

and Skranak decision area. Prior to making a NEPA decision, a thorough examination of all standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan would be completed and, if necessary, plan amendments would be addressed in the EIS.

*Decisions To Be Made:* The Kootenai Forest Supervisor will decide the following:

Should road construction to the private properties be permitted and if so how and where,

What mitigation measures would be required for protection of National Forest Service resources, and

If Forest Plan amendments are necessary to proceed with the Proposed Action within the decision area.

*Public Involvement and Scoping:* Notices will be mailed to interested parties from a mailing list, to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the proposed action. Consultation with appropriate State and Federal agencies will be initiated. Preliminary effects analysis indicated that the proposed road construction may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. These potential effects prompted the decision to prepare an EIS for the road construction proposals.

This environmental analysis and decision making process will enable additional interested and affected people to participate and contribute to the final decision. Public participation will be requested at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed projects. This input will be used in preparation of the draft and final EIS. The scoping process will include:

- Identifying potential issues.
- Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Exploring additional alternatives which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
- Identifying potential environmental effects of this project and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The analysis will consider a range of alternatives, including the proposed action, no action, and other reasonable action alternatives.

*Estimated Dates for Filing:* The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by August, 1997. At that time EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The

comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in November, 1997. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

*Reviewer's Obligations:* 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 may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803, F.2d 1016, 1022 (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 very 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 EIS.

To be most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternative discussed. 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:* Robert L. Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest, 506 U.S. Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923 is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official I will decide which, if any, of the proposed projects will be implemented. I will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

Dated: April 28, 1997.

**Robert L. Schrenk,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 97-11749 Filed 5-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

---

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Skranak Road Construction; Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Cancellation of the notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement published Monday, November 18, 1996, **Federal Register**, Vol. 61, No. 223.

**SUMMARY:** The Skranak Road Construction Environmental Analysis has been combined with another private property access request. Both of these private property requests are located in the same inventoried roadless area and in the same Grizzly Bear Management Unit. Therefore, the Libby Ranger District has decided to combine the analyses of the requests and proposed road construction and reconstruction and prepare one Environmental Impact Statement. The Notice of Intent, published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 61, No. 223, on Monday, November 18, 1996 is thereby rescinded. A new notice of intent will be issued.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jon Jeresek, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Libby Ranger District. Phone: (406) 293-7773.

Dated: April 28, 1997.

**Robert L. Schrenk,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 97-11751 Filed 5-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

---

## ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**DATE:** May 12-13, 1997.

**PLACE:** ARRB 600 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

**STATUS:** Closed.

#### **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

1. Review and Accept Minutes of Closed Meeting
2. Review of Assassination Records
3. Other Business

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Eileen Sullivan, Assistant Press and Public Affairs Officer, 600 E Street,