



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Midwest Regional Office
5600 West American Boulevard, Suite 500
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437

AUG 23 2018

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Forestry

Notice of Availability & Decision to Proceed – 2018 Blowdown Salvage EA

Introduction: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to approve salvage harvest on the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's lands. A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Brief Description of Proposed Action and Stated Need: The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Regional Office, is proposing to approve timber management, identified as 2018 Blowdown Salvage Environmental Assessment (EA), on federal trust land on the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's Reservation in Menominee County, Wisconsin. This management would recover the maximum quality and quantity of forest products that were damaged in a July 2018 blowdown event. The need for this proposed action is to promote general forest health; reduce the possibility of insect and disease outbreaks; recover the value of forest products that would be lost if not salvaged immediately; to return these stands to the previous stand composition and structure; to produce revenue for Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE); and to provide local employment.

Environmental Review: In compliance with provisions of the NEPA, an EA and FONSI have been prepared. Based on the EA and information provided, no effects to historic properties, Federally-listed threatened or endangered species, water resources including wetlands, or any other Federally-regulated resources are anticipated. If any inadvertent discoveries of historic/cultural resources, Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and/or other regulated resources are made, the project shall be halted and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and Midwest Regional Office promptly notified. The proposed harvest will conform to all applicable laws and regulations and will be conducted in accordance with the Tribal Forest Management Plan and employ forestry best management practices. It has been determined that approval of the timber sale will not adversely affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be required.

Document Availability and Comments: Interested parties can obtain copies the FONSI and related NEPA documents from the above address in care of the Division of Forestry. Comments will be taken for 7 days from this Notice. For additional information regarding the proposed timber management contact Sean Maiers, Bureau of Indian Affairs, at (612) 725-4557.

Decision to Proceed:

Approved by:

 Date: 8-23-2018
Timothy LaPointe, Regional Director