

other data field such as institution or title.

SAFEGUARDS:

All records containing personal information are maintained in secured file cabinets or are accessed by unique passwords and log-on procedures. Only those employees with a need-to-know in order to perform their duties will be able to access the information.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

The Data File is cumulative and is maintained indefinitely, and documents are disposed according to agency file plan and disposition schedule. Non-funded proposals are maintained onsite for 1 year and then disposed after 3 years. Funded proposals are maintained onsite for 1 year after completion of the award, and then transferred to the National Archive and Records Administration.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Deputy Administrator, Information Systems and Technology Management (ISTM), USDA-CSREES, Stop 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2216. The address for express mail or overnight courier service is: Deputy Administrator, ISTM, USDA-CSREES, Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Any individual may request information regarding this system of records or information as to whether the system contains records pertaining to such individual from the System Manager.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Any individual may gain access to a record in the system that pertains to such individual by submitting a written request to the System Manager.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Any individual may contest a record in the system that pertains to such individual by submitting written information to the System Manager.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information in this system is obtained from the individuals submitting the proposals and from peer reviewers.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

Privacy Act System "Cooperative Extension Personnel Records System," USDA/ES-2

The purpose of this notice is to delete this system of records because the records are no longer relevant and

necessary to accomplish a purpose of the Agency and the records are no longer maintained by USDA.

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BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Helena National Forest, Montana, Snow Talon Fire Salvage; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Snow Talon Fire Salvage. The Snow Talon Fire Salvage EIS will disclose the environmental effects of a salvage harvest of trees burned in the Snow Talon Fire on the Lincoln Ranger District of the Helena National Forest. The 2003 Snow Talon Fire burned 37,706 acres in the Copper Creek, Landers Fork, and Falls Creek drainages, approximately 10 miles northeast of Lincoln, Montana. The proposed action includes commercial harvest of approximately 20 to 25 million board feet of trees over 2700 acres in the wildfire area, roadwork to meet Best Management Practices (BMP) standards, and rehabilitation of 105 acres of jammer trails. Harvest is not proposed within Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs), Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs), or Research Natural Areas (RNAs). An EIS will be prepared displaying alternatives and the anticipated effects of the above activities to the resources and human uses of the analysis area.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be postmarked by January 15, 2004. The draft EIS is expected March 2004 and the final EIS is expected June 2004.

ADDRESSES AND FOR FURTHER

INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, to be placed on the project mailing list, or to provide comment addressing this proposed action, please e-mail, call, or mail correspondence to Dan Seifert—Snow Talon Fire Salvage Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Lincoln Ranger District, 1569 Highway 200, Lincoln, MT 59639; phone number is (406) 362-4265; e-mail address is dseifert@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information

During August and September of 2003, the Snow Talon Fire burned 37,706 acres, with 34,362 of these acres on National Forest Lands. Approximately 26,500 acres burned with high severity (as defined in the *USFS Burned Area Emergency Response Handbook FSH 2509.13, Amendment No. 2509.13-95-7*).

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to salvage timber in response to the Snow Talon Fire. The immediate need is to recover the value of the burned commercial timber products before they decay and have no commercial viability (*Helena National Forest Land and Resource Plan [Forest Plan] II-1, Goal #11 and Goal #16*). The proposed commercial timber salvage harvest would provide economic opportunities for rural communities and is consistent with Forest Plan goals to provide a sustained timber yield that is responsive to local industry and national needs (*Forest Plan Forest-Wide Goal #11*). Management Area direction for the majority of the proposed for harvest areas designates goals emphasizing cost-effective timber production while protecting the soil productivity (*Forest Plan Management Areas T-1, T-3, T-4*). While some of the actions proposed will help restore resources affected by the fire, the intent of including these actions with this salvage harvest project is to mitigate for the effects of salvage activities. Jammer trail reclamation is included in the proposed action to mitigate for the overall effects of salvage activities to soils. It is not the intent of this project to fully address all the effects of the Snow Talon Fire. Currently, a restoration team is addressing long-term restoration needs through a variety of other projects.

Proposed Action

The Helena National Forest proposes to harvest 20 to 25 million board feet of commercial timber over approximately 2700 acres. The following yarding methods, by percentage of proposed harvest acreage, would be utilized: 55% helicopter, 20% skyline, 25% tractor. To facilitate harvest, approximately 1/2 mile of temporary roads and 30 helicopter landing areas are proposed and would be rehabilitated following harvest. Two temporary bridges would also be needed, and would be removed following harvest and rehabilitation activities. Only dead or dying trees would be removed; however, a few green trees may have to be cut to meet safety requirements in helicopter