SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area consists of approximately 6375 acres of National Forest land. The Seventeenmile fire was 1773 acres and is located within all or portions of T33N, R32W, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and T34N, R32W, Sections 33 and 34. The Studebaker fire was 1896 acres and located within all or portions of T33N, R33W, Section 36; T33N, R32W, Sections 30, 31 and 32; and T32N, R33W, Sections 1, 2 and 3. The Pulpit fire was 2085 acres and is located within all or portions of T32N, R33W, Sections 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 27. The Gunsight fire was 621 acres and is located within all or portions of T33N, R33W, Sections 21, 22, 27 and 28.

Timber salvage harvest of dead and dying timber is proposed on 2556 acres of forested land within the four fires using a variety of logging systems. Approximately 20 MMBF is proposed for harvest. This includes 750 acres within the 1773-acres Seventeenmile fire, 429 acres within the 621-acre Gunsight fire, 588 acres within the 2085-acre Pulpit fire and 789 acres within the 1896-acre Studebaker fire. Fuel reduction accomplished in conjunction with the timber harvest includes grapple piling and prescribed burning. Watershed restoration activities are proposed within and in the vicinity adjacent to the fires. This includes road obliteration (approximately 15 miles) which consists of scarification, seeding, and pulling culverts from roads, recontouring, and riparian planting and debris placement in stream channels (approximately 10 miles). Replanting is proposed on approximately 4412 acres of landincluding both conifer seedlings for reforestation and native shrubs and herbaceous plants for wildlife habitat. The timber harvest operations would require construction of approximately 2 miles of temporary road and reconstruction of approximately 22 miles of existing roads. This action would require temporarily opening approximately 31 miles of roads currently restricted from vehicle traffic.

Approximately 1131 acres proposed for harvest lie within one of two Inventoried Roadless Areas: Roderick IRK (#684)—710 acres in the Seventeenmile fire, and Saddle IRA (#168)—421 acres in the Gunsight fire. No road construction would occur within these areas.

The areas proposed for salvaging fire damaged timber occur in a wide range of Management Areas (MA's) as defined in the Kootenai Forest Plan.

Below is a brief description of the affected Management Areas for the

proposed action, along with the number of acres proposed for harvest within each MA:

Management Area 2—These areas are characterized by a natural-appearing environment offering roadless recreation opportunities and are within an unsuitable timber base 680 acres proposed for salvage harvest.

Management Area 2-OG—These MA 2 areas consist of scattered parcels of existing old growth or mature timber stands which contain component of old growth and are within an unsuitable timber base. 83 acres.

Management Area 33—These are areas with a natural-appearing environment and a minimal number of adjacent or internal roads offering roaded recreation opportunities and are within an unsuitable timber base. They occur mostly in upper elevations from 4,500' and up. 49 acres.

Management Area 10—These are areas that are used by various species of big game for winter range, usually between December 1 and April 30 and are within an unsuitable timber base. 15

Management Area 12—These areas are generally located at or above elevations of 4000' and contain inclusions of moist or wet habitat types. Most species of big game use this management area during the period from late spring through late fall. This management area is characterized by suitable timber producing sites and moderate to rolling topography. 891 acres.

Management Area 13—These areas consist of scattered parcels of existing old growth or mature timber stands which contain components of old growth and are within an unsuitable timber base. 628 acres.

Management Area 14—These areas are identified Interagency Grizzly situations 1 and 2 in conjunction with suitable timber land. 105 acres.

Management Area 18—This management area occurs on areas of slopes in excess of 40% where timber productivity is moderate to high. It is distinguished by the difficulty in establishing coniferous regeneration and is within an unsuitable timber base. 105

For those management areas classified an unsuitable for timber production, an amendment to the Forest Plan would be required to implement the ecosystem management based proposal or any alternative which would harvest timber in unsuitable timber MA's. These would include MA's 2, 2-OG, 3, and 13.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Another alternative will be analyzed which meets Forest Plan direction. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities to achieve the purpose and need, as well as respond to the issues and concerns identified by the public.

The interdisciplinary team (IDT) has identified tentative or preliminary issues briefly described as follows:

- (1) The effects of the proposed action and alternatives on the characteristics of the IRA's and unsuitable management
- (2) The effects of the proposed action and alternatives on water quality and fisheries.
- (3) The effects of the proposed action and alternatives on ecosystem health and the risk of catastrophic wildfires and insert or disease outbreaks.
- (4) The effects of the proposed action and alternatives on threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) species, such as the grizzly bear and bull trout.

(5) The effects of the proposed action and alternatives on timber supply.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action and each alternative, including no action. These include past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands along with proposed mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

The decision to be made is how much, if any, fire damaged timber should be salvaged in these fire areas, within the context of ecosystem management and Forest Plan direction.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which will occur February 3, 1995 to March 6, 1995. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be 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. A public meeting will be scheduled in Troy, Montana on February 28, 1995, and at the Upper Ford Work Center on March 1, 1995.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will

- Identify potential issues.
 Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.
- 3. Eliminate minor issues or those which have been covered by a