

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-077N]

Availability of Survey Results From a Nutritional Analysis of Meat and Poultry Products

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of results from the "Nutritional Analysis of Meat and Poultry Products," a survey conducted to determine the accuracy of the nutrition labeling of meat and poultry products. The products, which were statistically representative of nationally available products under the mandatory nutrition labeling program, were analyzed under contract for specific nutrients. The survey found that approximately 92 percent of all tested nutrients had values consistent with labeling claims.

ADDRESSES: Submit written requests for single copies of the summary or the full report to the FSIS Docket Room, Docket #97-077N, Attn: Ms. Diane Moore, Room 102, Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 6, 1993, FSIS published a final rule entitled "Nutrition Labeling of Meat and Poultry Products" (58 FR 632) with corrections on August 18, 1993, (58 FR 43787) and technical amendments on September 10, 1993, (58 FR 47624). The final rule permits voluntary nutrition labeling on single-ingredient, raw meat and poultry products and establishes mandatory nutrition labeling

for all other meat and poultry products, with certain exemptions.

In 1996, Covance (formerly Corning Hazelton) Laboratories was awarded a contract to analyze samples of meat and poultry products for specified nutrients in order to provide an overall assessment of the accuracy of nutrition labeling. The survey was conducted as part of FSIS' effort to verify that nutrition information, which is provided by food manufacturers, is accurate and consistent with the Agency's regulatory requirements. In addition, the survey responds to the General Accounting Office (GAO) recommendation that FSIS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) develop a coordinated strategy to evaluate the overall effectiveness of Federal food labeling regulations.

Three hundred products were analyzed in the survey. The sampling design was developed using A.C. Nielsen's Scantrack Tapes. Covance analyzed all samples for protein, total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, moisture, and ash. Calories, calories from fat, and carbohydrate values were calculated for all products. Covance also analyzed products with label nutrient values greater than 6 percent of the Daily Value for fiber, vitamins A and C, calcium, and iron.

FSIS evaluated the data to determine whether the label values were within the regulatory specifications for compliance, and 92 percent were consistent with labeling values. These results are comparable to those obtained by FDA in a similar study conducted in December 1996.

Done in Washington, DC, on: December 16, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-63 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Whiskey Campo Resource Management Project, Boise National Forest, Elmore County, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Mountain Home Ranger District of the Boise National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a resource management project in the Whiskey Campo project area, located approximately 5 miles west of Featherville, Idaho, in the middle to upper elevation of the Trinity Creek watershed. The project area encompasses about 12,870 acres of National Forest System land. Approximately 5,550 acres of the project area are located within the Whiskey Jack Inventoried Roadless Area (RARE No. 02009) and about 900 acres of the project area are located within the Rainbow Inventoried Roadless Area (RARE No. 02008). Access is via Forest Development Road (FDR) 172. The project area is located about 130 road miles east of Boise, Idaho.

The agency invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. The agency also hereby gives notice of the environmental analysis and decisionmaking process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

Proposed Action

Timber Stand Management Activities—Approximately 2,000 acres of forested land would be commercially thinned and underburned with low severity prescribed fire. Some salvage harvest of large diameter, beetle-infested Douglas-fir would occur in these stands. On approximately 5,000 acres of forested land, bark beetle infested and severely dwarf mistletoe infected trees would be salvage harvested.

Helicopter yarding would be done on approximately 6,000 acres. Skyline yarding would be done on approximately 200 acres. A combination of tractor and offroad jammer (excavator) yarding would be done on approximately 800 acres.

Approximately 2 miles of road would be constructed to access timber stands proposed for treatment. The newly constructed roads would be closed to all motorized use and revegetated following the project. Two helicopter landings would be constructed and revegetated. Six existing helicopter landings would be used and revegetated.

Aspen Stand Rejuvenation—On approximately 400 acres of aspen stands dispersed throughout the project area, prescribed fire and/or harvest of invading conifer trees would be used to rejuvenate decadent stands or maintain vigorous, young stands. These activities would promote regeneration of aspen suckers and saplings and prevent conversion to conifer stands.

Elk Habitat Improvement—Approximately 7 miles of the roads in the Spring Creek drainage would be obliterated and/or closed to all motorized vehicles with earthen barricades. Such closures would bring the elk habitat effectiveness of the Spring Creek drainage into compliance with the Forest Plan.

Fish Habitat Improvements—Five existing culverts currently posing a barrier to upstream fish passage would be replaced with bottomless culverts or other suitable structures to allow fish passage upstream. Bottomless culverts provide for slower water velocity and more pools, which facilitate upstream fish passage.

Approximately 13.7 miles of FDR 172 would be graveled. Graveling of the road surface would help retain the fine sediment particles on the road surface.

Travel Safety Modifications to FDR 172—Approximately 25 "blind" curves and narrow road sections would be modified to improve sight distance and provide sufficient safe passing opportunities.

Preliminary Issues

The potential development of the Whiskey Jack and Rainbow Inventoried Roadless Areas is an anticipated concern. Under the Proposed Action, approximately 1.9 miles of road construction, 150 acres of ground-based yarding methods, and 1,750 of helicopter yarding would occur in the Whiskey Jack IRA. Approximately 250 acres of helicopter yarding would occur in the Rainbow IRA.

The effects of road construction and timber stand management activities on wildlife and fisheries are also anticipated concerns. Trinity Creek is designated a high priority watershed (Forest Plan—Inland Native Fish Strategy) because of its potential bull trout habitat. Habitat for some threatened, endangered or sensitive

species exists in the project area. Proposed activities have the potential to have both beneficial and adverse effects to wildlife and fisheries habitat.

Possible Alternative to the Proposed Action

One alternative to the Proposed Action has been identified. It is the No Action Alternative. Other alternatives may be developed as issues are raised and information is received.

Decisions To Be Made

The Boise National Forest Supervisor will decide whether or not to implement the project. If the project is to be implemented, the Forest Supervisor will decide which activities to include in the project, when the project should occur, and what mitigation and monitoring is needed to ensure the project is environmentally acceptable.

Schedule

Draft EIS, May 1998. Final, July 1998.

Public Involvement

Scoping is being initiated with this notice, a legal notice in the Idaho Statesman, and a letter to individuals, groups, organizations, and agencies who have expressed an interest in this type of project. Comments received from these public involvement efforts will be incorporated into the analysis process.

Comments

Written comments concerning the proposed project and analysis are encouraged and should be postmarked within 30 days following publication of this announcement in the **Federal Register**. Comments received in response to this notice will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. Mail comments to Frank Marsh, Mountain Home Ranger District, 2180 American Legion Boulevard, Mountain Home, ID 83647; telephone 208-587-7961 or 208-373-4310. Further information can be obtained at the same location.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice 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 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, 553 (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, 1002 (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 for those interested in this Proposed Action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so 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 statement. 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. Comments received on the draft EIS will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

Responsible Official

David D. Rittenhouse, Forest Supervisor, Boise National Forest, 1249 South Vinnell Way, Suite 200, Boise, ID 83709.

Dated: December 22, 1997.

David D. Rittenhouse,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-039 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

National Park Service

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor; Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 552b of Title 5, United States Code, that a meeting of the Blackstone River Valley National