passage and/or improve watershed conditions, by repairing surface on six road segments, improving 11 stream crossings, and closing one road. Specifically, repair road surface, ditches, and/or fix stream crossings on segments of: Road #1339, Road #318, Road 321, Road #246, Road #1333, Road #592, Road #1340, Road #308, Road #1337, Road #1279, Road #565.

4. Remove hazard trees along recreation trails. There are opportunities to improve and relocate segments of trails within sale area boundaries along Forest Service trails # 115, 145, 149, 374, 500, and 504.

Forest Plan Amendment

Amendment to the Forest Plan may be needed to:

1. Allow plantation stocking levels below Forest Plan standards and guidelines to reflect natural stand conditions.

2. Allow postfire activities as described in the Main Salmon River Postfire Project to proceed without an 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 and quantity in the Salmon River, Elkhorn Creek, French Creek, Fall Creek and Carey Creek, and their beneficial use for native fish species and anadromous fish species habitat.

2. Effects on big game, furbearers, neotropical birds, raptors, and sensitive wildlife species habitat in and adjacent to the project areas.

3. Effects on recreation trails and use in the project area.

4. Effects on wilderness characteristics within the roadless area. The proposals lie partly within the French Creek/Patrick Butte Roadless Area.

5. Effects on the ability of the project areas to provide long term growth and yield of timber. Where the Corral Fire burned hot, it left no live trees. Where fire burned at low or moderate intensities, it left a mixture of dead, live, and damaged trees. Trees with crowns and trunks scorched are at risk of dying from fire damage or insect infestation. Grasses and shrubs can invade disturbed sites faster than trees can naturally reforest.

6. The economic, socio-economic, and social effects of salvage timber sales. This includes the economic efficiency of each salvage sale as measured by present net value, the effects on jobs, income, payments to counties, and effects on local social groups.

Possible Alternatives

The Forest Service has identified two alternatives to the Proposed Action: a no action alternative, and an alternative that would not construct road or salvage harvest in the roadless area. 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.

If so, where and how to harvest. Whether to plant after harvest. Whether to implement watershed

improvement and recreation projects. What management requirements and mitigation measures are required as part

of this 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 pm, City Hall. McCall—February 16, 4– 9 pm, McCall Smokejumper Base. Council—February 21, 4–9 pm, Council Ranger District office. Boise—February 23, 4–9 pm, Red Lion Downtowner. Grangeville—February 27, 1–3 pm, 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 (202) 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, 108 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

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