

available for public review at the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Office, 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487, during normal working hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joanne Sanfilippo (970-870-2210) or Andy Cadenhead (970-870-2220), Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487 or Karl Mendonca (970-947-2811), Bureau of Land Management, Glenwood Springs Field Office, 50629 Highway 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Between 2002 and 2003, Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) activity in the drought-stressed Gore Pass Geographic Area increased 20-fold. A multidisciplinary, focused assessment was completed that identified the probability of a large-scale, high intensity beetle epidemic and fires that will threaten hydrologic flows, timber, wildlife habitats, developed recreation sites, administrative sites, the transportation system, heritage sites, off-site urban development, and other values. The interdisciplinary team identified potential management actions using prevention, suppression, and salvage strategies to reduce the beetle infestations and minimize adverse effects to resources.

Insect epidemics are one of the natural processes in forested landscapes. Some uses of the forest are compromised by tree mortality resulting from insect attacks. Recreation, wood product production, scenery, wildlife habitats and water resources are all adversely affected by large scale insect epidemics and the subsequent increased risk of these areas to large high intensity wildfires.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce the size and intensity of an existing and imminent mountain pine beetle epidemic, and to reduce the future risk of large-scale high intensity wildfires within the Rock Creek Analysis Area.

The Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests is the lead agency. The Glenwood Springs Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management is the joint lead agency for the Rock Creek Integrated Management Project.

To assist the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS 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. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act Predecisional Review (Objection) Process HFRA [Section 105(a)] replaces the USDA Forest Service's and Bureau of Land Management's administrative appeals process with an objection process that occurs before the decision approving authorized fuel-reduction projects under the act. Participation in the predecisional review process is limited to individuals and organizations who have submitted specific written comments related to the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project during the opportunity for public comment provided when an environmental (EA) or EIS is being prepared for the project [Section 105(a)(3), 36 CFR 218.6].

Written objections, including any attachments, must be filed with the reviewing officer within 30 days after the publication date of the legal notice of the EA or final EIS in the newspaper of record [Section 218.4(b)]. It is the responsibility of the objectors to ensure that their objection is received in a timely manner.

Dated: April 8, 2005.

Oscar P. Martinez,

District Ranger, Yampa Ranger District, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, USDA Forest Service.

Dated: April 8, 2005.

Jamie Connell,

Area Manager, Glenwood Springs Field Office, USDI Bureau of Land Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Michigan

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in

Michigan, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in NRCS-Michigan FOTG, Section IV for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Michigan to issue revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards include:

Access Road (560)
 Closure of Waste Impoundments (360)
 Forage Harvest Management (511)
 Heavy Use Protection Area (561)
 Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442)
 Manure Transfer (634)
 Nutrient Management (590)
 Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
 Prescribed Grazing (528)
 Sediment Basin (350)
 Stream Crossing (578)
 Stripcropping (585)
 Structure for Water Control (587)
 Subsurface Drain (606)
 Waste Facility Cover (347)
 Well Decommissioning (351)

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to Kevin Wickey, Assistant State Conservationist-Technology, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250, East Lansing, MI 48823. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to

Kevin.Wickey@mi.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Wickey (517) 324-5279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 393 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Michigan will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Michigan regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: May 13, 2005.

John A. Bricker,

State Conservationist, East Lansing, Michigan.

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