

- Increased access to "Back Country" terrain;
- Maintenance of snags, large downed wood and old growth habitat; and
- Maintenance of habitat for Threatened & Endangered, Sensitive and Survey & Manage species.

Scoping and public involvement are continuing. An initial scoping letter will be mailed on November 19, 1998. Two public scoping meetings will be held: December 8, 1998, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at the Seattle Sea-Tac Marriot Hotel, 3201 South 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98189; and December 9, 1998, from 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM at the Enumclaw Senior High School cafeteria, 226 Semanski South, Enumclaw, WA 98022. The information and comments received will be used in preparation of the draft EIS.

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 and 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 (30) days.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed in April 1999. Following release of the draft EIS, there will be a public comment period of at least 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes that it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the 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, 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 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 EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the EIS. (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 final EIS is scheduled to be completed in November 1999. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. The lead agency is the Forest Service. The Forest Supervisor of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is the responsible official. The responsible official will document the decision and the reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations 36 CFR Parts 215 or 251.

Dated: November 13, 1998.

Dennis E. Bschor,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-31906 Filed 11-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Clean State Ecosystem Management Project, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent.

AUTHORIZATION: 40 CFR 1508.22.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Clean State Ecosystem Management Project in March 6, 1997 in the Federal Register (Vol. 62, No. 44, Page 10253-10254). Forest Service Policy mandates that a revised notice of intent (NOI) be filed when there is a major change in the information shown in the notice of intent. For the Clean State Ecosystem Management Project, there are two major changes:

1. A delay of more than 6 months in filing either a draft for final EIS

◆ The draft impact statement is anticipated to be done by May of 1999 with the final EIS to be published in July 1999. This will be a 12 month delay of the draft and final EIS from the original notice of intent.

2. A change in the proposed action or the decision to be made.

◆ The following actions have been removed from the Clean State Ecosystem Management Project proposed action:

◆ Modify existing fish structure in Slate Creek;

◆ Develop and enhance dispersed recreation sites; and

◆ Provide interpretive sites for the public.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received by **Federal Register** to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions, request for maps, or request to be placed on the mailing list to Jack Carlson, District Ranger, Salmon River Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, HC 01, Box 70, Whitebird, Idaho, 83554 or by e-mail at: cseis/r1_nezperce@fs.fed.us

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike McGee or Marsha Hollander, Salmon River Ranger District, HC 01, Box 70, Whitebird, Idaho 83554. Phone (208) 839-2211 or by e-mail at: cseis/r1_nezperce@fs.fed.us

Dated: November 18, 1998.

Elayne M. Murphy,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce National Forest.

[FR Doc. 98-31871 Filed 11-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Committee of Scientists Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Committee of Scientists will hold a public teleconference call on Tuesday, December 15, 1998. The teleconference call will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. (eastern standard time). The purpose of the telephone conference call is for the Committee of Scientists to continue discussion of its report and recommendation to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service. The public is invited to attend this teleconference call and may be provided an opportunity to comment on the Committee of Scientists' deliberations during the teleconference, only at the request of the Committee.

DATES: The teleconference call will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 1998, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (eastern standard time).

ADDRESSES: The teleconference will be held at the USDA Forest Service headquarters, Auditor's Building, 201 14th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., in the Roosevelt Conference Room and at all Regional Offices of the Forest Service, which are listed in the table under Supplementary Information.

Written comments on improving land and resource management planning may be sent to the Committee of Scientists, P.O. Box 2140, Corvallis, OR 97339. Also, the Committee may be accessed via the Internet at www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For additional information concerning the teleconferences, contact Bob Cunningham, Designated Federal Office to the Committee of Scientists, by telephone (202) 205-1523.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The public may attend the teleconference at the following field locations:

USDA Forest Service Regional Office Locations

Region 1, Northern Region, Federal Building, 200 E Broadway, Missoula, MT

Region 2, Rocky Mountain Region, 740 Simms St., Golden, CO

Region 3, Southwestern Region, Federal Building, 517 Gold Ave., SW., Albuquerque, NM

Region 4, Intermountain Region, Federal Building, 324 25th St., Ogden, UT

Region 5, Pacific Southwest Region, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA

Region 6, Pacific Northwest Region, 333 SW 1st Ave., Portland, OR

Region 8, Southern Region, 1720 Peachtree Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA

Region 9, Eastern Region, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave, Room 500, Milwaukee, WI

Region 10, Alaska Region (office will open early), Federal Office Building, 709 W. 9th St., Juneau, AK

The Committee of Scientists was chartered to provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service on improvements that can be made to the National Forest System land and resource management planning process (62 FR 43691; August 15, 1997). Notice of the names of the appointed Committee members was published December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65795).

Dated: November 25, 1998.

Paul Brouha,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 98-31972 Filed 11-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity to Comment on the Applicants for the Central Illinois (IL) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in the geographic area assigned to Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc. (Central Illinois).

DATES: Comments must be postmarked, or sent by telecopier (FAX) by December 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted in writing to USDA, GIPSA,

Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Telecopier (FAX) users may send comments to the automatic telecopier machine at 202-690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the October 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 52678), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Central Illinois area to submit an application for designation by October 30, 1998. There were two applicants: Central Illinois and Turner Grain Services, Inc. (Turner). Central Illinois applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them. Turner applied for designation to provide official services in the western portion of the Central Illinois area: bounded on the North by Interstate 74; bounded on the East by Interstate 155; bounded on the South by Illinois Route 136 and the southern Tazewell County Line; and bounded on the West by the western Peoria County line north to Interstate 74.

GIPSA is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments concerning the applicants. Commenters are encouraged to submit reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of the applicants. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address. Comments and other available information will be considered in making a final decision. GIPSA will publish notice of the final decision in the **Federal Register**, and GIPSA will send the applicants written notification of the decision.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: November 19, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-31748 Filed 11-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P