

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

Newspaper Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions for the Northern Region; Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and portions of South Dakota and Eastern Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Northern Region to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217 and to publish notices for public comment and notice of decision subject to the provisions of 36 CFR part 215. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used 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 April 15, 1999. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Acting Regional Appeals and Litigation Coordinator; Northern Region; P.O. 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),
Rapid City Journal (South Dakota)

Dakota Prairie National Grasslands—
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: April 5, 1999.

Kathleen A. McAllister,

Deputy Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Keystone-Quartz Ecosystem Management Project, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Beaverhead County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposed action to manipulate forest and range vegetation on about 1200 acres. This area lies at the northern end of the Pioneer Mountains, three miles south of Wise River, Montana.

The proposed action would thin about 1042 acres of Douglas-fir forest to improve wildlife habitat, release about 85 acres of aspen/shrub communities to restore wildlife habitat, thin about 21

acres of dense lodgepole pine to improve overall forest health, and restore about 43 acres of shrub/grass habitat that has been lost to conifer succession.

DATES: Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing no later than April 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The responsible official is Cynthia A. Tencick, District Ranger, Wise River Ranger District, PO Box 100, Wise River, MT 59762. Send written comments to the responsible official.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Quinn, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Wise River Ranger District, or phone: (406) 683-3900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: About 65% of the Douglas-fir thinning will be done using slashing and prescribed fire, and 35% using wood product removal and prescribed fire. Aspen/shrub restoration will be done using commercial timber harvest. Lodgepole pine thinning will be done by the sale of fence materials. Shrub/grass restoration will be done using slashing and prescribed fire.

The project area is located in the Keystone, Spring, Titan, Lime Kiln and Quartz Hill drainages (T1S, R11W, Sections 10, 11, 12 and 14; and T1S, R10W, Sections 16, 17, 20, 29 and 30). The scope of this proposal is limited to specific forest thinning, timber harvest, prescribed burning and other stand treatments, area improvements and related mitigation requirements lying within the affected area.

Public participation is important to this analysis. Part of the goal of public involvement is to identify additional issues and to refine the general, tentative issues. A scoping notice describing the project was mailed to those who requested information on timber harvest and burning activities on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been involved in the development of this proposal and will be consulted through the analysis and decision making process. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted concerning effects to threatened and endangered species.

Preliminary issues identified by Forest Service specialists include effects to vegetation, wildlife habitat, and the existing character of inventoried roadless areas. Timber harvest and