

of the merits of the alternatives discussed (See the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3). In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental reviews of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alert an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions, *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978), and that environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final.

After the comment period ends on the draft environmental impact statement, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement. The final environmental impact statement is scheduled to be completed by July 1989. In the final environmental impact statement, the Forest Service is required to respond to the comments received (40 CFR 1503.4). The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the environmental impact statement and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision regarding this proposal. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal.

Date: July 28, 1988.

Leroy Jones,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 88-17633 Filed 8-4-88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-17-01

National Environmental Policy Act; Revised Implementing Procedures

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; continuance of interim policy.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is reissuing an interim directive that clarifies its National Environmental Policy Act implementation policy on categorical exclusions from documentation. The directive

emphasizes the importance of recordkeeping in conjunction with categorical exclusion determinations, and it limits the types of low-impact silvicultural activities that normally qualify for categorical exclusion. It is necessary to reissue the interim direction to provide continuing direction while the agency prepares a more comprehensive revision of its environmental analysis and documentation policy and procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The new interim directive will become effective August 10, 1988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions and comments about this policy should be addressed to David E. Ketcham, Director of Environmental Coordination, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090, (202) 447-4708.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Forest Service directive system policy limits the duration of an interim directive (ID) to one year. If, upon expiration of an ID, the Agency is not yet prepared to incorporate the interim direction into the parent directive text, Agency policy allows reissuing the interim directive.

On August 10, 1987, the Forest Service issued Interim Directive No. 14 to Forest Service Manual Chapter 1950 (52 FR 30935). That interim directive superseded the Agency's then existing policy on determining when the analysis of a proposed action could be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (June 24, 1985; 50 FR 26081).

Interim Directive No. 14 expires August 10, 1988. Because the Agency is in the process of making comprehensive revisions to all of Chapter 1950 and the accompanying environmental analysis handbook, FSH 1909.15, the direction in ID No. 14 cannot be incorporated at this time into the parent text of the Manual. In order to prevent a gap in this needed direction, the agency is reissuing the interim directive.

The Agency plans to publish the more comprehensive changes in its National Environmental Policy Act implementing policy and procedures in the next few months for public comment. Direction on categorical exclusions will be incorporated in that proposed revision.

The interim directive is being reissued without change. For ease of reference, the full text of the directive as it will be distributed to Forest Service personnel is set out at the end of this notice.

Date: July 28, 1988.

George M. Leonard,
Associate Chief.

Forest Service Manual

Interim Directive No. 16.

Duration: One year.

Chapter: 1950—Environmental Policy and Procedures.

Posting Notice: Last ID was No. 15 to FSM 1920, issued 2/8/88.

This interim directive is a reissuance of ID No. 14, issued August 10, 1987. It clarifies FSM section 1952.2—Categorical Exclusion From Documentation. It deletes a paraphrase of the Council on Environmental Quality's definition of categorical exclusion. It emphasizes that a project file should be maintained for any records created during analyses of actions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. It provides examples of the types of records that might be included in the project file. It also limits the use of categorical exclusions for low-impact silvicultural activities to "salvage, thinning, and small harvest cuts of less than 100 thousand board feet or less than 10 acres" and adds "miscellaneous forest product sales."

This policy applies only to the salvage, thinning, and small harvest cuts that are proposed, analyzed, and decided after the effective date of this interim directive. Proposed actions which have been analyzed and categorically excluded under previous policy do not have to be re-analyzed and documented in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement as a result of this interim directive.

1952.2—Categorical Exclusion From Documentation In An Environmental Assessment Or An Environmental Impact Statement. (40 CFR 1508.4). In addition to the seven categories of actions excluded from documentation in 7 CFR 1(b)(3), certain other actions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. To determine if an action may be categorically excluded, an environmental analysis, including scoping, must be conducted. (FSH 1909.15, ch. 10 and 20).

The guide for determining whether an action may be excluded is the significance of the effects (40 CFR 1508.27). In unusual circumstances an action that normally might be categorically excluded may have a significant environmental effect on the

quality of the human environment and require an environmental impact statement. Unusual circumstances might include areas involving threatened and endangered species; critical habitat; flood plains; wetlands; and specially designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or roadless areas designated for further planning.

Interested and affected persons must be informed in an appropriate manner (40 CFR 1506.6 and FSM 1950.3) of a decision to proceed with an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

During the analysis, maintain a project file for any records prepared, such as (1) a list of interested and affected people contacted during scoping, (2) the results of the analysis, (3) documentation of the determination of consistency with the Forest Plan (FSM 1920, ID No. 13. 1/20/87), (4) documentation of the notification given of the decision to proceed with an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (for example, telephone message, news release, and so forth), and (5) a list of the people notified of the decision to proceed.

Typical classes and representative examples of actions that might be categorically excluded are listed below. Experience and environmental analysis indicate that these actions and classes usually do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively. These typical classes include most forest management activities that normally could be categorically excluded. Proposed actions considered for categorical exclusion which are not clearly within a typical class must have no more environmental impact than those which are.

1. Administrative actions, such as road and area closures; restrictions on travel or use, such as camping, boating, or hunting; and posting signs and markers.

2. Construction of low-impact facilities or improvements, such as auxiliary support buildings or other structures; picnic areas and campgrounds; temporary and other low-standard roads, such as traffic service level "D" roads (FSH 7709.56); and trails.

3. Repair and maintenance activities, such as on buildings, grounds, trails, rights-of-way, and range improvements.

4. Low-impact silvicultural activities that are limited in size and duration and that primarily use existing roads and

facilities, such as firewood and miscellaneous forest product sales; salvage, thinning, and small harvest cuts of less than 100 thousand board feet or less than 10 acres; site preparation; and planting and seeding.

5. Low-impact range management activities, such as fencing, seeding, and installing water facilities.

6. Issuance or modification of authorizations or agreements for such uses of lands or facilities as road maintenance and additional use of existing roads, rights-of-way, and easements.

7. Low-impact pest management activities, such as suppressing nuisance insects and poisonous plants in campgrounds and picnic areas; controlling cone and seed insects in seed orchards; and fumigating to control weeds in nurseries.

8. Mineral and energy activities of limited size, duration, and degree of disturbance, such as preliminary exploration and removal of small mineral samples.

9. Fish and wildlife management activities, such as improving habitat, installing fish ladders, and stocking native or established species.

10. Transfer of interests in land, such as sales, exchanges, or interchanges pursuant to the Small Tracts Act; purchases and gifts; and small transfers and trades with other Federal agencies.

(FR Doc. 88-17659 Filed 8-4-88; 8:45 am)
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Umpqua National Forest Boundary Extension, Tiller Administrative Site

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of boundary extension.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture has approved establishment of a purchase unit and the extension of the boundaries of the Umpqua National Forest to include the Tiller Administrative Site. A copy of the order as signed by the Secretary is set out at the end of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: By order of the Secretary of Agriculture, the boundary revision was effective June 21, 1988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Johnson, Lands Specialist, USDA, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090. (703) 235-2408.

Date: July 1988.

George M. Leonard,
Associate Chief

Office of the Secretary

Change in Boundary of Umpqua National Forest

Pursuant to authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by section 11 of the Act of March 1, 1911, (36 Stat. 901) as amended, notice is hereby given of the establishment of a purchase unit and the extension of the boundaries of the Umpqua National Forest as described below to include the same and all lands within the Umpqua National Forest as adjusted that have been acquired by the United States under the Act of March 3, 1925, the Act of April 8, 1935 and the Act of August 3, 1956, and which, by statute (Act of September 2, 1956, 72 Stat. 1571), now attain status as National Forest land subject to the Act of March 1, 1911.

Umpqua National Forest, Oregon, Willamette Meridian

Douglas County

The following property is located in W 1/4 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 33, T.30 S., R.2 W., W.M.:

Beginning at a point, which is the E 1/4 corner of section 33, thence N89°42'W 918.34 feet, thence S44°52'W 124.96 feet, thence S23°48'W 190.67 feet to a point opposite Engineer's station 1220+38.05 on the North Right-of-Way line of Douglas County Rd. #1, thence S04°13'E along said Right-of-way 393.18 feet, thence S61°17'E 584.48 feet along said Right-of-way, thence S55°01'E 100.66 feet to South line of NW 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 33, thence S69°37'E 531.98 feet along said South line, thence S48°34'W 324.00 feet, thence S58°33'W 457.71 feet to a point on the Northern Right-of-way line of Douglas County Road #1, thence S42°28'E 121.12 feet along said Right-of-way line, thence S44°45'E 232.60 feet along said Right-of-way, thence S61°57'E 378.24 feet along said Right-of-way line, thence S78°04'E 222.58 feet along said Right-of-way line, thence S78°04'E 74.21 feet along said Right-of-way line, thence N0°02'W 783.40 feet, thence N0°02'W 884.15 feet, thence S39°18'W 652.02 feet, thence S40°50'W 230.55 feet, thence N1°10'W 192.90 feet, thence N40°50'E 230.00 feet, thence N41°32' 609.23 feet, thence N1°41' 243.40 feet, thence N0°02'W 176.87 feet to point of beginning containing 51.40 acres more or less.

Effective Date: This order is effective on the 21th of June, 1988.

Richard E. Ling,
Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

(FR Doc. 88-17660 Filed 8-4-88; 8:45 am)
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M