

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

Forest Service

Zulu Smoot EIS; Kootenai National Forest; Lincoln County, Montana; Cancellation of Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Environmental impact statement cancellation notice.

Notice is hereby given that the Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest is withdrawing its plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Zulu Smoot project. A portion of the project proposal within this area will be incorporated into the South Fork Yaak Environmental Impact Statement for fire and insect mortality recovery.

The Notice of Intent, published in the **Federal Register** of January 14, 1994 (59 FR 2353) is hereby rescinded (FR document is FR 94-915 Filed 1-13-94).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Zearfoss, South Fork Yaak EIS Team Leader, Three Rivers Ranger District (406) 295-4693.

Robert L. Schrenk,

Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest.

[FR Doc. 95-9864 Filed 4-20-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Eight Fathom Timber Sale(s), Tongass National Forest, Chatham Area, Sitka, AK

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental impacts of proposed actions within the Eight Fathom project area. This notice is an amendment to the original notice of intent for this project, published in the

Federal Register on April 22, 1993 (Vol. 58, No. 76, pages 21559 and 21560). Planning activities for the proposed project have been delayed by the collection of inventory data and the termination of the Alaska Pulp Corporation Long-term Timber Sale Contract. A revision of the Notice of Intent is necessary because over six months have passed since notification of this proposal and the purpose of the project has changed, in part.

The proposed action provides for: (1) construction of about 37 miles of road; (2) harvest of about 3,382 acres of timber, and regeneration of new stands of trees; and (3) reuse of existing Log Transfer Facility sites at Eight Fathom Bight and Salt Lake Bay. This level of development would result in the harvest of about 117 million board feet (MMBF) of sawlog and utility timber volume.

DATES: The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during July 1995 and the Final EIS and Record of Decision during January 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action should be directed to: Michael J. Weber, Team Leader, Chatham Area, 204 Signaka Way, Sitka, Alaska 99835, (907) 747-6671.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Eight Fathom project area is located about 60 air miles north of Sitka, Alaska, and 8 miles west of Hoonah, Alaska, on the northern part of Chichagof Island within Value Comparison Units (VCUs) 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 200, 201, 202, 222, and 223 as designated in the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP). These VCUs are located within Management Areas C27, C28, and C29 as described in the TLMP on pages 57, 58, and 59. All three Management Areas are part of the former Alaska Pulp Corporation contract area.

This EIS will tier to the 1979 Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) Final EIS and the 1985-86 and 1991 amendments. The TLMP provides the overall guidance (Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Management Area direction) to achieve the desired future condition for the area in which the project is proposed.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the

Eight Fathom Timber Sales(s) was published in the **Federal Register** on April 22, 1993 (Vol. 58, No. 76, pages 21559 and 21560). Public comments were received during the scoping period that concluded on June 7, 1993. Inventory information was collected from the project area from May to August 1993 and again from May to August 1994.

The April 1993 Notice of Intent stated that the purpose and need for the proposed action was to make timber available to meet requirements of the Alaska Pulp Corporation 50-year Timber Sale Contract (APC Contract). On April 14, 1994, Regional Forester Michael Barton made the decision to terminate the APC Contract. Termination ended APC Contract volume obligations. An independent sale program market assessment was completed in May 1994 to help define market demand for timber in Southeast Alaska in the absence of the APC Contract.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to build about 37 miles of road; harvest about 3,382 acres of timber and regenerate new stands of trees; and utilize existing Log Transfer Facility sites located at Eight Fathom Bight and Salt Lake Bay within the Eight Fathom project area on Chichagof Island. This level of development would result in the harvest of approximately 117 MMBF of sawlog and utility volume to support local mills. The proposed action is one alternative to achieve the purpose and need for the project.

Purpose of the Proposed Action

The purpose and need for the proposed action is to make 60 to 170 million board feet of timber available from the project area to implement the Tongass Land Management Plan; to provide a sustained level of wood products to meet local, national, and international demand; and to improve the timber productivity of the project area. A comparison of the desired future condition for the project area (as identified in the TLMP) with the existing condition shows the need to convert suitable stands of old-growth timber to managed productive stands capable of long-term timber production. This EIS may result in two or more timber sales under the independent sale program or in offerings to the Ketchikan