

2. Allow postfire activities as described in the Fall Creek Postfire Project to proceed without on Order 2 soil survey. Soil information of sufficient detail to address NEPA issues and required effects disclosure will be provided.

### Preliminary Issues

The Forest Service has identified six preliminary issues raised by the Proposed Action:

1. Effects on water quality in the North Fork Payette River and Payette Lake, which supplies domestic water to McCall. The river is designated a Stream Segment of Concern by the State of Idaho.

2. Effects on fish habitat in the North Fork Payette River and its tributaries, habitat for westslope cutthroat trout and former habitat for bull trout (sensitive species). The North Fork Payette River is a key watershed in the draft Bull Trout Conservation Agreement between Idaho Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

3. Effects on sensitive wildlife species including the boreal owl and three-toed woodpecker.

4. Effects on visual quality as seen from the city of McCall.

5. Effects on wilderness characteristics within the Secesh Roadless Area.

6. The economic efficiency of proposed projects, and effects on socio-economic and social systems around the Payette National Forest.

### Possible Alternatives

The Forest Service has identified two alternatives to the Proposed Act: a no action alternative, and an alternative that uses tractor, skyline, and helicopter logging with road construction. As the public raises additional logging with road construction. As the public raises additional issues and provides more information, the Forest may develop additional alternatives.

### Decisions To Be Made

The Payette National Forest Supervisor will decide:

Whether to allow salvage logging and/or thinning.

If so, where and how to harvest.

Whether to plant after harvest.

Whether to implement the wildlife projects.

What management requirements and mitigation measures are required as part of the project.

What monitoring requirements are appropriate to evaluate project implementation. And,

What Forest Plan amendment(s) are required.

### Public Involvement Meetings

The Forest will hold five public scoping meetings to introduce the Proposed Actions for the three burned landscapes and to invite public comment: Riggins—February 15, 4–9 p.m., City Hall. McCall—February 16, 4–9 p.m., McCall Smokejumper Base. Council—February 21, 4–9 p.m., Council Ranger District office. Boise—February 23, 4–9 p.m., Red Lion Downtowner. Grangeville—February 27, 1–3 p.m., Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's office. In addition, Forest Service personnel will make added public presentations on request.

### Agency/Public Contacts

The Forest is mailing a summary of the Proposed Action, preliminary issues, and background information on the analysis to key individuals, groups, and agencies for comment. The mailing list includes those on the Payette postfire mailing list and those generally interested in Payette National Forest NEPA projects.

### Schedule

Draft Environmental Impact Statement, May 1995. Final EIS, August 1995. Implementation, September 1995.

### Comments

Comments on the Proposed Action and analysis should be received in writing on or before March 10, 1995. Send comments to: Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 1026, 106 W. Park Street, McCall, ID 83638; telephone (208) 634-0700; FAX (208) 634-0281.

The comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency 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, 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 objections that could be raised at the Draft Environmental Impact Statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts [*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1002 (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 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 and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues raised by 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 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 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.

### Responsible Official

David F. Alexander, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 1026, 106 West Park, McCall, ID 83638.

Dated: January 31, 1995.

**David F. Alexander,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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### Main Salmon River Postfire Project, Payette National Forest, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In the summer and fall of 1994, the Corral Fire covered nearly 116,000 acres of Payette National Forest north of McCall, Idaho. The Forest Service intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for portions of the wildfire area to assess and disclose the environmental effects of a proposal. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to remove fire-killed and imminently dead timber, recover its economic value and meet socio-economic demands of local communities, reforest the area, retain and enhance wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion and decrease sedimentation, and maintain fish habitat.

All actions include provisions for snags, dead and down woody debris,