

importer reports; transaction reports; exemption from assessment forms and reimbursement forms; forms and information concerning referenda including ballots; forms and information concerning board nominations and selection and acceptance statements; certification of industry organizations; and recordkeeping requirements. The forms and information covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the programs and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the applicable authorities.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .08 hours per response.

Respondents: Producers, processors, handlers, and/or importers of a variety of agricultural commodities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 321,098.

Estimated Number of Responses: 4,469,027.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 13.9.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: Estimated total annual burden is 350,920 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Whitney A. Rick, Research and Promotion Staff, Cotton Program, AMS, USDA, Stop 0224, Room 2641-S, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0224, or by e-mail at cottoncomments@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

AMS is committed to implementation of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, which provides for the use of information resources to improve

the efficiency and effectiveness of governmental operations, including providing the public with the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the extent possible.

Dated: October 6, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-25619 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Crawford Timber Sale, Malheur National Forest, Grant County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal action to treat forested stands, using harvest methods to decrease tree density, increase representation of fire-adapted tree species, as well as decrease existing and activity fuel levels. The connected actions of log hauling will require constructing new road and temporary road, and maintaining and reconstructing existing road. This proposed action would implement a Road Access Travel Management Plan that would close and decommission roads. The alternatives will include the proposed action, no action, and additional alternatives that respond to issues identified during scoping. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process so interested and affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by November 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Michelle Putz, District Writer Editor, Blue Mountain Ranger District, P.O. Box 909, John Day, Oregon 97845 or on-line at comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur-bluemountain@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Putz, District Writer Editor, Blue Mountain Ranger District. Phone: (541) 575-3000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The alternatives being considered were proposed in the original Crawford Vegetative Management Environmental Assessment (EA). The Decision Notice, which selected Alternative 3 was signed

on April 26, 2002, was appealed and then remanded back to the Forest for further work following appeal; this EIS has been renamed and is intended to address many of the same needs. Some items in the original EA have been removed from the proposed actions in this EIS, including pre-commercial thinning that is outside of the harvest units to decrease small diameter trees, planting hardwoods, conifer removal from hardwood areas and meadows, cutting hardwoods to stimulate reproduction, caging shrubs, fencing to protect hardwoods, and slashing junipers to create barriers to hardwoods. These items will be addressed in other types of environmental documents under the heading of a categorical exclusion. In addition, this document plans to keep 5.4 miles of Forest Road 1940 open to travel (there had been 4.3 miles of Road 1940 planned for closure in previous NEPA documents). The regeneration Salvage Treatment was dropped for wildlife habitat objectives, following interdisciplinary team review.

Purpose and Need for Action. The purposes and needs for action in this project now are: *Move vegetation towards a status more closely resembling historical conditions* while protecting soil productivity and protecting or enhancing water quality and *reduce fuels* to decrease potential fire severity. This project would change the species composition and structure of the vegetation to improve the resiliency of the forested component of the ecosystem. *Existing stand densities are higher than historical stand densities*, and retard growth to the large tree stage, thus there is a *need to increase the number of large trees* across the landscape and *increase the representation of fire tolerate tree species*.

Move toward an efficient, properly located road system that provides adequate public and administrative access, while reducing the risk of sediment reaching streams. Maintain and/or reconstruct remaining roads to limit delivery of sediment into streams and to facilitate harvest activities while improving water quality. To protect water quality and to decrease movement of sediment into streams, unneeded roads causing resource damage need to be decommissioned or closed.

Three previously designated Dedicated Old Growth areas have no Replacement Old Growth (ROG) areas designated; three ROG areas need to be designated. The Malheur National Forest Plan directs the Forest to provide Replacement Old Growth and to complete this process in conjunction with the timber sale planning process.

Capture economic value of material and help achieve a stable economy in the local area.

Proposed Action. The proposal would decrease tree density by harvesting and thinning. Stand treatments include the following harvest methods: shelterwood (167 acres); partial cut (1,343 acres); and commercial thinning (2,568 acres). Treatment would decrease small tree density, reducing competition for nutrients for remaining trees. Timber yarding systems to be utilized are tractor (3,522 acres) and skyline (556 acres). The estimated volume of timber harvested is 11.1 million board feet. Fire and fuel reduction treatments include the following activities: prescribed burning (9,498 acres); fuel reduction (2,130 acres); and burning within harvest units (517 acres). Three new areas for Replacement Old Growth (ROGs) areas to Dedicated Old Growth (DOGs) stands are provided for pileated woodpecker and pine marten.

The Crawford Roads Analysis reviewed a portion of the roads within the analysis area. Roads needed for the proposal would include the following: new construction (12.8 miles), temporary construction (4.6 miles), reconstructed (0.1 miles), maintained (60.9 miles), closed (15.2 miles) and decommissioned (24.5 miles). The Road Analysis concentrated on roads within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) and roads that might be needed for proposed activities, as haul routes. Roads within RHCAs contributing sediment or which potentially could contribute sediment were considered as candidates for decommissioning. No new road construction is proposed within RHCAs. This is permanent, new road construction that remains a part of the transportation system.

Proposed activities would occur in the Crawford Creek, Mill Creek, Phipps Meadow, Dry Fork, Clear Creek, Bridge Creek, Squaw Creek, and Idaho/Summit Creek subwatersheds of the Upper Middle Fork John Day watershed.

Issues. Preliminary issues were identified and include the potential effects of the proposed action on: management indicator species, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, and neotropical migratory birds associated with dense forest habitat; soil compaction; increase sediment movement into streams; reduce water quality; and continued vehicle access in the area.

Alternatives. A full range of alternatives will be considered including a "No Action" alternative in which none of the activities proposed above would be implemented. Based on

the issues gathered through scoping, the action alternatives could differ in the silvicultural and post-harvest treatments prescribed, the amount and location of harvest, or the amount and location of fuels reduction activity.

Scoping Process. The public will have an opportunity to participate at several points during the analysis including the scoping period after publication of the Notice of Intent, and the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. Notification of these opportunities will also appear in subsequent issues of the Malheur National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Activities; letters to agencies, organizations, and individuals who have previously indicated their interest in such activities; and in the Blue Mountain Eagle. Public meetings may be scheduled during the winter of 2003/2004 and the spring of 2004. The scoping process will include identifying potential issues, identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth, eliminating non-significant issues, considering additional alternatives based on themes which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities, and identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).

Comments. Public comments about this proposal are requested in order to assist in properly scoping issues, to determine how to best manage the resources, and to fully analyze environmental effects. Comments received to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217. 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 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 will be filed with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by May 2004. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date EPA publishes the notice of availability of the draft in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS will be released in September 2004.

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 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 contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (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 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft 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.

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. The Forest Service is the lead agency. The Responsible Official is the Forest Supervisor for the Malheur National Forest. The Responsible Official will decide where and whether or not to implement the proposed projects and will document the Crawford Timber Sale and Thinning decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject

to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: September 30, 2003.

Roger W. Williams,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-25584 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas, and West Oklahoma Amendment of Land and Resource Management Plans in the Southwestern Region

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation notice.

SUMMARY: On August 7, 2001, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement to amend National Forest land and resource management plans in the Southwestern Region to modify standards and guidelines for Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk within wildland-urban interface areas and to emphasize the management of wildland-urban interface areas throughout the southwest was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 41198-41200). This 2001 NOI is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Gaulke, Regional Environmental Coordinator, USDA Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office, 333 Broadway Blvd., SE., Albuquerque, NM 87102-3498, telephone (505) 842-3256.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The need to amend forest plans to modify standards and guidelines for Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk within wildland-urban interface areas varied throughout the forests and grasslands of the Southwestern Region. As such, a region wide amendment of all forest plans was not deemed necessary. Those forest that have a need to their respective plans may do so on a case-by-case basis. As the forests of the Southwestern Region begin the Forest Plan revision process in Fiscal Year 2004, they can address this need in context with other resource and social issues.

Dated: September 29, 2003.

Lucia M. Turner,
Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 03-25565 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting

SUMMARY: The Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Willows, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Brochure for Glenn/Colusa, (5) Ski-High Project/Possible Action, (6) How to Solicit Projects, (7) Bear Wallow Trail, (8) Status of Members, (9) General Discussion, (10) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on October 27, 2003, from 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, P.O. Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by October 22, 2003, will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: October 2, 2003.

James F. Giachino,
Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 03-25570 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee; Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho Falls, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Caribou-Targhee National Forests' Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, November 12, 2003 in Idaho Falls for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The business meeting will be held on November 12, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Headquarters Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Reese, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 524-7500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on November 12, 2003, begins at 10 a.m., at the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Headquarters Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Agenda topics will include looking at funding for this upcoming year, briefed on project status from last year's approved projects, and welcoming new members.

Dated: October 2, 2003.

Jerry B. Reese,
Caribou-Targhee Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-25587 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

APPALACHIAN STATES LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMMISSION

Annual Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., October 28, 2003.

PLACE: Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

STATUS: Most of the meeting will be open to the public. If there is a need for an executive session (closed to the public), it will be held at about 9:30 a.m.

Matters To Be Considered

PORTIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: The primary purpose of this meeting is to (1) Review the independent auditors' report of Commission's financial statements for fiscal year 2002-2003; (2) Review the Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) generation information for 2002; (3) Consider a proposal budget for fiscal year 2004-2005; (4) Review recent national developments regarding LLRW