

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 67, No. 162

Wednesday, August 21, 2002

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

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-018-3]

#### Availability of Evaluation Related to FMD Status of Great Britain; Correction

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments; correction.

**SUMMARY:** In a notice published in the **Federal Register** on July 16, 2002 (Docket No. 01-018-2), we announced the availability for review and comment of a document that assesses the foot-and-mouth disease status of Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man) and the related disease risks associated with importing animals and animal products into the United States from Great Britain. The notice contained an incorrect Internet address. This document corrects that error.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on Docket No. 01-018-2 on or before September 16, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 01-018-2, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 01-018-2. If you use e-mail, address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:regulations@aphis.usda.gov). Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 01-018-2" on the subject line.

You may read the evaluation and any comments that we receive on the

evaluation in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Anne Goodman, Supervisory Staff Officer, Regionalization Evaluation Services, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-4356.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On July 16, 2002, we published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 46628-46629, Docket No. 01-018-2) a notice of availability and request for comments for a document entitled "APHIS Evaluation of FMD Status of Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man)" (May 2002). This evaluation assesses the foot-and-mouth disease status of Great Britain and related disease risks associated with importing animals and animal products into the United States from Great Britain. This evaluation will serve as a basis to determine whether to relieve certain prohibitions and restrictions on the importation of ruminants and swine and fresh (chilled or frozen) meat and other products of ruminants and swine into the United States from Great Britain. We are making the evaluation available for public comment for 60 days. Comments must be received on or before September 16, 2002.

In the background portion of the notice, we provided an Internet address where the evaluation could be viewed. This address was incorrect. The Internet address should have read: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/reg-request.html>. This document corrects that error.

#### Correction

In FR Doc. 02-17795, published on July 16, 2002 (67 FR 46628-46629), make the following correction: On page

46629, first column, fourth full paragraph, in the first sentence, correct "http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/reg-request.html" to read "http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/reg-request.html".

Done in Washington, DC, this 15th day of August, 2002.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-21275 Filed 8-20-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Dixie National Forest, Utah, Long Deer Vegetation Management Project

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a Supplemental Environment Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the South Spruce Ecosystem Rehabilitation Project EIS (1999) to implement vegetation management treatments in the spruce/fir forests within the Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, Utah. The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they can participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by thirty days after publication of this Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register**. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement is expected in September 2002. The final supplemental environmental impact statement is expected in December 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Long Deer Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, 1789 Wedgewood, Cedar City, Utah 84720.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Long Deer Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, 1789 Wedgewood, Cedar City, Utah 84720.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed project is located in a 10,436 acre analysis area in portions of the Tommy, Duck, and Upper Midway Creek watersheds. Approximately 7,514 acres of the project area are forested and 2,922 acres are non-forested. The proposed commercial conifer treatment areas currently are infested with spruce beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*).

The purpose of the project is to harvest approximately 2,443 acres of dead, dying, and high risk Engelmann spruce trees to recover wood products that would otherwise be lost, while still meeting desired resources objectives for the project area. Minor amounts of subalpine fir trees (less than 15% of the total removed) would also be removed to encourage open growth, spruce or subalpine fir regeneration, improve residual stand vigor, or that will likely be damaged or killed during the removal of the spruce trees.

Rehabilitation of areas heavily impacted by bark beetle mortality through the completion of natural and artificial regeneration activities would occur as needed. An estimated 1,000 acres would be planted with spruce seedlings. Reforestation is essential to providing for the most rapid progression toward the desired future condition for forest cover in the project area.

Aspen regeneration of approximately 470 acres is also included in this proposal. These areas are included with the 2,443 acres of salvage/improvement treatments. Treatments would include tree removal followed by burning or mechanical treatment (commercial harvest) with or without burning.

Within the areas proposed for treatments, approximately 102 acres would be machine piled and burned and 619 acres would be broadcast burned to reduce fuels to the desired levels and to help stimulate the regeneration of aspen.

Travel management is proposed for portions of the project area. The purpose of this activity is to restore and rehabilitate ecological values in areas where excessive numbers of open roads exist; primarily to offset the loss of big game hiding cover from harvest activities. Moving these portions of the project area toward or below the Land Resource Management Plan guideline of two miles of open road per square mile will reduce the adverse environmental impacts associated with excessive numbers of open roads and loss of cover. A reduction in open road density will also reduce long-term maintenance costs while promoting safe, efficient public travel on the open road system. Road closures would be accomplished with earth and rock barriers, fences, or

gates. The open road density for the analysis area would be reduced from the current 2.39 miles per square mile to 1.70 miles per square mile.

Vegetation management treatments involving commercial harvest, aspen regeneration, and travel management would occur on National Forest system lands located within portions of section 19, 30–32 of Township (T) 37 South (S), Range (R) 8 West (W); sections 13, 14, 23–26, 35, and 36 of T37S, R8½W; sections 11–14, 23–26, 35 and 36 of T37S, R9W; sections 1 and 2 of T38S, R9W; and sections 4–6, and 8–10 of T38S, R8W, Salt Lake City Meridian, Iron and Kane Counties, UT.

The transportation system required to access commercial harvest areas is in place. All skid trails would be obliterated and may be seeded upon completion of the project.

The proposed actions would implement management direction, contribute to meeting the goals and objectives identified in the DNF–LRMP, and move the project area toward the desired condition. This project SEIS would be tiered to the Dixie National Forest LRMP EIS (1986), which provides goals, objectives, standards and guidelines for the various activities and land allocations on the Forest.

The Forest Service would analyze and document direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects for a range of alternatives. Each alternative would include mitigation measures and monitoring requirements. One alternative to the proposed action has been identified at this time. Alternative A was developed to address an issue identified during scoping. This alternative would close less roads in order to maintain access to dispersed campsites and popular off highway vehicle routes. The open road density would be reduced from the existing 2.39 miles per square mile to 1.80 miles per square mile under this alternative. All other actions would be identical to the Proposed Action. No other issue has been identified beyond those initially identified and analyzed under separate alternatives in the South Spruce Ecosystem Rehabilitation Project EIS.

**Responsible Official:** Randy Swick, Acting Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, is the responsible official. He can be reached by mail at 1789 Wedgewood, Cedar City, Utah, 84720.

**Comments Requested:** Comments will continue to be received and considered throughout the analysis process. Comments received in response to this notice and through scoping, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record of 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 a specified number of days.

**Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review:** A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The draft SEIS is expected to be filed with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and to be available for public review. At that time the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft SEIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period for the draft environmental impact statement will be forty-five days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. Comments on the draft SEIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (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).

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 reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been 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*, (9th Circuit, 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 the time 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 about the proposed action, comments on the draft supplemental 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 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.

In the final SEIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft SEIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in a Record of Decision. The final SEIS is scheduled for completion in December, 2002. The decision will be subject to review under Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

Dated: August 9, 2002.

**Randall G. Swick,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 02-21215 Filed 8-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Medicine Bow National Forest, Albany County, Carbon County, Converse County, Natrona County, Platte County, WY**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact

statement in conjunction with revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Medicine Bow National Forest.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement in conjunction with the revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as the Forest Plan or Plan) for the Medicine Bow National Forest.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the issues, concerns and scope of the analysis with regard to the proposed action were requested to be received in writing by November 15, 1999. The Forest Service expects to file a Draft Environmental Impact Statement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and make it available for public comment in December 2002. The agency expects to file the Final Environmental Impact Statement in December 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Mary Peterson, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dave Harris, Planning Team Leader, (307) 745-2403.

**Responsible Official:** Rick D. Cables, Rocky Mountain Regional Forester at P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, CO 80225-0127.

**Cooperating Agencies:** State of Wyoming, through the Office of Federal Land Policy; Bureau of Land Management; and Conservation Districts.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a revised Notice of Intent for the prior notice promulgated in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 64, No. 194, on October 7, 1999 page 54609. The Notice of Intent is being revised for the following reasons:

(1) The draft EIS has been delayed two years. The original expected release date was October 2000; the new expected date is December 2002. The final EIS is expected to be published December 2003.

(2) Two cooperating agencies have been added. The Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming (USDI-BLM) will cooperate on the preparation of the EIS and decisions regarding mineral leasing. Seven Wyoming Conservation Districts (Little Snake River, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins, Medicine Bow, Conserve County, Laramie County, and Laramie Rivers Conservation Districts and the Platte County Resource District, hereinafter referred to as County Conservation Districts) will cooperate in water quality monitoring, planning for

impaired watersheds, socio-economic analysis, and public involvement.

(3) The responsible official has changed. Rick D. Cables is the current Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region and responsible official for the Medicine Bow Forest Plan Revision.

Pursuant to part 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the revision effort described above. According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), land and resource management plans are ordinarily revised on a 10- to 15-year cycle. The existing Forest Plan was approved November 20, 1985.

The Forest Service is the lead agency in this revision effort. The State of Wyoming, by and through the Office of Federal Land Policy; USDI-BLM; and County Conservation Districts are cooperating agencies by virtue of special expertise and jurisdiction. The State of Wyoming was listed as a cooperating agency in the 1999 Notice of Intent.

Forest Plans describe the intended management of National Forests. Agency decisions in the Plan will do the following:

- \* Establish multiple-use goals and objectives (36 CFR 219.11);
- \* Establish forestwide management requirements (standards and guidelines) to fulfill the requirements of 16 USC 1604 applying to future activities (resource integration requirements, 36 CFR 219.13 to 219.27);
- \* Establish management areas and management area direction (management area prescriptions) applying to future activities in that management area (resource integration and minimum specific management requirements) 36 CFR 219.11(c);
- \* Establish monitoring and evaluation requirements (36 CFR 219.11(d));
- \* Determine suitability and potential capability of lands for producing forage for grazing animals and for providing habitat for management indicator species (36 CFR 219.20), designate lands not suited for timber production, and, where applicable, establish allowable timber sale quantity (36 CFR 219.14, 219.15, and 219.21);
- \* Where applicable to oil and gas resources, determine the planning area leasing decision (lands administratively available for leasing) and the leasing decision for specific lands [36 CFR 228.102(4)(d) & (e)]. Where applicable, BLM will issue a decision document on leasing for federal minerals, both under