funding. Expected educational benefits can be estimated both directly (through the hours of educational activities planned specifically for agricultural producers and the resulting number of producers expected to be reached) and indirectly (through educational activities planned for agribusiness professionals who will relay information to producers). Higher rankings in each region will be awarded to those applicants with greater expected benefits for producers relative to the funds that are requested by the applicant.

The application ranking and scoring for each region for the Cost Effectiveness criteria are:

Ranking	Scoring
Highest	20 points.
2nd Highest	16 points.
3rd Highest	12 points.
4th Highest	8 points.
5th Highest	4 points.

5. Program Delivery Plan—maximum 15 points

The applicant must demonstrate that its program delivery plan described in the narrative will be effective. Higher rankings will be given to those applicants that can demonstrate that it has an effective plan for each of the required responsibilities contained in part III. Also, those applicants that can demonstrate that its plan can be expected to lead to increased risk awareness by agribusiness professionals and producers of agricultural commodities and increased risk management skills of local producers will receive higher rankings.

The application ranking and scoring for each region for the Program Delivery Plan criteria are:

Ranking	Scoring
Highest	15 points.
2nd Highest	12 points.
3rd Highest	9 points.
4th Highest	6 points.
5th Highest	3 points.

C. Confidentiality

The names of applicants, the content of applications, and the panel evaluations of applications will all be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of review panel members will remain confidential throughout the entire review process and will not be released to applicants. At the end of the fiscal year, names of panel members will be made available. However, panelists will not be identified with the review of any particular application.

Part VI—Additional Information

A. Access to Panel Review Information

Copies of rating forms, not including the identity of reviewers, will be sent to the applicant after the review and awards process has been completed.

B. Notification of Partnership Agreement Awards

Following approval of the applications selected for funding, notice of project approval and authority to draw down funds will be made to the selected applicants in writing. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of RMA shall enter into partnership agreements with those applicants whose applications are judged to be most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this announcement, which provides the amount of Federal funds for use in the project period, the terms and conditions of the award, and the time period for the project. The effective date of the partnership agreement shall be on the date the agreement is executed by both parties and it shall remain in effect for no more that one year. All funds provided to the applicant by FCIC must be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are obligated in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, and the applicability of Federal cost principles. No commitment of Federal assistance beyond the project period is made or implied, as a result of any award resulting from this Notice.

C. Confidential Aspects of Proposals and Awards

When an application results in a partnership agreement, it becomes a part of the official record of RMA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to be considered confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within an application. The original copy of a proposal that does not result in an award will be retained by RMA for a period of one year. Other copies will be destroyed. Such a proposal will be released only with the express written consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. A proposal may be withdrawn at any time prior to award.

D. Reporting Requirements

The applicants awarded the partnership agreement will be required to submit semi-annual progress and financial reports (SF–269) throughout the project period, as well as a final program and financial report not later than 90 days after the end of the project period.

E. Audit Requirements

The applicants awarded the partnership agreement are subject to audit.

F. Prohibitions and Requirements With Regard to Lobbying

Section 1352 of Public Law 101–121, enacted on October 23, 1989, imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans. It provides exemptions for Indian Tribes and tribal organizations. Current and prospective recipients, and any subcontractors, are prohibited from using Federal funds, other than profits from a Federal contract, for lobbying Congress or any Federal agency in connection with the award of a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or loan. In addition, for each award action in excess of $100,000 ($150,000 for loans) the law requires recipients and any subcontractors (1) to certify that they have neither used nor will use any appropriated funds for payment of lobbyists; (2) to disclose the name, address, payment details, and purpose of any agreements with lobbyists whom recipients of their subcontractors will pay with profits or other nonappropriated funds on or after December 22, 1989; ad (3) to file quarterly up-dates about the use of lobbyists if material changes occur in their use. The law establishes civil penalties for non-compliance. A copy of the certification and disclosure forms must be submitted with the application and are available from Lydia Astorga at the above stated address and telephone number.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 15, 2002.

Ross J. Davidson, Jr.,

Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02–9615 Filed 4–18–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Elk and Forest Counties, PA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is hereby given that the Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Marienville Ranger District will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed Spring Creek Project. The purpose of this project is to move the ANF from the existing condition towards the desired condition, as detailed in the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

The Forest Plan provides for management of forest resources. Management objectives include producing a sustainable supply of high-quality saw timber and wood products, developing and maintaining a wide array of wildlife habitats, and providing a range of recreation settings and experiences. The Allegheny National Forest is divided into specific zones or Management Areas. Specific objectives are defined for each Management Area, and the Spring Creek Project Area contains Management Areas 1.0, 3.0, 6.1, and 6.3. MA 3.0 emphasizes timber harvest as a means for making desired changes to forest vegetation and satisfying the public demand for timber products. Management Area 1.0 emphasizes habitat conditions in early successional forest stages and those wildlife species dependent on such habitat. Management Area 6.1 emphasizes management of forest vegetation as mature or over mature forest. Management Area 6.3 is a special management area designated for waterfowl and associated riparian habitat management.

In order to move toward the Desired Condition proposed activities include: (1) Regeneration harvests consisting of shelterwood seed/removal cuts, overstory removal cuts, two-age harvests, strip regeneration harvests, salvage overstory removal cuts, and salvage shelterwood/removal cuts; (2) intermediate harvest consisting of thinning/improvement cuts, single tree and group selection, salvage harvests, and release cuts (pre-commercial timber stand improvement); (3) reforestation treatment consisting of herbicide application, site preparation, fertilization, fencing, and planting; (4) wildlife habitat improvement consisting of (a) restoring/improving aquatic habitat through planting and controlling aquatic, shrub, and conifer and streamside vegetation species and rehabilitating erosion prone areas and placing aquatic structures and coarse woody debris, (b) restoring/reestablishing/improving terrestrial habitat vegetation through planting and releasing native tree and shrubs, prescribe burning, and opening management through planting and seeding of native herbaceous vegetation, (c) restoring/improving terrestrial habitat structure through aspen management, creating snag and providing coarse woody debris, and placing nest structures, (d) general wildlife habitat improvements through providing user access and parking at wildlife viewing areas; (5) transportation activities consisting of road construction, reconstruction, eliminating unnecessary roads, limestone surfacing, maintaining roads to high standards, and pit expansion; (6) recreation activities including horse trail designation, dispersed campsite construction/rehabilitation, scenery management, and efforts to curve illegal Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use.

During project analysis issues will be identified that focus on the management of the area. Alternatives will be developed to show various ways to address the issues. This process is driven by comments received from the public, other agencies, and internal Forest Service concerns. To assist in commenting, a scoping letter providing more detailed information on the project proposal has been prepared and is available to interested parties.

DATES: The public comment period will be for 30 days from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. Comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be submitted (postmarked) by May 20, 2002 to ensure timely consideration.

ADDRESSES: Submit written, oral, or e-mail comments by: (1) Mail—Spring Creek Project, ID Team Leader, Marienville Ranger District, Ridgway Office, RD 1, Box 28A, Montmorenci Road, Ridgway, PA 15953; (2) phone—814–776–6172; (3) e-mail—*anf/r9_allegheny@fs.fed.us* (**please note:** when commenting by e-mail be sure to list *Spring Creek EIS* in the subject line and include a US Postal Service address so we may add you to our mailing list).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Leland or John Weyant, Marienville Ranger District, at 814–776–6172.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Preliminary Issues were developed based on past projects in the area (environmental analysis), issues developed for similar projects, and Forest Service concerns and opportunities identified in the Project Area. These issues are listed below:

1. *Road Management*—The Forest Service will complete a Roads Analysis, which includes evaluating all roads in the Project Area for effects to the ecosystem. This effort has been undertaken within the Spring Creek watershed. The proposed action requires examining the road system to determine if the existing road system is adequate (or if improvements are needed), and if any roads need to be closed for resource protection or other reasons (*e.g.,* water quality, wildlife, or recreation opportunities).

2. *Even-Aged/Uneven-Aged Management*—The Forest Plan provides direction regarding the primary silvicultural system to be used in each management area; for Management Area 3.0 it is even-aged management. However, uneven-aged management is an option considered for inclusions such as riparian areas, wet soils, or visually sensitive areas.

These issues may be modified as additional issues are identified during scoping. A range of alternatives will be considered after public comments are received and analyzed. One of these will consider No Action for the Project Area. Another alternative will be the proposed action. Management actions within the alternatives will respond to the issues in different ways by varying the size and intensity of the treatments and projects proposed. The amount of even and uneven-aged management, wildlife, recreation development, road management, watershed rehabilitation and other activities may differ within the alternatives. The combinations of proposed activities are likely to be adjusted after all comments are reviewed.

Comments that are site-specific in nature are most helpful to resource professionals when trying to narrow and address the public's issues and concerns.

Commenting: Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and may be subject to public disclosure. 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.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review by January 2003. At that time the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice of Availability of the document in the **Federal Register** (this will begin the 45-day comment period on the Draft EIS). After the comment period ends on the Draft EIS, the

comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement. The Final EIS is scheduled for release in May 2003.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court ruling 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 reviewer's position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.* v. *NRDC,* 435 U.S. 519 553 [1978]). Also, environmental objection that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement state but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts (*City of Angoon* v. *Hodel,* 803 F.2nd 1016, 1022 [9th Cir. 1986] and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc.* v. *Harris,* 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 [E.D. Wis. 1980]).

Because of the 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 are made available to the Forest Service at a time when they can be meaningfully considered and responded to in the final environmental impact statement. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and consider issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages, sections, or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to Council on Environmental Quality *Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act* at CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

This decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215. The responsible official is Leon F. Blashock, Marienville Ranger District, Ridgway Office, RD 1 Box 28A, Montmorenci Road, Ridgway, PA 15853 @ (814) 776–6172.

Dated: April 9, 2002.

Kevin B. Elliott,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02–9141 Filed 4–18–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Payette National Forest, Idaho, Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service published a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project in the **Federal Register** on February 12, 1999 (Vol. 64, No. 29, pages 7164–7165). A revised Notice of Intent is being issued due to two major changes (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 part 21.2):

1. It has been more than six months since filing the original Notice of Intent; and

2. There has been a change in the proposed action.

The USDA Forest Service will prepare the Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project EIS. The proposed action in the EIS is to manage timber stands to improve their productivity and provide defensible space from wildfires on National Forest System Lands adjacent to a private land subdivision. Additionally, the proposed action is to obliterate roads to reduce sediment, and close other roads to reduce wildlife vulnerability. The Payette National Forest invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis and the issues to address. The agency gives notice of the full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decision-making process so that interested and affected people know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments need to be received by May 28, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Kimberly A. Brandel, District Ranger, New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box J, New Meadows, Idaho 83654.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action should be directed to Sue Dixon, Project Team Leader, at the above address, phone (208) 347–0300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Middle Little Salmon planning area is located in the Round Valley Creek and Upper Mud Creek subwatersheds on the New Meadows Ranger District. It is four miles north and west of New Meadows and is approximately 11,823 acres in size. The purpose and need for this activity is to (1) improve the existing condition of forest vegetation within the planning area to move toward the goals, objectives, and desired future condition for forest vegetation stated in the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Plan; and (2) lower the risk of crown fires and reduce fire severity on National Forest lands surrounding the Circle C subdivision.

The proposed action includes a variety of activities to meet the purpose and need. (1) Harvest approximately 6.4 million board feet on 686 acres, of which 361 acres are to reduce the fuels around the Circle C Subdivision. Harvest prescriptions would consist of shelterwood, commercial thinning, and patch clearcuts. Yarding systems would be primarily tractor, and 79 acres of skyline. (2) Reduce crown fire hazard and lower fire severity on 605 acres by commercial harvest (361 acres stated previously), hand pile and burn 211 acres in riparian conservation areas, and prescribe burn an additional 33 acres. (3) Provide for conifer seedling planting and natural regeneration on 427 acres. (4) Road management would consist of reconstructing seven miles of road, and decommissioning or closing 73 miles of road. There would be no new road construction. Seven miles of road would be reconstructed for hauling logs, and stream crossings would include graveling to reduce sediment. (5) Treat harvest generated fuels on approximately 685 acres. A total of 929 acres would be treated with this proposed action. This proposed action would require four one-time, site-specific, non-significant amendments to the Payette National Forest Plan.

Preliminary issues for this project include effects on fisheries, wildlife, water quality, and effects of hazardous fuels reduction.

A range of reasonable alternatives will be considered. The no-action alternative will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. The proposed action will be considered along with additional alternatives developed that meet the purpose and need and address significant issues identified during scoping. Alternatives may have different amounts, locations, and types of project activities.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the project record and available for public review.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribal governments, organizations; and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This