

U.S.D.A. Forest Service



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Monday, October 6, 2003 Contact: Carol Boyd cboyd@fs.fed.us (509) 775-7400

Colville National Forest proposes salvage of burned timber from Togo Mountain Fire

Colville, Washington...The Colville National Forest is beginning the environmental analysis process for the Togo Fire Salvage project and would like to hear from the public their views on the project, announced Carol Boyd, district ranger for the Republic Ranger District and Sherri Schwenke, district ranger for the Three Rivers Ranger District. The public will have until the close of business, October 14, 2003 to provide their comments on this round of analysis. The public will also have an opportunity to comment on this sale in November once the scoping process is completed, said Schwenke.

The Togo Fire Salvage Project Area is within the Togo Mountain Fire perimeter, on lands managed by both districts. The burned area ranges from northeast of Curlew, Washington to northwest of Orient, Washington in Ferry County.

Approximately 1,750 is scheduled to be harvested. Logging methods include tractor (991 acres), cable (449 acres), and helicopter (312 acres). Over 1,644 acres were moderately or severely burned and 108 acres were lightly burned. The moderate to severe burn areas will result in little or no overstory remaining and in the lightly burned areas (underburn), there will be an overstory remaining after harvest. Plans call for 4.5 miles of new road construction proposed and 1 mile of road reconstruction.

Boyd and Schwenke stated that all units will meet or exceed standards required under The Inland Native Fish Strategy and the Regional Forester's Forest Plan Amendment #2 titled Revised Continuation of Interim Management Direction. Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas will not be harvested and the forest hydrologist or fisheries biologists will determine if standard buffers are adequate or whether additional areas need to be excluded to provide protection for the stream.

Created openings that occur within harvested units will be reestablished by a combination of natural regeneration and planting seedlings from selected Region 6 certified seed that will be compatible to the burned area. Planting will emphasize fire tolerant seral species (western larch), except within pine marten areas. These units will be planted with site specific species mix of seedling intended to create martin habitat. The mix may include western larch, Douglas-fir, western red cedar, and Englemann spruce. Lodgepole pine is expected to fill in naturally.

Please send comments to the Republic Ranger District, 180 North Jefferson, Republic, WA 99166. Comment may be submitted electronically by sending them to comments-pacificnorthwest-colville-republic@fs.fed.us. They will also be accepted by visiting the ranger station or by calling Carol Boyd at (509) 775-7400.

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