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of Engineers**

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News Release

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Little Bay Habitat stewardship selective-thinning project begins later this month

Orofino, Idaho -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a stewardship project on selected Corps administered forestlands, encompassing a portion of Dworshak Dam and Reservoir, Clearwater County, Idaho. The project area is located along the Dworshak Reservoir between Canyon Creek at River Mile 7 and 11 and includes approximately 1,300 acres.

The purpose of this project is to restore healthy forest conditions. Current forest conditions include over-stocked stands, elevated forest fuels, poor quality big game habitat and elevated disease and beetle infestations. These conditions have resulted primarily from lack of frequent low-intensity wildfires.

Selective thinning, using both conventional and helicopter logging methods will harvest the trees. Following the harvest, controlled, low-intensity prescribed burns will be used to imitate the effects of natural wildfire. Some of the benefits include enhanced wildlife habitat, reduced fuel loading, healthier forest stands and a benefit to the local economy.

The Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood District is administering this Corps' timber sale. The sale was awarded to Empire Lumber of Kamiah through competitive bid and Empire Lumber has contracted with local businesses to complete the work.

Log hauling should begin around August 27 and will continue into early November on Loseth Road at approximately the 10-mile marker off the Wells Bench Road. Helicopter logging will start in 2005 and will take place on about half the total acreage. Safety is a primary concern and users of the area are cautioned to be aware of the additional traffic log hauling brings.

For more information about this quality stewardship activity please contact Wildlife Biologist, Russ Davis, at (208) 476-1203. For general Dworshak recreation information, contact the Visitor Center at (208) 476-1261.