

DATES: Submit written comments by June 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice and the compliance guidelines. Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROMs, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), FSIS, Room 2-2127, George Washington Carver Center, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5272, Beltsville MD 20705-5272.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2010-0026. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or to comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristina Barlow, USDA, FSIS, telephone: (202) 690-7739, e-mail: kristina.barlow@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This document provides small and very small meat and poultry establishments¹ that manufacture RTE meat and poultry products information on regulatory requirements associated with safe production of these products with respect to *Salmonella* and other pathogens. This document also provides information about processing and safe handling of RTE products after the lethality step, so they are not contaminated with pathogens such as *Salmonella* or *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*). Though Agency guidance documents are recommendations rather than regulatory requirements and are revised as new information becomes

¹ According to the Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Systems final rule, a very small establishment is one that has fewer than 10 employees or less than \$2.5 million in annual sales; a small establishment is one that has 10 or more but fewer than 500 employees (61 FR 38819).

available, FSIS encourages meat and poultry establishments to follow this guidance.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp.

FSIS will also make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader and more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the

option to password protect their accounts.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

**Shasta-Trinity National Forest;
California; I-5 Corridor Fuels
Reduction Project**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Shasta Unit of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest is proposing a hazardous fuels treatment project to reduce the risk of life, property and resource values from a high severity wildland fire event and improve fire suppression abilities and firefighter safety by modifying predicted fire behavior along Interstate Highway 5 (I-5) corridor north of the Pit River Bridge; south of the community of Pollock; east of Backbone Ridge peninsula; and west of the McCloud River Arm of Shasta Lake (approximately 15 miles north of Redding, California). The project is located in Shasta County, California. The project area covers approximately 33,700 acres, 15,600 acres are within the wildland urban interface (WUI), 11,900 acres of the WUI are on National Forest System lands. Approximately 20,025 acres of the project area is proposed for treatment. Treatment methods include prescribe fire (*i.e.*, broadcast, underburn, pile burn), mastication, thin and brush cut, prune, chip and pile.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by May 25, 2011. The draft environmental impact statement is expected December 2011 and the final environmental impact statement is expected October 2012.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Marian Kadota, Project Manager, 1072 Casitas Pass Road, #288, Carpinteria, CA 93013. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-pacificsouthwest-shasta-trinity@fs.fed.us with "I-5 Corridor" as the subject, or via facsimile to (530) 275-1512.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marian Kadota, Project Manager, 1072 Casitas Pass Road, #288, Carpinteria, CA 93013. Phone: (805) 220-6388; e-mail address: mkadota@fs.fed.us. Individuals

who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call (530) 242-5526.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The needs for the I-5 Corridor Fuels Reduction (I-5 Corridor) Project are to reduce the risk to life, property and resource values from a high severity wildland fire event uncharacteristic of the historical fire regime, and improve fire suppression abilities and firefighter safety by modifying fire predicted behavior through fuels treatment within the project area. This would be achieved by reducing the uncharacteristic buildup of fuels on the landscape on National Forest System lands. This proposal will compliment other existing and planned firewise treatments on non-national forest lands. Vegetation treatment on non-national forest lands for reducing the risk to individual homes is the responsibility of private landowners. The project is designed to respond to goals and objectives identified in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Northwest Forest Plan, and the Lakehead Area Strategic Fuel Reduction Plan.

The purposes (objectives) for the I-5 Corridor Project are to: restore fire to its natural role in the ecosystem (Forest Plan, p. 4-4); manage the chaparral ecosystem to enhance wildlife habitat and watershed condition (Forest Plan, p. 4-4); manage vegetation to a level that results in healthy forest stands, maintenance of wildlife habitat, good scenic quality and public health and safety (Forest Plan, Management Area 8 [Shasta Unit], p. 4-112); and within bald eagle nest territories, manage vegetation to enhance or retain critical habitat elements over the long-term (Forest Plan, Management Area 8 [Shasta Unit], p. 4-112).

Proposed Action

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest is proposing approximately 20,025 acres of vegetation treatment on National Forest System lands in portions of T33N, R5W; T34N, R4W; T34N, R5W; T35N, R3W; T25N, R4W; T35N, R5W; T36N, R3W, MDM. The project does not involve any commercial timber harvest. The treatment methods include: Broadcast and underburn prescribe fire (approximately 12,815 acres); mastication followed by broadcast or underburn prescribe fire (approximately 1,675 acres); thin, pile, pile burn followed by broadcast or underburn prescribe fire (approximately 1,590 acres); thin, pile, pile and burn or chip (approximately 2,820 acres); and masticate (approximately 1,125 acres).

Within all treatment areas, trees that pose a hazard to firefighter or public safety would be cut. If the tree is greater than 19 inches diameter at breast height (dbh), the downed tree would be left on site unless this conflicts with fuels management objectives or poses a safety hazard for that specific site.

No new forest system or temporary roads are proposed for construction. The majority of roads within the project area are hard surfaced (e.g. paved) and would need no additional maintenance work through the implementation of this project. The native forest system surfaced roads (*i.e.*, unpaved) may receive reconstruction and maintenance activities.

The project is proposed for implementation over a ten year period. The proposed average annual treatment is approximately 2,000 acres. Treatments can occur any time of the year so long as Best Management Practices are implemented and the treatments comply with the design features included in the project design.

Design features (protection measures) were developed and incorporated into the proposed action to reduce potential resource impacts from this project. In addition, monitoring measures are proposed to determine the effectiveness of the project's design and associated design features.

The proposed action requires non-significant project level Forest Plan amendments. Two Forest Plan Management Prescription standards require higher levels of unburned dead and down material per acre be retained than what is proposed after treatment. The Limited Roaded Motorized Recreation management prescription requires an average of 20 tons of unburned dead and down material per acre (Forest Plan, p. 4-47); Roaded Recreation requires an average of ten tons of unburned dead and down material per acre on slopes less than 40 percent and where feasible, maintain the same amount on slopes over 40 percent (Forest Plan, pp. 4-65-66). The Forest Plan amendment would reduce the dead and down material from ten to 20 tons per acre to generally five to ten tons per acre in Limited Roaded Recreation and Roaded Recreation Management Prescription areas. This would entail approximately 1,255 acres of Limited Roaded Motorized Recreation and 8,475 acres of Roaded Recreation. Another non-significant Forest Plan amendment would include designating a Forest Service acquired parcel located in Sec 9, T34N, R4W, MDM, totaling 117 acres, as Roaded Recreation for the management prescription. The National Forest

System lands surrounding this parcel are designated Roaded Recreation. This 117-acre parcel is located in one of the proposed treatment areas.

A more detailed project description can be found on the Forest Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=30238.

Possible Alternatives

Based on the initial scoping of the project, another action alternative will be considered in the environmental analysis that only involves treatments within the wildland urban interface. The preliminary alternatives currently under consideration (besides the proposed action) are: the No Action Alternative and the Wildland Urban Interface Alternative. The final alternatives analyzed in detail will depend on the issues raised during public scoping.

Responsible Official

The Forest Service responsible official for the preparation of the EIS is the Shasta-Trinity Forest Supervisor J. Sharon Heywood, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to implement the proposed action, approve an alternative to the proposed action, or take no action on treating the vegetation related to this project at this time.

Preliminary Issues

Issues identified during initial scoping include potential cumulative, visual quality, water quality, special status species, and invasive plants impacts.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent reinitiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency

with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Dated: April 18, 2011.

Alan D. Olson,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District, South Dakota, Vestal Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to use multiple vegetation treatments focused on reducing the threat to ecosystem components including forest resources from an existing insect epidemic (mountain pine beetle), creating a landscape condition that reduces the potential for high severity wildfire adjacent to the at-risk community of Custer, SD. The proposal is being planned for the 43,516 acre Vestal Project that includes about 25,726 acres of National Forest System land and about 17,790 acres of interspersed private land. The project area is located surrounding the city of Custer, SD. This project will be conducted as an authorized project under Section 102 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). Actions proposed for the Vestal Project would occur on National Forest System lands only.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis would be most useful if received by 30 days following the date of this notice. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be available for public review by November 2011 and the final environmental impact statement is expected to be completed by March 2012.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Lynn D. Kolund, District Ranger, Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District, 330 Mount Rushmore Road, Custer, South Dakota 57730. Telephone Number: (605) 673-4853. E-mail: comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be readable in Word, Rich Text or PDF formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact

Kelly Honors, Team Leader or Lynn D. Kolund, District Ranger, at the Hell Canyon Ranger District office in Custer, SD at (605) 673-4853.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The actions proposed are in direct response to management direction provided by the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The site specific actions are designed, based on Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, to move existing resource conditions in the Vestal Project toward meeting Forest Plan Goals and Objectives. The project area is located surrounding the at-risk community of Custer, SD.

Purpose and Need for Action

The primary purpose for action in the Vestal project is to reduce the threat to forest resources from the existing mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic. This action is needed because there is a rapidly increasing MPB outbreak occurring within the project area which is resulting in substantial levels of pine mortality. Existing stand conditions across the project area are largely at medium to high risk for MPB caused mortality.

A secondary purpose of this project is to protect local communities and watersheds from large-scale wildfire. This action is needed because the project area is located within and surrounding the town of Custer, SD and overall fire hazard in the area is high due to dense stand conditions and dead, dry fuels resulting from MPB caused mortality. Approximately 40 percent of lands in the project area are privately owned, with an estimated 3,194 private structures.

Proposed Action

- Thin and harvest approximately 19,779 acres of pine stands using a variety of methods to treat mountain pine beetle (MPB) infested stands, reduce the overall density of pine trees and create a mosaic of structural stages across the landscape. Both commercial harvest and non-commercial thinning will be used to reduce the stand density, and associated fuel hazard conditions and susceptibility to mountain pine beetle infestations.

- Reduce the amount of fuels that currently exist and that are modified by mountain pine beetle caused mortality by creation of fuelbreaks on 180 acres and deadfall treatment on 24,110 acres. Deadfall treatments could include lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning, and mastication of fuels. Prescribed broadcast burning on approximately 1,761 acres is also planned to disrupt the continuity of

surface and canopy fuels. The deadfall treatment and prescribed burning would occur on sites also proposed for other mechanical treatments.

- Remove conifers from hardwood stands and meadows on approximately 1,889 acres and convert pine stands to aspen on 126 acres to provide additional wildfire protection by enhancing natural fuel breaks.

- Removal of live pine trees which have mountain pine beetle larva in them across the entire project area and as a stand alone treatment on approximately 3,655 acres. This is a suppression method for mountain pine beetle infestations.

- Conversion of 0.6 miles of unauthorized road to system road to facilitate treatments, and closure of approximately 0.9 miles of system road to protect resources.

Responsible Official

Lynn D. Kolund, District Ranger, Hell Canyon Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, 330 Mount Rushmore Road, Custer, South Dakota 57730.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to implement the proposed action or possible alternative at this time.

Scoping Process

The Hell Canyon Ranger District has mailed letters with comprehensive scoping documents to local and tribal government representatives, permittees, organizations and others. A public notice will also be published in local newspapers. The scoping document with attached maps will also be posted on the Black Hills National Forest Web site. A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2011 from 5-7 p.m. at the Custer High School, Custer, South Dakota. Scoping comments submitted based on this NOI will be most useful if received within 30 days from the date of this notice.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent is part of the scoping process which will guide the development of the EIS. Comments received will assist the planning team to identify key issues and opportunities used to refine the proposal or develop possible alternatives. Comments on the DEIS will be requested during the 45 day comment period following publication of the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**, expected in November, 2011.