

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Reestablishment of the Edward R. Madigan United States Agricultural Export Excellence Award Board of Evaluators

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice to reestablish board of evaluators.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to reestablish the Edward R. Madigan United States Agricultural Export Excellence Award Board of Evaluators. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the Board is necessary and in the public interest.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, Room 4932, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-10442, telephone: (202) 720-4327, fax: (202) 720-9361, E-mail: mosdamin@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Edward R. Madigan United States Agricultural Export Excellence Award Board of Evaluators is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the selection of recipients for the Edward R. Madigan United States Agricultural Export Excellence Award.

Dated: April 15, 2005.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. 05-8480 Filed 4-27-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Main Boulder Fuels Reduction Project, Big Timber Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Park and Sweet Grass Counties, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service is releasing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to further address the environmental effects that the Main Boulder Fuels Reduction Project would have on the northern goshawk. This is a hazardous fuels reduction project consisting of approximately 2500 acres of overstory and understory canopy thinning, prescribed burning, and aspen stimulation.

DATES: The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected May of 2005 and the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision are expected August of 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written correspondence should be sent to Bill Avey, District Ranger, Big Timber Ranger District, P.O. Box 1130, Big Timber, MT 59011-1130. Copies of the Main Boulder Fuels Reduction SEIS will be available at the Big Timber Ranger District Office, 225 Big Timber Loop Road, Big Timber, MT and the Bozeman Ranger District Office, 3710 Fallon Street, Bozeman, MT. Electronic copies will also be available on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin> in the Projects and Plans area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Avey, District Ranger or Brent Foster, ID Team Leader, Big Timber Ranger District at (406) 932-5155 or Barbara Ping, Co-ID Team Leader, Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2558 (see **ADDRESSES** above).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need of the project is to provide for public and firefighter safety by minimizing the probability and effects of future fire starts in the wildland/urban interface of the Main Boulder River Corridor, to extend the potential time available for evacuation

in the event of a wildfire by reducing the fire hazard along the Main Boulder Road, and to reduce fuel loadings by breaking up the vertical and horizontal fuel composition in the corridor, wherever possible.

Proposed Action

Stand density reduction, utilizing ground based harvest equipment, would occur on approximately 1060 acres on slopes up to 35%. Approximately 1040 acres on slopes >35% would be treated with other specialized methods or hand-treatments. A minimum of 15 to 20% of each unit would be left untreated to provide diversity across the landscape. In addition to reducing surface fuel loading by commercial thinning and salvage, small diameter fuel reduction, understory and/or pile burning would occur. Conifers would be slashed and prescribed burning would occur on approximately 400 acres of meadow-type habitats. Aspen clones would have conifers removed within a 100 foot radius to encourage aspen regeneration. A maximum of 7.4 miles of temporary road may be constructed to access the areas proposed for mechanical fuels treatment. No permanent roads would be constructed.

Alternatives

Alternatives that were considered in detailed study include the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. Seven other alternatives were considered, but did not merit detailed analysis or further consideration in the process.

Responsible Official

Rebecca Heath, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 130, 10 East Babcock, Bozeman, MT 59011.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The scope of actions in the decision are limited to stand density reduction and the reduction of downed fuel loadings on National Forest Land including the thinning of large diameter conifers, removal of insect or disease damaged/killed conifers, cutting of small diameter conifers, slashing of conifers encroaching into meadow or aspen stands, prescribed burning of meadow areas, underburning of some treated stands, piling and removal or burning of downed woody materials resulting from treatment actions.