

to publish legal notices for public comment or decisions; thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers will begin with decisions subject to appeal that are made on or after November 18, 1998. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristine M. Lee; Regional Appeals and Litigation Coordinator; Northern Region; PO, Box 7669; Missoula, Montana 59807. Phone: (406) 329-3647.

The newspapers to be used are as follows:

Northern Regional Office

Regional Forester decisions in Montana: The Missoulian, Great Falls Tribune, and The Billings Gazette.

Regional Forester decisions in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington:

The Spokesman Review.

Regional Forester decisions in North Dakota: Bismarck Tribune.

Regional Forester decisions in South Dakota: Rapid City Journal.

Beaverhead/Deerlodge—Montana Standard

Bitterroot—Ravalli Republic

Clearwater—Lewiston Morning Tribune

Custer—Billings Gazette (Montana)

Bismarck Tribune (North Dakota)

Rapid City Journal (South Dakota)

Flathead—Daily Interlake

Gallatin—Bozeman Chronicle

Helena—Independent Record

Idaho Panhandle—Spokesman Review

Kootenai—Daily Interlake

Lewis & Clark—Great Falls Tribune

Lolo—Missoulian

Nez Perce—Lewiston Morning Tribune

Supplemental notices may be placed in any newspaper, but time frames/deadlines will be calculated based upon notices in newspapers of record listed above.

Dated: November 10, 1998.

Kathleen A. McAllister,
Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 98-30659 Filed 11-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Eastern Wyoming; Legal Notice of the Opportunity To Comment on Certain Proposed Actions and of Decisions Subject to Notice and Comment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; Newspapers for Legal Notices.

SUMMARY: This is a list of those newspapers that will be used to publish notice of all decisions which are subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217, notice of the opportunity to comment on certain proposed actions pursuant to 36 CFR 215.5, and notice of decisions subject to appeal under the general provisions of 36 CFR part 215. As required at 36 CFR 215.5 and 215.9, such notice shall constitute legal evidence that the agency has given timely and constructive notice of decisions that are subject to public notice and comment and administrative appeal. Newspaper publications of notices of decisions is in addition to direct notice to those who have requested notice in writing and to those known to be interested in or affected by a specific decision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Use of these newspapers for purposes of publishing the notices required under the provisions of 36 CFR part 215 shall begin November 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Momper, Regional Appeals and Litigation Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Region, Box 25127, Lakewood, Colorado 80225, Area Code 303-275-5161.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Responsible Officials in the Rocky Mountain Region shall give notice of the opportunity to comment on certain proposed actions and of decisions subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 in the following newspapers which are listed by Forest Service unit. Where more than one newspaper is listed for any unit, the first newspaper listed is the primary newspaper which shall be used to constitute legal evidence that the agency has given timely and constructive notice of decisions that are subject to administrative appeal. The day after the publication of the public notice in the primary newspaper shall be the first day of the appeal filing period.

Decisions by the Regional Forester: *The Denver Post*, published daily in Denver, Denver County, Colorado, for decisions affecting National Forest

System lands in the States of Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and eastern Wyoming and for any decision of Region-wide impact. In addition, notice of decisions made by the Regional Forester will also be published in the *Rocky Mountain News*, published daily in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. Notice of decisions affecting National Forest System lands in the State of South Dakota will also be published in *The Rapid City Journal*, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota. For those decisions affecting a particular unit, the newspaper specific to that unit will be used.

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Colorado

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Denver Post, published daily in Denver, Denver County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Redfeather and Estes-Poudre Districts: *Coloradoan*, published daily in Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado.

Pawnee District: *Greeley Tribune*, published daily in Greeley, Weld County, Colorado.

Boulder District: *Boulder Daily Camera*, published daily in Boulder, Boulder County, Colorado.

Clear Creek District: *Clear Creek Courant*, published weekly in Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, Colorado.

Sulphur District: *Granby Sky High News*, published weekly in Granby, Grand County, Colorado.

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Colorado

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, published daily in Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Collbran and Grand Junction Districts: *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*, published daily in Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado.

Paonia District: *Delta County Independent*, published weekly in Delta, Delta County, Colorado.

Cebolla and Taylor River Districts: *Gunnison County Times*, published weekly in Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado.

Norwood District: *Telluride Daily Planet*, published daily in Telluride, San Miguel County, Colorado.

Ouray District: *Montrose Daily Press*, published daily in Montrose, Montrose County, Colorado.

Pike and San Isabel National Forests*Forest Supervisor Decisions*

Pueblo Chieftain, published daily in Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

San Carlos District: *Pueblo Chieftain*, published daily in Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

Comanche District: *Plainsman Herald*, published weekly in Springfield, Baca County, Colorado. In addition, notice of decisions made by the District Ranger will also be published in the *La Junta Tribune Democrat*, published daily in La Junta, Otero County, Colorado, and in the *Ark Valley Journal*, published weekly in La Junta, Otero County, Colorado.

Cimarron District: *Tri-State News*, published weekly in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas.

South Platte District: *Daily News Press*, published published daily in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado. In addition, notice of decisions made by the District Ranger will also be published in the *High Timber Times*, published weekly in Conifer, Jefferson County, Colorado, and in the *Fairplay Flume*, published weekly in Fairplay, Park County, Colorado.

Leadville District: *Herald Democrat*, published weekly in Leadville, Lake County, Colorado.

Salida District: *The Mountain Mail*, published daily in Salida, Chaffee County, Colorado.

South Park District: *Fairplay Flume*, published weekly in Fairplay, Park County, Colorado.

Pikes Peak District: *Gazette Telegraph*, published daily in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado.

Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado*Forest Supervisor Decisions*

Valley Courier, published daily in Alamosa, Alamosa County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Valley Courier, published daily in Alamosa, Alamosa County, Colorado.

Routt National Forest, Colorado*Forest Supervisor Decisions*

Laramie Daily Boomerang, published daily in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming. In addition, for decisions affecting an individual district(s), the local district(s) newspaper will also be used.

District Ranger Decisions

Hahns Peak-Bears Ears District: *Steamboat Pilot*, published weekly in Steamboat Springs, Routt County,

Colorado is the newspaper of record for decision made by the Hans Peak Bears Ears District Ranger. Additional notice to inform local communities about decision made by the District Ranger will also be placed in the *Hayden Valley Press*, published weekly in Hayden, Routt County, Colorado and in the *Northwest Colorado Daily Press*, published daily in Craig, Moffat County, Colorado.

Yampa and District: *Steamboat Pilot*, published weekly in Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Colorado.

Middle Park District; North Park District: *Jackson County Star*, published weekly in Walden, Jackson County, Colorado.

San Juan National Forest, Colorado*Forest Supervisor Decisions*

Durango Herald, published daily in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Durango Herald, published daily in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado.

White River National Forest, Colorado*Forest Supervisor Decisions*

The Glenwood Post, published Monday through Saturday in Glenwood Springs, Garfield County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Aspen District: *Aspen Times*, published weekly in Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado.

Blanco District: *Meeker Herald*, published weekly in Meeker, Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

Dillon District: *Summit Daily News*, published daily in Frisco, Summit County, Colorado.

Eagle District: *Eagle Valley Enterprise*, published weekly in Eagle, Eagle County, Colorado.

Holy Cross District: *Vail Trail*, published weekly in Vail, Eagle County, Colorado.

Rifle District: *Citizen Telegram*, published weekly in Rifle, Garfield County, Colorado.

Sopris District: *Valley Journal*, published weekly in Carbondale, Garfield County, Colorado.

Nebraska National Forest, Nebraska*Forest Supervisor Decisions*

The Rapid City Journal, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota for decisions affecting National Forest System lands in the State of South Dakota.

The Omaha World Herald, published daily in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska for decisions affecting

National Forest System lands in the State of Nebraska.

District Ranger Decisions

Bessey District: *The North Platte Telegraph*, published daily in North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska.

Pine District: *The Chadron Record*, published weekly in Chadron, Dawes County, Nebraska.

Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest: *The Valentine Midland News*, published weekly in Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska.

Fall River and Wall Districts, Buffalo Gap National Grassland: *The Rapid City Journal*, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

Fall River and Wall Districts: *The Rapid City Journal*, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

Fort Pierre National Grassland: *The Capital Journal*, published Monday thru Friday in Pierre, Hughes County, South Dakota.

Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota and Eastern Wyoming*Forest Supervisor Decision*

The Rapid City Journal, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

District Ranger Decisions

The Rapid City Journal, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

Bighorn National Forest, Wyoming*Forest Supervisor Decisions*

Sheridan Press, published daily in Sheridan, Sheridan County, Wyoming.

In addition, for decisions affecting an individual district(s), the local district(s) newspaper will be used (see listing below).

District Ranger Decisions

Tongue District: *Sheridan Press*, published daily in Sheridan, Sheridan County, Wyoming.

Buffalo District: *Buffalo Bulletin*, published weekly in Buffalo, Johnson County, Wyoming.

Medicine Wheel District: *Lovell Chronicle*, published weekly in Lovell, Big Horn County, Wyoming.

Tensleep District: *Northern Wyoming Daily News*, published daily in Worland, Washakie County, Wyoming.

Paintrock District: *Greybull Standard*, published weekly in Greybull, Big Horn County, Wyoming.

Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Laramie Daily Boomerang, published daily in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming.

District Ranger Decisions

Laramie District: *Laramie Daily Boomerang*, published daily in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming.

Douglas District: *Casper Star-Tribune*, published daily in Casper, Natrona County, Wyoming.

Brush Creek and Hayden District: *Rawlins Daily Times*, published daily in Rawlins, Carbon County, Wyoming.

Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming

Forest Supervisor Decision

Cody Enterprise, published twice weekly in Cody, Park County, Wyoming.

District Ranger Decisions

Clarks Fork District: *Powell Tribune*, published twice weekly in Powell, Park County, Wyoming.

Wapiti and Greybull Districts: *Cody Enterprise*, published twice weekly in Cody, Park County, Wyoming.

Wind River District: *The Dubois Frontier*, published weekly in Dubois, Teton County, Wyoming.

Lander District: *Wyoming State Journal*, published twice weekly in Lander, Fremont County, Wyoming.

Dated: November 9, 1998.

Lyle Laverty,

Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 98-30658 Filed 11-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Pend Oreille Priest Beetle Project; Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County Idaho and Pend Oreille County, Washington; Colville National Forests, Pend Oreille County, Washington

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) to disclose the potential environmental effects of proposed activities in forest stands infested with Douglas-fir bark beetle. Activities include reducing fuels in urban interface areas, restoring historic vegetation patterns in areas of significant mortality, and accomplishing

other ecosystem restoration opportunities to benefit aquatic, watershed and wildlife habitat areas in the southern portion of the Priest Lake and the Newport Ranger Districts.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before December 17, 1998. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in January, 1999. A Final Environmental Impact Statement will be published no sooner than February 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposal or requests to be placed on the project mailing list to Kent Dunstan, Priest Lake Ranger District, 32203 Hwy. 57, Priest River, ID 83856.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pete Zimmerman, Sandpoint Ranger District, 1500 Hwy. 2, Suite 110, Sandpoint, ID 83864, (208) 263-5111.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Snow, ice and wind during the winter of 1996-97 damaged trees on the Idaho Panhandle (IPNF) and Colville National Forests. These events created a tremendous amount of forest debris on the ground in many areas including tops, limbs, and standing dead and down trees. Douglas-fir bark beetle populations increased after breeding in the winter storm damaged and weakened trees. Standing trees were attacked in the spring and summer of 1998. Aerial detection surveys conducted in 1998 showed extensive numbers of dead, mature Douglas-fir trees on national forest system, state, and private lands, especially in areas of past ice and winter storm damage.

Since the bark beetle outbreak is so widespread, we recognize there is not much we can do to control or stop it. There is, however, an opportunity to care for the lands affected by the beetle by focusing on restoration of the ecosystems where the beetle is causing significant amounts of the Douglas-fir trees to die.

With the amount of downed fuels and high level of public use in certain areas, the risk of severe fires is much higher. Fires igniting in these areas will be more difficult to control and the increased fuel loading is likely to result in more intense fires. Highly used recreation areas and areas adjacent to private land are particularly vulnerable because the potential for ignition is greater. In areas where urban or private values are at risk due to fuel accumulations related to the Douglas-fir beetle outbreak, fuels would be treated by timber harvest, burning

and/or piling so as to reduce the risk of losing these values to wildfire.

In many of the beetle-attacked stands, there is almost twice as much Douglas-fir on the landscape than what was historically present, and a significant decrease of seral species such as ponderosa pine, white pine and larch, which are more resistant to insects and some diseases. In these areas, the intent would be to restore stand composition and structure to more closely resemble historic vegetation conditions. Regeneration harvest activities would be proposed in stands of at least five acres in size where greater than 50% of the stand within the area is projected to die from the current Douglas-fir beetle outbreak. Activities include harvest, site preparation and/or fuels hazard reduction with fire or by mechanical methods and tree planting.

In stands affected by Douglas-fir beetle that do not meet criteria for urban interface or vegetation restoration, selective harvest treatment activities would be proposed in stands where less than 50% of the stand within the area is projected to die from the current Douglas-fir beetle outbreak and also in areas of special management need or where public safety issues are a concern. Activities include harvest and fuel hazard reduction by fire or mechanical methods.

Aquatic, watershed and wildlife restoration activities would include closing or obliterating roads for watershed health and wildlife security and modifying, by reconstruction, other road elements that pose risks to watersheds. These activities may not be associated with timber sales. Where activities are associated with timber sales and along haul routes, watershed restoration would be achieved when practical.

Prescribed fire use to reduce fuel hazard and to prepare sites for regeneration would not be limited to timber harvest areas but may also be used where harvest is not practical.

Pest management techniques, including application of pheromones to protect high valued stands, would be used in those areas where such treatment would likely be effective.

As part of the proposed action, timber harvest will not occur in: (1) Allocated old-growth that maintains old-growth characteristics, (2) Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, (3) Inventoried Roadless Areas, (4) stands where a minimum number of snags cannot be maintained, (5) areas of known populations of sensitive plant species, (6) areas where they result in a likely to adversely affect determination for Threatened or Endangered Species, (7)