Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01–027N]

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Current Thinking Paper; Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of the Agency's current thinking paper on possible actions to minimize human exposure to meat food products from cattle that could contain the infective agent that causes Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). BSE, commonly referred to as ''Mad Cow Disease,'' is a chronic degenerative disease affecting the nervous system of cattle. Worldwide, there have been more than 178,000 cases since the disease was first diagnosed in 1986 in Great Britain, although no cases of BSE have been confirmed in the United States. Recent laboratory and epidemiological research indicate that there is a causal association between BSE and a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a slow degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system of humans.

The Agency current thinking paper follows the recent publication of a risk assessment conducted by the Harvard University School of Public Health to analyze and evaluate the U.S. Department of Agriculture's current measures to prevent BSE. FSIS requests comments on both the current thinking paper and the Harvard risk assessment.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the current thinking paper and the Harvard risk assessment are available from the FSIS Docket Clerk, FSIS Docket Room, Room 102, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700. Copies of both documents also are available on the Internet at: *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/default.htm.* Send all written comments on the current thinking paper and the risk assessment to the FSIS Docket Room. All comments received will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Daniel Engeljohn, Director, Regulations and Directives Development Staff, Office of Policy, Program Development and Evaluation, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720–5627.

Done in Washington, DC on: January 15, 2002.

Ronald F. Hicks,

Acting Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02–1342 Filed 1–15–02; 2:09 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Greendale Project, Green Mountain National Forest, Manchester Ranger District, Town of Weston, Windsor County, Vermont

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Greendale Project (Project Area) is located on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) in the Town of Weston on lands north of the Landgrove-Weston Road and west of Route 155, and affects National Forest Service System Lands adjacent to the Trout Club Rd., Moses Pond Rd., Jenny Coolidge Rd., and the Greendale Rd. The Project Area covers approximately 5,404 acres and includes portions of Forest Plan designated Management Areas 2.1A, 3.1, 4.1, and 6.2A encompassing Compartments 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 45. The 1986 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) determined that these lands are administratively available for recreation, wildlife, fisheries and vegetation management to meet a range of resource management objectives.

The Proposed Action would treat approximately 895 acres through evenage and unevenage tree harvest using three or more commercial timber sales; harvesting approximately 4 million board feet of timber.

Evenage management would include 26 acres of overstory removal, 267 acres of thinning, 62 acres of clear-cutting scattered throughout the project area, and 154 acres of delayed shelter-wood harvest. Unevenage management would consist of 282 acres of individual and 104 acres of group tree selection harvest. The objective is to promote both aspen and softwood tree regeneration, maintain and restore the diversity of tree species & age classes, promote forest health, improve winter deer habitat, and maintain a diversity of wildlife habitats within the Project Area. The project would also restore and maintain approximately 32 acres of historic apple orchards and improve stream and fish habitat on approximately 1.5 miles of Jenny Coolidge Brook. There would be no new road construction or reconstruction of existing roads.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received by February 20, 2002 to ensure timely consideration. The Forest Service will also conduct one or more public scoping meetings regarding this vegetation management proposal. The public will be notified as to the date, time and location of these meeting as they are scheduled.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to: Dennis Roy, District Ranger, Manchester Ranger District, 2538 Depot Street, Manchester Center, Vermont 05255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward Toth, project leader either by writing to him at the Manchester Ranger District, 2538 Depot Street, Manchester Center, Vermont 05255 or by telephone at (802) 362–2307 Ext: 212 if you have questions about the project and the preparation of the EIS or if you would like to be on the mailing list for this project.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Project Area is located within the Town Of Weston, Windsor County, Vermont. It encompasses approximately 5,404 acres of National Forest System Lands on the GMNF. The 1986 Forest Plan determined these public lands to be administratively available for recreation, wildlife and fisheries habitat improvement and vegetation management provided: (1) The proposed