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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Payette National Forest, Idaho; Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Comment Period Extension for Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The comment period has been extended for the proposed Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Notice of Availability of the DEIS as published in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2003, (Volume 68, Number 2).

**DATES:** Comments concerning the analysis must be received in writing and postmarked by March 9, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments and suggestions to Forest Supervisor, c/o Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 1026, McCall, Idaho 83638, fax (208) 634-0744.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Dixon, Interdisciplinary Team Leader; or Kimberly Brandel, New Meadows District Ranger at (208) 347-0300.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The comment period ending February 24, 2003, has been extended to March 9, 2003, to provide time for public comment. This DEIS is available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/Payette/main.html>. Substantive comments received during the comment period will receive agency response in the final environmental impact statement.

Dated: February 19, 2003.

**Mark Madrid,**

*Payette Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### EastBridge Allotment Range Analysis; Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Caribou and Bonneville Counties, ID

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Soda Springs Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, will be preparing an Environmental Impact State (EIS) to analyze the effects of authorizing grazing on several cattle allotments. Allotment Management Plans for the: Bridge Creek, Jackknife, Tincup, Stump Creek, and Salt Lick Cattle Allotments will be updated based on the analysis. The project area is located within Caribou and Bonneville counties in Idaho and in Lincoln County, Wyoming.

The Jackknife, Tincup, Stump Creek, and Salt Lick Cattle Allotments are located approximately 35 miles northeast of Soda Springs. They are in Townships 4, 5, and 6 South, Ranges 45 and 46 East. A small part of the Tincup and Stump Creek Allotments are in Wyoming (Townships 33 and 34 North, Range 118 West). The Bridge Creek Allotment is located approximately ten miles west of the Jackknife Allotment in Townships 4 and 5 South, Ranges 43 and 44 East.

The EIS will display the effects of authorizing cattle grazing on these allotments. Public comments will be used to identify issues and possible alternative management options. The purpose and need for this action is to utilize the opportunity to manage existing cattle grazing under updated management direction to move existing resource conditions to desired states within the project area. The EIS will outline standards and guidelines for livestock management, which will be used to revise Allotment Management Plans for each allotment. The EIS and subsequent revision of the Allotment Management Plans will bring these allotments into compliance with Public Law 104 of the Rescissions Act, and other applicable laws and regulations. Based on the environmental analysis in the EIS, the District Ranger will decide whether to authorize domestic livestock grazing under proposed management direction on the project area's suitable

rangelands, and if so, what changes need to be made to the representative Allotment Management Plans in accordance with Forest Plan goals, objectives, and desired future conditions.

**DATES:** Written comments concerning the analysis should be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Soda Springs Ranger District, Attn: David Whittekiend, 421 West 2nd South, Soda Springs, Idaho 83276. The responsible official for this decision is David Whittekiend, District Ranger.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to Victor Bradfield, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 547-4356.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The EIS and subsequent revision of the Allotment Management Plans will bring these allotments into compliance with Public Law 104, and other applicable laws and regulations.

The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS. For most effective use, comments should be submitted to the Forest Service within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

Agency representatives and other interested people are invited to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the EIS process. Two specific times 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 Forest Service estimates the Draft EIS will be filed within 6 months of this Notice of Intent, approximately May 2003. The Final EIS will be filed within 6 months of that date, approximately October 2003.

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