. Environmental considerations include potential presence of historical or archeological resources, aesthetics, recreation demand, wetlands, endangered and threatened species, and fish and wildlife habitats and values. 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, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice 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 reviewer's position and contentions. *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 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on 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 statement. Comments may also address the adequacy 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 CEQ for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: May 2, 2002.

Marsha Kearney,

Forest Supervisor, National Forests in Florida.

[FR Doc. 02-11354 Filed 5-7-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Wildland Urban Interface Project; Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Fremont County, ID**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is beginning to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of the Wildland Urban Interface Project in Island Park, ID. Within the project area, different treatment methods would be used to reduce the fire hazard depending upon the forest and fuel conditions. In the young and regenerated noncommercial lodgepole pine stands, trees would be thinned. Fuel reductions in larger diameter stands would be in the form of shaded fuel breaks. The shaded fuel breaks would be located in tactically important areas to provide firefighters an anchor from which to safely fight fire. Proposed fuel breaks would be up to 500 feet wide. These fuel breaks would be created along the interface between National Forest Service land and private property.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected November of 2002 and the final environmental impact statement is expected February 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District, Attn: Jim Cox/Becky Nedrow, Island Park Ranger Station, 3726 Highway 20, Island Park, ID.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Further information and questions concerning this proposed action and EIS contact Jim Cox at (208) 558-7301 or Becky Nedrow at (208) 652-7442. Jim can also be reached at jcox@fs.fed.us. Becky can be reached at bnedrow@fs.fed.us

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine forest types are included in the project area as are some sagebrush/grasslands. The Douglas-fir forest type occurs throughout the Centennial and Henrys Lake Mountains. Within the Douglas-fir type, mature forest makes up 79 percent of the forested areas. Because of the large component of mature Douglas-fir,

severe first are a concern in these areas. The lodgepole pine forest type is primarily in the Island Park Caldera. Large areas of the lodgepole type were clearcut between 1960 and the late 1980's to salvage trees damaged or killed during a mountain pine beetle epidemic.

Purpose and Need for Action

A combination of accumulating fuels and increasing development on private lands along with existing residences under permit on the National Forest (National Forest summer homes) has led to an increase risk to human life and property from wildfire. The purpose of this project is to reduce the threat to human life and private property by reducing or removing the amount of woody material on National Forest System Lands adjacent to these private lands.

Proposed Action

The Ashton/Island Park Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is proposing a hazardous fuels reduction project located in the Island Park area of eastern Idaho. Implementation is expected to start in 2003 and continue through 2005. The project would create fuel breaks along the interface (boundary) between public and private lands (urban interface). These fuel breaks would reduce the risk to private lands from wildfire and provide for greater public and firefighter safety. The project includes only National Forest System Lands adjacent to private land, developed campgrounds, and those summer home areas under special use permit on the National Forest. No private or State land would be treated.

Proposed activities include:

- Thinning of small diameter noncommercial size trees
- Hand piling of thinning and other slash followed by burning
- Public firewood gathering
- Removal of fuels by private contractors
- Commercial timber sales (total volume from the project area is estimated at less than 1 million board feet with only temporary road construction)
- Prescribed burning where it is safe and at minimal risk to private property with appropriate involvement of property owners

Responsible Official

Jerry B. Reese, Forest Supervisory, Caribou-Targhee National Forest is the responsible official for this EIS.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide on whether to implement one of the alternatives for hazardous fuels reduction or defer any action at this time.

Scoping Process

Public scoping will be completed through letters, news releases, and public meetings. The meeting may be held in Idaho Falls or Island Park.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary Issues identified are:

- Public safety
- Effects on visual quality of private property adjacent to National Forest land
- Reduction of wildlife hiding cover
- Risk to private property by burning to remove fuels
- Heritage resources
- Unauthorized structures or personal property on National Forest System lands

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. 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, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice 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 reviewer's position and contentions. *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 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on 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 statement. Comments may also address the adequacy 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 at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: April 18, 2002.

Jerry B. Reese,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

CARMA (Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-Wave Astronomy) Special Use Permit Authorization

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to conduct public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, USDA, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of a Special-Use Permit for a proposed project in the Inyo National Forest to operate an array of radio telescopes (antennas). The proposed project is called CARMA (Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-wave Astronomy).

The proposed CARMA array would combine two existing arrays: 6 antennas currently operated by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) at the existing Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) site, and 9 antennas at Hat Creek in Shasta County, California, operated by the Berkeley-Illinois-Maryland Association (BIMA). BIMA is comprised of the University of California (Berkeley), the University of