

Federal Register dated April 01, 2003 (68 FR 16511).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-E65038-FL Rating LO, USDA Forest Service and State of Florida Land Exchange Project, Assembled Exchange of both Fee, Ownership Parcels and Partial Interest Parcels, Baker, Citrus, Franklin, Hernando, Lake, Liberty, Okaloosa, Osceola, Santa Rosa and Sumter Counties, FL.

Summary: EPA supports the proposed objectives of land consolidation and has identified opportunities to improve upon the proposed action through additional mitigative commitments involving Tribal interests.

ERP No. D-AFS-F65039-WI Rating EC2, McCaslin Project, Vegetation Management Activities Consistent with Direction in the Nicolet Forest Plan, Lakewood/Laona District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Oconto and Forest Counties, WI.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns relating to adverse impacts from roads to water quality and habitat and forest fragmentation of wildlife. The final EIS should update the predicted percent decline from the preferred alternative on the Golden-Winged Warbler, a management indicator species.

ERP No. D-AFS-L65408-ID Rating EC2, Salmon-Challis National Forest Noxious Weed Management Program, Integrated Series of Weed Treatment and Non-Treatment Practices, Implementation, Custer, Lemhi, Butte and Blaine Counties, ID.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with the range of alternatives evaluated in detail and the continued reliance on strategies that focus on treatment of invasive weed species instead of strategies designed to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. EPA recommended that the final EIS further evaluate approaches to reduce the spread of invasive weeds and assess the environmental effects of using herbicides, grazing treatment options and effects of multi-chemical applications.

ERP No. D-AFS-L65416-ID Rating NS, Upper Bear Timber Sale Project, Fuel Reduction, Forest Vegetation and Roads Management, Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District, Adams County, ID.

Summary: Region 10 used a screening tool to conduct a limited review of this action. Based on this screen, EPA does not foresee having any environmental objections to the proposed project and will not be conducting a detailed review.

ERP No. D-AFS-L67042-OR Rating EO2, Steamboat Mountain Mining Operations, Surface Quarry or "Open Pit" Mineral Extraction, Plan-of-Operation Approval, Appelgate Adaptive Management Area, Rogue River National Forest, Applegate Ranger District, Jackson County, OR.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental objections with potential adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic resources. Existing mineral pyrite deposits pose a high risk for Acid Rock Drainage. Cumulative impacts from milling activities have not been well characterized. EPA recommends that the final EIS identify the location and potential impacts of secondary and tertiary milling processing, characterize bedrock and waste rock acid generating potential, and include a plan to prevent erosion at the mine site and along transport roads.

ERP No. D-AFS-L67044-ID Rating EC2, Golden Hand No. 3 and No. 4 Lode Mining Claims Plan of Operations Approval, Implementation, Frank Church-River of No Return (FC-RONR) Wilderness, Payette National Forest, Krassel Ranger District, Valley County, ID.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with potential environmental impacts to water quality, salmonids and wilderness resources. The final EIS should discuss connected actions and potential impacts associated with tailings disposal, further characterize and describe the use of waste rock, disclose post-mining land use objectives and implementation, provide a cost estimate for meeting post-closure objectives, predict compliance with water quality standards and include quality assurance protocols.

ERP No. D-BLM-J01079-WY Rating EC2, South Powder River Basin Coal Project, Application for Leasing of Five Federal Coal Tracts: NARO Tracts: NARO North and NARO South (North Antelope/Rochelle Mine Complex), Little Thunder (Black Thunder Mine), West Roundup (North Rochelle Mine), and West Antelope (Antelope Mine), Campbell and Converse Counties, WY.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about potential adverse impacts to air quality from fugitive dust and nitrogen oxides. In addition, EPA has concerns about the cumulative impact assessment, impacts to wetlands and sage grouse habitat.

ERP No. D-FHW-J40158-MT Rating EC2, I-15 Corridor Project, Transportation Improvements from Montana City to the Lincoln Road Interchange, Funding and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit Issuance,

Jefferson and Lewis & Clark Counties, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding direct and indirect environmental impacts. EPA recommends the development of a detailed wetland mitigation plan, and consultation with the MDEQ to assure concurrence on proposed transportation improvements with TMDL development for Tenmile Creek and Silver Creek. Information is needed to fully assess and mitigate all potential impacts of the management actions.

ERP No. D-FRC-K05058-CA Rating EC2, EL Dorado Hydroelectric Project, Application for a New License, South Fork of the American River Basin and Truckee River Basin (FERC NO. 184-065), EL Dorado National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Alpine, Amador and El Dorado Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns and requested additional information regarding impacts to threatened and endangered species and Tribal resources.

ERP No. D-JUS-G81011-TX Rating LO, Rio Grande Operation Project, Reduction or Elimination of Illegal Drug Activities and Illegal Immigrants, Starr, Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, TX.

Summary: EPA has no objection to the selection of the preferred alternative.

ERP No. D-JUS-K81028-CA Rating LO, Juvenile Justice Facility and East County Hall of Justice Development, Potential Construction of Both Projects on the Same Site or on Separate Sites, Alameda County, CA.

Summary: EPA had no objections to this project but recommended that the Federally preferred alternative be identified in the Final EIS.

ERP No. D-JUS-K99031-AZ Rating EO2, Programmatic EIS—US Border Patrol Activities within Border Areas of the Tucson and Yuma Sectors to Gain, Maintain, and Extend Control of the Border to Prevent Unlawful Entry of Persons into the US, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Pima and Yuma Counties, AZ.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental objections to the preferred alternative based on the project's significant environmental degradation of cultural/tribal resources, wetlands and water quality, wildlife habitat, endangered species, ecologically or historically unique areas and air quality, that should be corrected by project modification or implementation of other feasible alternatives. EPA also expressed concerns about potential impacts to human health and safety and transboundary environmental effects.

ERP No. D-NPS-F65038-OH Rating EC2, Cuyahoga Valley National Park