## 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 Districts: Rawlins Daily Times, published daily in Rawlins, Carbon County, Wyoming.

Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming Forest Supervisor Decisions

*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: September 29, 1995.

Elizabeth Estill,

## Regional Forester.

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## Jaybird EIS, Tahoe National Forest, Yuba and Sierra Counties, CA

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA. **ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for proposed timber harvest, plantation thinning, fuels reduction, and wildlife habitat improvement projects for areas in the Brandy, Bridger, and Willow Creek watersheds in accordance with the requirements of 36 CFR 219.19. The projects areas are located within portions of T.18N, R.8 & 9E., and T.19N., R.8 & 9E., MDB&M.

The agency invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. In addition, the agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** Comments should be made in writing and received by November 20, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning the project should be

directed to Jean Masquelier, District Ranger, Downieville Ranger District, North Yuba Ranger Station, 15924 Hwy 49, Camptonville, CA 95922.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Willour, Resource Officer, Downieville Ranger District, Camptonville, CA 95922, telephone (916) 478–6253.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** There are about 2,000 acres being analyzed for projects within the Jaybird analysis area. It incorporates the land within the Brandy, Bridger, and Willow Creek watersheds, which all drain into Bullards Bar Reservoir. It is located just north of Camptonville, California. The area is dominated by mixed conifer and hardwood forest.

This project was chosen to derive needed wood fiber and to reduce fire risk. Watershed problems, fire hazards within a mixed land ownership landscape, forest health concerns, and wildlife habitat conditions represent some of the challenges and opportunities for improvements that will be looked at during this analysis. An EIS will be done because of the concern for water quality.

In preparing the environmental impact statement, the Forest Service will identify and analyze a range of alternatives for treatment of the dense stands of young trees that address the issues developed for these sites. One of the alternatives will be no treatment. Other alternatives will consider differing levels of plantation thinning, timber harvest, new road construction and reconstruction, fuel hazard reduction, and fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects. The needs of people and environmental values will be blended in a such way that the Jaybird analysis area would represent a diverse, healthy, productive, and sustainable ecosystem.

Public participation will be important during the analysis, especially during the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The scoping process includes:

- Identifying potential issues.
- Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
- 4. Exploring additional alternatives.

- 5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).
- 6. Determining potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

Comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals who may be interested in, or affected by the decision, are encouraged to identify other significant issues. Public participation will be solicited through mailing letters to mining claim owners, private land owners, and special use permittees within the downieville Ranger District boundaries; posting information in local towns; and mailing letters to local timber industries, politicians, school boards, county supervisors, and environmental groups. Written comments that have already been received will still be considered when analyzing alternatives and impacts. Continued participation will be emphasized through individual contacts. No public meetings are scheduled.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review approximately the middle of January, 1996. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviews 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 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 Agnoon 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 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 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