Part of this portion of the project will be to eliminate or close other roads in the area. These roads are currently closed to public use. Most roads that will not be needed for timber management within ten years or more would have hazardous fills pulled back to the contour, drainage structures removed and be barricaded with a permanent structure. Many of them have been overgrown with brush and trees.

ATV Trail Development

The district would like to look at the possibility of designating or developing acceptable ATV routes to provide this recreation opportunity. The Eagle Bird area offers several miles of potential ATV opportunities along existing roads, if those roads were closed to general vehicle traffic and managed as ATV routes. When used in conjunction with open system roads, these routes could offer loop opportunities, as well as connections to the Coeur d'Alene River and Superior Ranger Districts to the north. The attached maps show potential ATV routes on both open and restricted system roads. Following management activities within the area, identified system roads would be closed to general vehicle traffic to provide ATV opportunities. Approximately one mile of single-track trail would also be widened to provide an additional ATV loop opportunity.

Single-Track Trail Management

The area would continue to provide single-track trails for mixed use by hikers, horseback riders, mountain bicyclists and motorcyclists. These routes are identified on the attached map.

Float Trailhead Development

A float trailhead would be developed on the St. Joe River Road to provide river access for Skookum Canyon, a popular destination for whitewater enthusiasts during high spring runoff. Located at an existing roadside parking area northeast of Tourist Creek, the trailhead would provide a pathway to the river and singing.

Preliminary Issues

We expect issues and concerns with this project to include the impacts on wild-life, fish, water quality, and recreation, as well as road construction, clearcutting and economic feasibility. Issues will be developed and analyzed based on public comment and the interdisciplinary team's analysis of effects on resources. Alternatives will be developed to modify or eliminate the impacts from proposed activities and still meet the purpose for this project.

Additionally, some of the vegetation treatment may result in openings of over 60 acres. While we would like comments that would affect alternatives early, comments on the size of openings and their effects will be accepted for 60 days after publication of this notice.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in March 1998. The final environmental impact statement is expected to be completed in May 1998.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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 and 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 statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental statement 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 them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concern on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviews 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.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1–800–245–6340 (voice) or 202–720–1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Dated: December 1, 1997.

Bradley Burmark,

St. Joe Deputy District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 97–32313 Filed 12–9–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Amendment to Certification of Central Filing System—Idaho

The Statewide central filing system of Idaho has been previously certified, pursuant to Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985, on the basis of information submitted by the Idaho Secretary of State, for farm products produced in that State (52 FR 49056, December 29, 1987).

The certification is hereby amended on the basis of information submitted by Pete T. Cenarrusa, Secretary of State, for additional farm products produced in that State as follows:

herbs

This is issued pursuant to authority delegated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Authority: Sec. 1324(c)(2), Pub. L. 99–198, 99 Stat. 1535, 7 U.S.C. 1631(c)(2); 7 CFR 2.18(e)(3), 2.56(a)(3), 55 FR 22795.

Dated: December 3, 1997.

Tommy Morris,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs.

[FR Doc. 97–32321 Filed 12–9–97; 8:45 am]

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