

US Forest land planning rule welcomed by FRA

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Seattle, United States, January 27, 2012 -- A new planning rule that could increase forest land in the United States is being supported by research and analysis consultancy, Forestry Research Associates (FRA).

The new planning rule that is intended to help protect the country's 193-acres of national forest, according to a statement from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The planning rule, which will be known as the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule, will provide better protection for the National Forest System and the rural communities that depend on forestry and live near the forests of North America. Secretary Vilsack explained, "The most collaborative rule making effort in agency history has resulted in a strong framework to restore and manage our forests and watersheds and help deliver countless benefits to the American people."

The plan outlines some of the 'preferred alternatives' to the existing plan, which will focus more on protecting communities and maintaining forests for the benefit of the people. Encouraging managed forestry and sustainable approaches to the forestry industry is seen as essential for all densely forested countries, according to FRA's analysis partner, Peter Collins.

He added, "Reforestation projects are essential to help ensure that the forestry industry is run in a fully sustainable way that provides assurance that generations to come will both be able to enjoy the forests but also use them to make a living."

FRA claims that encouraging investment in forestry, and particularly in sustainable plantation projects in developing countries, such as the projects run by Greenwood Management in Brazil, can help to provide protection for forests and the forestry industry.

The plans attracted support from the US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, who stated, "Under our preferred alternative, plan revisions would take less time, cost less money, and provide stronger protections for our lands and water. Finalizing a new rule will move us forward in managing our forests and grasslands, and will create or sustain jobs and income for local communities around the country."

About Forestry Research Associates

Forestry Research Associates is a research and advisory consultancy that focuses on forestry management, sustainability issues and forestry investment around the globe.

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