

conditions projected in the forest plans would not be substantially changed by continuation of PACFISH until the EISs area completed. *Finally*, we note that the certain salmon and other ESA listed species remain imperiled. PACFISH was undertaken to ensure the Bureau of Land and Forest Service would do no harm to the salmon while continuing to manage the national forests for multiple use resources. This objective remains unchanged. Thus, the situation with regard to the NFMA significance remains largely the same as it was at the time of the original analysis and decision.

PACFISH amended Regional Guides and forest plans to provide interim protection for anadromous salmonid species pending the completion of a EISs for longer-term direction. As an interim measure PACFISH will continue to ensure that the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service do not foreclose multiple use management options while the longer-term strategy is being developed. The significance of these measures to sustain multiple use management were thoroughly analyzed in the original PACFISH EA and Decision Notice/Decision Record. The continuation of PACFISH as direction intended to remain in place pending completion of the longer-term strategy does not alter the conclusions reached in the original analysis of NFMA significance.

Dated: September 4, 1996.

Robert W. Williams,
Regional Forester.

Dated: September 5, 1996.

Elaine Y. Zielinski,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 96-23178 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M; 4310-84-M

**Rocky Mountain Region;
Environmental Impact Statement for
Sheep Flats Diversity Unit Timber
Sales, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and
Gunnison National Forests, Mesa
County, Colorado**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revision of a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: The responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Mr. Robert Storch, Forest Supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, Colorado 81416.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement about four (4) proposed timber sales: Valley View, Sheep Flats, Grove Creek, and Leon. These sales are located in the Sheep Flats Diversity Unit on the Grand Mesa National Forest, Collbran Ranger District.

DATES: Publication of Draft EIS: November 1996; Final EIS: August 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Pam Bode, Team Leader, USDA Forest Service, 216 North Colorado Street, Gunnison, CO, 81230. Contact Pam

Bode also for further information. Phone: 970-641-0471. FAX: 970-641-1928.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Supervisor will use this Environmental Impact Statement to decide how to manage the timber resource within the Sheep Flats Diversity Unit. The Forest Service is proposing to harvest four timber sales on this National Forest system land. Even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural systems are being planned in Engelmann spruce, sub-alpine fir, and aspen stands. These sales are scheduled to be offered within a five to ten year period after this analysis.

Initial scoping of interested parties identified three preliminary issues. These are: (1) Constructing roads and harvesting timber within an area that was identified as the Salt Creek Roadless Area during the 1979 RARE II process, (2) harvesting old growth timber, and (3) cumulative impacts on ecosystems from logging operations in and around the sale areas.

Five alternatives will be studied in this analysis. Alternative 1 is no action. Alternatives 2 and 4 harvest suitable timber but do not enter the Salt Creek Roadless Area. Alternative 2 creates a balance of structural stages and accommodates wildlife travel corridors. Alternative 4 maximizes the amount of wood fiber removed. Alternatives 3 and 5 harvest suitable timber throughout the Diversity Unit, including within the Salt Creek Roadless Area. Alternative 3 creates a balance of structural stages and accommodates wildlife travel corridors. Alternative 5 maximizes the amount of wood fiber removed. The proposed action is Alternative 3.

Alternative	Acres planned for harvest		Volume in board feet	Number of sales
	Total acres	RARE II acres		
1	0	0	0	0
2	707	0	2,456,000	1
3	2,666	1959	11,505,000	4
4	914	0	3,387,000	1
5	3,647	2733	15,630,000	4

This notice is a renotification of the Forest Service's intent to study these timber sales within the Sheep Flats Diversity Unit. A previous notice of intent was published in the Federal Register Volume 57, #31, on 2/14/92. A previous notice of availability of the draft EIS was published in Volume 59, #5, on 1/7/94. This notice provides new dates for completions of the revised draft and the final Environmental Impact Statements. The alternatives that are being studied have changed

substantially from the previous document.

Since this is a renotification, news releases have already been issued and a public meeting has already taken place in March, 1992. Field tours to the proposed area have already been conducted with concerned parties. Additional news releases have been issued explaining the new timeline for this analysis. Parties that expressed interest previously have been informed individually by mail that this analysis is continuing. No additional public

meetings are planned, however, the Forest Service is willing to consider any party's request for additional field tours or public meetings.

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 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. 1980) 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 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 statements. 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.

Dated: August 8, 1996.

Robert L. Storch,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-23207 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on September 26, 1996 in the Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters office, Wenatchee Conference Room, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue

until 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered will include agency updates, Northwest Forest Plan implementation, and management of streamside riparian areas under the Northwest Forest Plan. All Eastern Washington Cascades Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. 98807, 509-662-4335.

Dated: September 4, 1996.

Paul Hart,

Designated Federal Official, Wenatchee National Forest.

[FR Doc. 96-23103 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

Boundary Extension, Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of boundary extension.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture has extended the boundary of the Ouachita National Forest to include 425.54 acres, more or less, in Le Flore County, Oklahoma, which were recently acquired through exchange. A copy of the Secretary's establishment document which includes the legal description of the lands within the extension appears at the end of this notice.

DATES: The effective date of this boundary extension was August 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the map showing the boundary extension is on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of Lands, Auditor's Building, 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

J. Kenneth Myers, Lands Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090, telephone: (202) 205-1248.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the authority under Section 20(d), Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation and Wilderness Act of October 18, 1988 (16 U.S.C. 460), the Secretary of Agriculture has extended the boundary of the Ouachita National Forest. The Act provided authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire by purchase, exchange, donation, or otherwise, any right, title, and interest in lands in Le Flore County, Oklahoma, which are outside the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest. This Act also provided that the Secretary would

extend the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest to include such lands.

Dated: September 3, 1996.

Larry O. Gadt,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief.

Ouachita National Forest boundary Extension

Pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's authority under Section 20(d), P.L. 100-499 (102 Stat. 2491) the Ouachita National Forest boundary is hereby extended to include the following lands.

Le Flore County, Oklahoma, Indian Meridian

T.4 N., R. 27 E.

Section 5: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 7: The East Twenty Acres and the Southwest Eight and $\frac{49}{100}$ acres of Lot One, Lot Two, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$

The areas described an aggregate 425.54 acres more or less.

As provided by P.L. 100-499, the lands described shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat. 961) and in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations generally applicable to units of the National Forest System.

Dated: August 22, 1996.

Brian Eliot Burke,

Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment.

[FR Doc. 96-23225 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Addition of Lands to the White Mountain Purchase Unit

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Addition of Lands to White Mountain Purchase Unit.

SUMMARY: On March 17, 1996, the Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment added lands to the White Mountain Purchase Unit. These additional lands comprise 455.3 acres, more or less, within Coos County, New Hampshire. A copy of the establishment document which includes the legal description of the lands within the addition appears at the end of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of this addition was March 17, 1996.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the map showing the addition is on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of Lands, Forest Service, Auditor's Building, 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: