

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). Secondly, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the FEIS 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. 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 objects are made available to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management at a time when they can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS 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 DEIS 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.)

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in preparing the FEIS. The FEIS is expected to be filed in July 1998.

Dated: October 6, 1997.

**Tom Clifford,**

*Forest Supervisor, Helena National Forest.*

Dated: September 29, 1997.

**James R. Owings,**

*Butte District Manager, Bureau of Land management.*

[FR Doc. 97-27542 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Squirrel Meadows-Grand Targhee Resort Land Exchange; Targhee National Forest, Teton County, Wyoming**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposed land exchange with Booth Creek, Inc., dba Grand Targhee Resort.

In this proposed exchange the Targhee National Forest would trade parcels of National Forest System Lands totaling about 265 acres to Booth Creek, Inc., for a private parcel totaling approximately 330 acres. The National Forest System lands to be conveyed are located at the base of the Grand Targhee Resort, 7 miles east of Alta, Wyoming. The lands to be acquired are located at Squirrel Meadows, 26 miles east of Ashton, Idaho.

Values of the parcels will be appraised following a process stipulated for Federal land adjustments. In order for the exchange to take place, the appraised values of the lands must be equal. Differences in appraised values may be made up by reducing the acreage of National Forest System lands offered for exchange, or by including a cash payment. The cash value may not exceed 25 percent of the appraised value of the Federal lands to be conveyed.

**DATES:** Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this notice should be received on or before December 1, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Teton Basin Ranger District, Attn: Jack Haddox, PO Box 777, Driggs, ID 83422. The responsible official for this decision is Robert W. Ross, Jr., Director, Recreation and Lands, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to Patty Bates, Teton Basin District Ranger, Targhee National Forest, phone: (208) 354-2312.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Targhee National Forest is proposing to exchange up to 265 acres of National Forest System lands within the Grand Targhee Resort permit area for 330 acres of private land at Squirrel Meadows.

The final acreage will be decided through an appraisal process pursuant to the Uniform Federal Appraisal Standards for land adjustments. Values must be equal in order for the exchange to proceed. If it becomes necessary to equalize values the National Forest System acreage may be reduced from the proposed 265 acres. In the event the values cannot be equalized by the adjustment a cash equalization payment of up to 25 percent of the appraised value of the Federal lands may be made by either party.

The decision to be made is whether to proceed with the exchange as proposed; modify the exchange; or withdraw from the exchange. Public scoping will be completed through letters, news releases and public meetings. Dates have not yet been set.

Preliminary issues identified are:

(1) Impacts from potential development of the exchanged lands at Grand Targhee on the base area and in Teton Valley, Idaho.

(2) Impacts on wildlife in the area of Grand Targhee from potential development and increased use of the area in general.

(3) Impacts on the Jedediah Smith Wilderness from the potential increased use and development of the grand Targhee area.

(4) Creation of a private inholding within the boundary of the Targhee National Forest.

(5) The effects on grizzly bears (listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act) and other threatened, endangered and sensitive species from the potential development of the exchanged lands and potential development of the lands if they are not exchanged.

Other issues may be identified during the scoping period. Written suggestions and comments are invited on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used in the preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS. For most effective use, comments should be submitted to the Forest Service within 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service is the lead agency. The Forest Service estimates the draft EIS will be filed in May, 1998, and the final EIS will be filed in December, 1998.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability appears 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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be revised 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 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 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 Regulations 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 will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 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 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 15 days.

Dated: October 9, 1997.

**Jack A. Blackwell,**

*Deputy Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-27569 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Use of Certified Forage To Prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds on National Forest System Lands in Montana

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice: adoption of final policy.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Forester for the Northern Region of the Forest Service has adopted a final policy which prohibits the use of hay, grain, straw, cubes or pelletized feed on National Forest System lands in Montana unless it is certified as free of noxious weeds or noxious weed seeds. This requirement will affect such users as recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers operating under Forest Service grazing permits, outfitters and guides operating under Forest Service permits, and contractors who use straw or hay for reseeding or erosion control purposes on National Forest System-administered lands in Montana. This proposal has been developed in coordination with the State of Montana and Bureau of Land Management Montana State Office, which is publishing a similar decision in a separate notice in this same part of today's **Federal Register**. The intended effect is to coordinate prevention of the spread of undesirable weeds on federal lands in Montana.

**DATES:** Effective immediately.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

James Olivarez, Forest and Rangeland Staff, Northern Region, Forest Service, (406) 329-3621.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50, the Regional Forester is issuing orders to close or restrict uses on National Forest System lands. As adopted, this requirement to close National Forest System lands to users who do not use a certified weed-free forage or similar products results in a

standard closure order applicable to all National Forest System lands in Montana. The Northern Regional Forester has been implementing a similar policy on a forest-by-forest basis in Montana since 1989. The Montana State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is adopting a similar standard requirement for all public lands under its jurisdiction. The BLM decision appears in a separate notice in this part of today's **Federal Register**.

### Response to Public Comments

There was one written comment received. It was in support of this policy implementation via a closure order.

The text of the Special Closure Order shall be published in newspapers across the State of Montana, as well as direct notification by mail of interested and effected groups and individuals.

Dated: October 9, 1997.

**Hal Salwasser,**

*Regional Forester.*

[FR Doc. 97-27574 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## U.S. ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

### Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will hold its 49th Meeting in Arlington, VA on November 3 and 4, 1997. On Monday, November 3, the Commission will conduct an invitation only program review. This review will concentrate on three topics:

- (1) Global Change in the Arctic.
- (2) Arctic Native Environmental Health Issues.
- (3) Petroleum Exploitation in the Arctic.

On Tuesday, November 4 the Commission will hold a Business Session. Agenda items include:

- (1) Call to order and approval of the Agenda.
- (2) Approval of the minutes of the 48th Meeting.
- (3) Reports of Congressional Liaisons.
- (4) Agency Reports.

Any person planning to attend the Tuesday meeting who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters must inform the Commission in advance of those needs.

Contact Person for More Information: Dr. Garrett W. Brass, Executive Director,