

# 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

### Forest Service

#### Jericho Salvage Project; Helena National Forest, Powell County, Montana

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service is gathering information and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Jericho Salvage Project located approximately 18 air miles southwest of Helena, Montana.

The Helena Ranger District of the Helena National Forest proposes to salvage winter killed and severely damaged trees on approximately 200 acres in the Sally Ann Creek drainage. This area is located west of the Continental Divide approximately eight miles southeast of Elliston, Montana (Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12 Township 8 North, Range 6 West).

The Proposed Action includes the construction of two temporary roads to provide logging truck access to the log collection sites. The total length of the temporary road construction is about two miles. No permanent road construction is proposed.

The areas proposed for harvest are located within the Jericho Mountain Roadless Area (1607) and are located in or immediately adjacent to management areas designated by the Helena Forest Plan as suitable for timber management.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing on or before March 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The responsible official is Denis Hart, District Ranger, Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest, 2001 Poplar St., Helena, MT. 59601. Phone: (406) 449-5490.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Denis Hart, Helena District Ranger or Dan Mainwaring, Interdisciplinary

Team Leader, Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest, 2001 Poplar Street, Helena, MT 59601. Phone: (406) 449-5490.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 200 acres of timber salvage and associated two miles of temporary road construction would occur on National Forest lands in portions of Sally Ann Creek drainage. Included in the area being analyzed is all or portions of Sections, 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12 Township 8 North, Range 6 West, Montana Principle Meridian.

Most of the trees in the Sally Ann Creek drainage were killed during the winter of 1989 from stress associated with a weather event in which temperatures rose from well below freezing to the mid-60's and then plunged to below the zero mark, all in the period of 24 hours.

The Proposed Action for this site includes the salvage of approximately 1 million board feet of timber and the regeneration of a new generation of trees. The District also proposes to construct 2 temporary access spurs to provide logging truck access from Forest Road #495 to the log collection sites. The total length of temporary road construction is approximately 2 miles. No new permanent road would be constructed.

The proposed harvest is within the Jericho Mountain Roadless Area. The treated sites will be planned for natural regeneration and/or planting of conifers, if necessary, to meet required regeneration goals and time frames. The proposed two miles of temporary, low standard road construction will be returned to contour and seeded to native grass species following harvest.

Improvements will also be made to the main log haul route along Forest Road #495 by improving drainage and regarding the road surface.

The responsible official is the Helena District Ranger of the Helena National Forest. This responsible official will decide (1) whether dead and dying trees within the proposed project area should be harvested and, if so, how much and by what methods, (2) what mitigation measures will be needed under the selected alternative, (3) how much temporary road will be constructed and how much road improvement will be done on Forest Road #495 and, (4) how much of the temporary road will be

returned to contour and seeded to native grasses.

If the decision is to implement an action alternative, salvage operations would begin as soon as the fall of 1997 and should be completed by the end of 1998. Public firewood gathering, road recontouring, and brush disposal work may extend into 1999. Other resource objectives for this site are within Forest Plan standards. All activities are designed to comply with the Forest Plan.

This EIS will tier to the Helena Forest Plan Final EIS of April 1986, that provides program goals, objectives and standards and guidelines for conducting management activities in this area. All activities associated with the proposal will be designed to maintain or enhance the resource objectives identified in the Forest Plan and further refined in the Divide Landscape Analysis.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, local agencies and other organizations or individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues for the proposal and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. Preparation of the EIS will include (1) identification of potential issues, (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth, (3) elimination of issues that have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, (4) identification of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action and, (5) identification of potential environmental effects of the alternatives.

The preliminary issues identified are (1) the effects on forest health and sustaining ecosystems, (2) the effects on recreation and scenic resources, (3) the effects on fish/wildlife and, (4) the effects on the roadless and wilderness character of the Jericho Mountain Roadless Areas.

The Forest Service will analyze and disclose in the DEIS and FEIS the environmental effects of the proposed action and a reasonable range of alternatives. The DEIS and FEIS will disclose the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects of each alternative and its associated site specific mitigation measures.

Public participation is especially important at several points of the analysis. Interested parties may visit with the Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis. However, two periods of time are specifically identified for the receipt of comments. The first comment period is during the scoping process when the public is invited to give written comments to the Forest Service. The scoping period ends on March 24, 1997. The second review period is during the 45 day review of the DEIS when the public is invited to comment on the DEIS.

The DEIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in May, 1997. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the DEIS in the Federal Register.

The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the notice of availability is published in the Federal Register.

At this early stage in the scoping process, the Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviews of DEIS 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 objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service 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 in preparing the FEIS. The FEIS is expected to be filed in August, 1997.

Dated: January 21, 1997.

Denis Hart,

*District Ranger, Helena Ranger District,  
Helena National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 97-3023 Filed 2-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Posting of Stockyards

Pursuant to the authority provided under Section 302 of the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 202), it was ascertained that the livestock markets named below were stockyards as defined by Section 302 (a). Notice was given to the stockyard owners and to the public as required by Section 302 (b), by posting notices at the stockyards on the dates specified below, that the stockyards were subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended (7 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

	Facility Number, name, and location of stockyard	Date of posting
AL-190	Natural Bridge Stockyard, Natural Bridge, Alabama.	October 18, 1996.
GA-218	R & R Goat and Livestock Auction, Swainsboro, Georgia.	November 9, 1996.
MN-191	Iron Range Livestock Exchange, Inc., Aitkin, Minnesota.	October 24, 1996.
WI-145	Richland Cattle Center L. L. C., Richland Center, Wisconsin.	November 1, 1996.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 28th day of January 1997.

Daniel L. Van Ackeren,

*Director, Livestock Marketing Division  
Packers and Stockyards Programs.*

[FR Doc. 97-3033 Filed 2-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

### COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

#### Procurement List; Additions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to the procurement list.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 15, December 20, 1996, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (61 FR 58510 and 67306) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.
2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.
3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.
4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following services are hereby added to the Procurement List: