

affected by the decision. The analysis process will include:

1. Identification of the issues to be addressed.
2. Identification of the issues to be analyzed in detail.
3. Elimination of non-significant issues, issues addressed by previous environmental analyses, and issues not within the scope of this decision.

Public Involvement

Public scoping describing the Green Ridge Mountain Pine Beetle Analysis Area was initiated on July 31, 2002. Comments from scoping efforts will be reviewed to identify potential issues for this analysis. While comments are welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** will be most useful for the identification of issues and the analysis of alternatives. As previously mentioned, comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to tdelay@fs.fed.us. Written comments may be mailed to the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District, PO Box 249, Saratoga, WY 82331, Attention: Terry DeLay. Please reference the *Green Ridge Mountain Pine Beetle Analysis EIS* on the subject line. The name and mailing address of the commenter should be provided with their comments so that future documents pertaining to this environmental analysis and the decision can be provided to interested parties.

Preliminary Issues

The following potential issues and concerns were identified through internal scoping:

- (1) Beetle treatments within an inventoried roadless area,
- (2) beetle spread from National Forest to adjacent private lands,
- (3) cumulative impacts of past and proposed treatments, and
- (4) the **Federal Register** listed the town of Rand, Colorado, as one of the communities nationwide that are at risk from wildfire(s).

Release of Names

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 ten (10) days.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Action publishes the notices 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 during the draft environmental impact statement stage, but 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 related to 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 document. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental

impact statement or the merits of the alternatives displayed in the document. Reviewers should refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1503.3 for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act for addressing these points.

Dated: August 2, 2002.

Rick D. Cables,

Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 02-21452 Filed 8-21-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho; Upper and Lower East Fork Allotment Management Plan Analysis

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) for the Upper and Lower East Fork Allotments. The proposed action in the EIS is to authorize grazing through revised allotment management plans (AMPs) for the Upper East Fork Allotment and the Lower East Fork Allotment by reducing the stocking rate and reducing the area of the two allotments. The EIS will analyze the effects of the proposed action and alternatives. The agency gives notice of the full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decision making process on the proposal so interested and affected members of the public may participate and contribute to the final decision. The Sawtooth National Forest invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis and the issues to address.

DATES: Written comments concerning the proposed project should be postmarked within 30 days from the day after publication of this announcement in the **Federal Register**. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses to those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available to public inspection. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be available for public review and comment in January, 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected to be available September, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Lisa Stoeffler, Deputy Area Ranger at

Stanley Ranger Station; HC 64, Box 9900; Stanley, Idaho, 83278. Faxes should be sent to 208-774-3003 and e-mails to lstoeffler@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed project and scope of analysis should be directed to Seth Phalen, Team Leader, at the above address, or phone at (202) 774-3000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The analysis area is located in the White Cloud Mountain range in Custer County, south of Clayton, ID and is administered by the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) of the Sawtooth National Forest. The two allotments are located in portions of Townships 7 and 8 North and Ranges 15, 16, and 17 East, Boise Meridian. The proposed action will be in compliance with Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan of 1987), as amended, which provides overall guidance for management of this area and Public Law 92-400, the Organic Act for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Purpose and Need for Action

Existing conditions on the allotments do not meet the desired future conditions identified in the Forest Plan. The AMPs were written prior to the listing of threatened chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, Canada lynx and Utes' Ladies Tresses and do not reflect their needs. Ten years of monitoring the project area has shown consistent overuse of riparian vegetation. The purpose and need for the proposed action is to prepare new AMPs to meet the present Forest Service policy and direction, Forest Plan direction, standards and guidelines, and to protect recently listed species.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would authorize grazing on the allotments but at reduced stocking rates and would reduce the area available for grazing within the two allotments. AMPs would be revised to reflect these changes. An adaptive management strategy, which would allow for flexibility during the implementation for grazing strategy, would allow permittees to respond to changing conditions and unexpected results. Permitted numbers and seasons would be modified as necessary to meet standards, based on monitoring results of the previous season.

Possible Alternatives

Possible alternatives include: Alt. 1—continued grazing as currently permitted (No action); Alt. 2—reduced stocking rate and permitted area; Alt.

3—reduced stocking rate with the current permitted area; Alt. 4—current stock rate and permitted area under a deferred grazing system (applies to the Lower East Fork Allotment only), and Alt. 5—No grazing (grazing phased out).

Responsible Official

The responsible official is the Area Ranger of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Sawtooth National Forest.

Nature of the Decision To Be Made

The responsible official will decide if domestic livestock grazing can occur within the analysis area, and if so, where within the analysis area and at what intensity (timing and duration). The responsible official will also decide what structural range improvements (fences, water troughs, *etc.*), if any, are needed.

Scoping Process

Public notices have been placed in local newspapers.

Preliminary Issues

The following preliminary issues have been identified. (1) Livestock grazing may affect water quality and habitat for listed fish. (2) Livestock grazing may affect riparian and upland vegetation. (3) Livestock grazing may affect wildlife habitat. (4) Livestock grazing may affect the recreation experiences of visitors. (5) Changes in the current grazing numbers may affect the permittees.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date of Environmental Protect Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Services 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 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, (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 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 raised by 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 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.

Dated: August 16, 2002.

Ruth Monahan,

Sawtooth Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests' Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for Fresno County will meet on September 17, 2002, 6:30-9:15 p.m. The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Forest Supervisor's office Clovis, CA. The purpose of the meeting is for the Resource Advisory Committee to receive project proposals for recommendations to the Forest Supervisor for expenditure of Fresno County Title II funds.

DATES: The Fresno RAC meeting will be held on September 17, 2002. The meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.