

**South George Vegetation and Fuels Management Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
Asotin and Garfield Counties, WA**

Lead Agency:

USDA Forest Service

Responsible Official:

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Abstract: For this project, USDA Forest Service is proposing vegetation and fuels management to improve forest health, vigor, and resilience to fire, insects, and disease in upland forests that are outside their historical pre-fire suppression conditions for species composition, structural diversity, and stocking densities; reduce fuel loadings; provide sawlogs and wood fiber products for utilization by regional and local industries; and to continue to provide and manage for wildlife habitat and its components (cover and forage).

Four alternatives, including the No Action alternative (Alternative A), are analyzed in the DEIS. Alternative B, proposed action and preferred alternative, would commercially harvest and reduce activity fuels on approximately 3,900 acres. Alternative C is designed to implement project activities with no temporary road construction and to decommission roads and trails. Alternative C would commercially harvest and reduce activity fuels on approximately 3,900 acres. Alternative D is designed to maintain existing old forest. Alternative D would commercially harvest and reduce activity fuels on about 2,600 acres. Other activities proposed in all action alternatives include: natural fuels treatments (1,150 acres); landscape prescribed fire (3,000 acres); and danger tree removal along haul routes and trail heads.

The Responsible Official must receive comments on this Draft Environmental Impact Statements 45 days after the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) notice of availability appears in the Federal Register.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and comments. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review.