

poultry for purposes of this demonstration project.

The demonstration project will be limited to bulk pack chicken, chicken parts, and bulk pack turkey because the processing of such items can be readily evaluated. The definition of substitution in 7 CFR 250.3 requires the replacement of commercial product for donated food to be of the same generic identity and equal or better quality. With bulk pack chicken, chicken parts, and bulk pack turkey these requirements can be met easily and quickly. Bulk pack turkey was added to the original demonstration project that allowed for the substitution of bulk pack chicken and bulk pack chicken parts because USDA graders can easily determine if commercial turkey meets or exceeds the specifications for donated turkey.

FNS is inviting interested poultry processors to submit written proposals to participate in the demonstration project. The following basic requirements will apply to the demonstration project:

- As with the processing of donated poultry into end products, AMS graders must monitor the processing of any substituted commercial poultry to ensure program integrity is maintained.

- Only bulk pack chicken, chicken parts, and bulk pack turkey delivered by USDA vendors to the processor will be eligible for substitution. No backhauled product will be eligible. (Backhauled product is typically cut-up frozen poultry parts delivered to schools which may be turned over to processors for further processing at a later time.)

- Substitution of commercial poultry may occur in advance of the actual receipt of the donated poultry by the processor. However, no substitution may occur before the product is purchased by USDA and the contract is awarded. Lead time between the purchase and delivery of donated poultry may be up to five weeks. Any variation between the amount of commercial poultry substituted and the amount of donated poultry received by the processor will be adjusted according to guidelines furnished by USDA.

- Any donated poultry not used in end products because of substitution must only be used by the processor at one of its facilities in other commercial processed products and cannot be sold as an intact unit. However, in lieu of processing the donated poultry, the processor may use the product to fulfill other contracts with USDA provided all terms of the other contract are met.

- The only regulatory provision or State processing contract term affected by the demonstration project is the prohibition on substitution of poultry

(section 250.30(f)(1)(i) of the regulations). All other regulatory and contract requirements remain unchanged and must still be met by processors participating in the demonstration project.

The continuation of the demonstration project will allow FNS to complete the rulemaking process while the demonstration program continues to operate. This provides continuity of operations for both recipients and processors who are currently participating in the demonstration project.

Interested processors should submit a written proposal to FNS outlining how they plan to carry out the substitution while complying with the above conditions. Processors who are currently participating in the demonstration should apply to continue in the demonstration. The proposal must contain (1) a step-by-step description of how production will be monitored and (2) a complete description of the records that will be maintained for (a) the commercial poultry substituted for the donated poultry (b) the disposition of the donated poultry delivered. All proposals will be reviewed by representatives of the Food Distribution Division of FNS and by representatives of AMS Poultry Division's Grading Branch. Companies approved for participation in the demonstration project will be required to enter into an agreement with FNS and AMS which authorizes the processor to substitute commercial bulk pack chicken, chicken parts, and bulk pack turkey in fulfilling any current or future State processing contracts during the demonstration project period. Participation in the demonstration project will not ensure the processor will receive any State processing contracts.

Dated: March 6, 2002.

George Braley,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

P—Pine Project, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Panhandle National Forest is proposing vegetation rehabilitation in the Deerfoot Ridge and Two Mile watersheds, identified as the Ponderosa Pine Restoration Area. The Deerfoot Ridge watershed area is located east of Hayden Lake, Idaho in Kootenai County, and Two-Mile watershed area is located north of Silverton, Idaho in Shoshone County. Only dry-site ecosystems within the watersheds are proposed for rehabilitation at this time. The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the potential environmental effects of implementing vegetative restoration activities under the project area.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before April 26, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposal, or requests to be placed on the project mailing list, to Sarah Jerome, Project Team Leader, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, 2502 E. Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Jerome, Project Team Leader, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, (208) 664-2318.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose and need for this project is derived from the National Fire Plan, the Upper Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project, and the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Geographic Assessment. Each of these provide documentation of the currently dense, fire-prone state of dry-site ecosystems across the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and in the Coeur d'Alene Basin, and the marked change these ecosystems have undergone over the past century. Site-specific information indicates that these same conditions are occurring on the stand level in the Deerfoot Ridge and Two Mile Watersheds. Objectives are to: (1) Restore historical conditions in ponderosa pine stands based on the fire ecology of these forest types; (2) trend vegetative species composition toward seral species more resistant to insects and disease; reduce the incidence of noxious weeds; (3) reduce the risk of wildfire in the urban interface, coordinate with state and local entities for urban/interface fuels management; maintain visual quality over the long-term; (4) reduce the overall risk of high-intensity, stand-replacing fires; and (5) reduce fragmentation and improve wildlife habitat.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will

be the “no action” alternative, under which there would be no change from current management of the area. Additional alternatives will represent a range of strategies to manage natural resources in the area. The Idaho Panhandle National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan provides guidance for management objectives within the potentially affected area through its goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and management area direction. Inland Native Fish Strategy guidelines (USDA Forest Service, 1995) supersede Forest Plan guidelines established for riparian areas.

The public was first notified of this proposal and the intention to prepare an environmental impact statement in February 2002. Comments provided by the public and other agencies will be used to develop strategies for management of natural resources in the project area. The public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service is also seeking information, comments, and assistance from federal, state and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in October 2002. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft environmental impact statement in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes 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 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 45-day scoping 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 regarding 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 environmental impact 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 Regulation for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, 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; however, those who submit anonymous comments may 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.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, 2502 E. Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.

Dated: March 4, 2002.

Joseph P. Stringer,
District Ranger.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee (RAC); Meetings

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on April 4-5, 2002 in John Day, Oregon; May 30-31 in Baker City, Oregon; and June 14 in Pendleton, Oregon. The purpose of the meetings is to meet as a Committee to review and recommend the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the “Payments to States” Act.

DATES: The meetings will be held as follows: April 4, 2002, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., John Day, Oregon; April 5, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., John Day, Oregon; May 30, 2002, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Baker City, Oregon; May 31, 2002, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Baker City, Oregon; See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for one additional meeting date.

ADDRESSES: The April 4-5, 2002 meetings will be held in Juniper Hall, at the Malheur National Forest Headquarters Office located at 431 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day, Oregon. The May 30-31, 2002 meetings will be held in the conference room at the Baker Ranger District office located at 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon. See Supplementary Information section for the location of one additional meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie Wood, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Malheur National Forest, PO Box 909, John Day, Oregon 97845. Phone: (541) 575-3100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the April 4-5, 2002 meeting the committee will determine the overhead rate for projects and then will review and recommend Fiscal Year 2002 project proposals for funding under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. A public input opportunity will be provided at 11:15 a.m. on April 4, and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time. At the May 30-31, 2002 meeting the committee will determine if they wish to change their review process and will then review and recommend Fiscal Year 2003 project