

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Indian Affairs****Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Forest Management Plan for the Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, Montana**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed forest management plan for the trust forest lands of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, Montana, is now available for public review and comment. A description of the proposed action follows as supplemental information. This notice also announces a public hearing to receive public comments on the DEIS.

DATES: Written comments must be received by May 2, 1999. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Address written comments to Mr. Ernest "Bud" Moran, Superintendent, Flathead Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box A, Pablo, Montana 59855. The public hearing will take place in the Dan Swaney Conference Room at the Mission Valley Power Headquarters, Pablo, Montana. It will begin at 6 p.m.

To obtain a copy of this DEIS, please write or call Mr. Ralph Goode, Tribal Forestry, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, P.O. Box 278, Pablo, Montana 59855, Telephone (406) 676-3755. Copies of the DEIS have been sent to all agencies and individuals who participated in the scoping process or who have already requested copies of the document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ralph Goode, 406-676-3755.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There are approximately 451,391 acres of forest trust land on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The Draft Forest Management Plan (the proposed action) takes an interdisciplinary approach to forest management and seeks to restore and maintain the long term ecological integrity of the reservation's forests in a manner consistent with tribal values. The plan describes resource management practices and levels of resource production. It establishes management standards, allocates land and prescribes management practices to achieve balanced forest ecosystems. The plan is needed to: (1) Ensure that management activities are compatible with sustainable forest ecosystems; (2)

balance tribal cultural, social, economic and environmental values; and (3) establish a basis for adaptive management and monitoring that incorporates tribal members' values.

The DEIS includes five alternatives, including a no action alternative. Alternatives One, Two and Three take an ecosystem approach to management. These focus on the overall vegetative structure and composition of the forest rather than on individual stands or on the needs of individual species. They seek to restore, to varying degrees, more natural structures, processes and functions to the forest in order to achieve more sustainable conditions over the long term. Of the three, Alternative One seeks the highest level of restoration, followed by Alternatives Two and Three. Alternative Five takes a passive approach to management, in which timber harvesting would be limited to salvage operations after fires, wind throw, or insect and disease outbreaks. Alternative Four, no action, would continue the management practices of the last forest management plan, which was adopted in 1987.

Alternative Two, the 1996 Draft Forest Plan with updates and revisions made in response to modeling refinements and new information, is both the proposed action and the preferred alternative. It is preferred because it best balances social, cultural, economic and environmental concerns and best meets the stated purpose and need.

This notice is furnished in accordance with § 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: February 19, 1999.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[ES-030-9-1430-02]

Notice of Intent To Prepare the Wisconsin Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Milwaukee Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Milwaukee Field Office, will begin preparation of a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Environmental Assessment (EA), whose purpose will be to assess future disposition of the remaining public domain parcels in the State of Wisconsin.

The planning effort will follow the procedures set forth in 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 1600. The EA will be prepared under 40 CFR 1500, *et seq.*

The public is invited to participate in this process, beginning with the identification of planning issues. Specifically, BLM would like input on how the properties should be managed. In most cases, however, it is BLM's policy to retain the properties in public ownership. This notice is not a solicitation for bids to purchase Federal land.

DATES: The comment period for scoping commences with the publication of this notice. Comments must be postmarked no later than April 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Field Manager, Milwaukee Field Office, P.O. Box 631, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-0631.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Levine, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, telephone at (414) 297-4463, or electronic mail at hlevine@es.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RMPA/EA will guide future management of public land in the State of Wisconsin. The parcels are located in Bayfield, Door, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Oneida, Vilas, Waupaca Counties.

The plan will consider the disposition of relinquished U.S. Coast Guard lighthouse stations and other upland public domain parcels in the state. The plan will not include the over 600 river and lake islands within the state. These lands may be conveyed to the State through Federal legislation.

Public involvement will be an important part of the planning process.