

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Notice of Meeting

Summary: Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will meet on Friday, September 13, 1996. The meeting will be held in Room M09 at the Old Post Office, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C., beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The Council was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Section 470) to advise the President and the Congress on matters relating to historic preservation and to comment upon Federal, federally assisted, and federally licensed undertakings having an effect upon properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Council's members are the Architect of the Capitol; the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation; the Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency and General Services Administration; the Chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; a Governor; a Mayor; a Native American or Native Hawaiian; and eight non-Federal members appointed by the President.

The agenda for the meeting includes the following:

- I. Chairman's Welcome
- II. Swearing in of New Member
- III. Report of the Task Force on the Council's Future
- IV. Report of the Task Force on the 30th Anniversary of the NHPA
- V. Report of the Task Force on Regulations
- VI. Presidential Historic Preservation Directives
- VII. Council Policy Statement on Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities
- VII. Executive Director's Report

IX. New Business X. Adjourn

Note: The meetings of the Council are open to the public. If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Room 809, Washington, D.C., 202-606-8503, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

For further information contact: Additional information concerning the meeting is available from the Executive Director, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., 809, Washington, DC 20004.

Dated: September 5, 1996.

Robert D. Bush,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 96-23029 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Water Rights Task Force

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; establishment of task force and initial meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the establishment and initial meeting of the Water Rights Task Force established on August 20, 1996, by Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, as amended by the Fiscal Year 1997 Agricultural Appropriations Act. The Congress and the Secretary have determined that the Water Rights Task Force is necessary and in the public interest and, accordingly, the Forest Service has scheduled the first meeting of the Task Force in Denver, Colorado, on September 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on September 24 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

DATES: The initial meeting will be held September 23-24, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 740 Simms Street, Golden, CO 80401. Send written comments to Eleanor Towns, FACA Liaison, Water Rights Task Force, c/o USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Telephone: (202) 205-1248; Fax: (202) 205-1604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Classer, Watershed & Air Management Staff, Telephone: (202) 205-1172; Fax: (202) 205-1096.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Water Rights Task Force (Task Force) is composed of seven members appointed by Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture. The purpose of the Task Force is to study and make recommendations on: (a) whether Federal water rights should be acquired for environmental protection on National Forest System lands; (b) measures necessary to protect the free exercise of non-Federal water rights requiring easements and permits from the Forest Service; (c) the protection of minimum instream flows for environmental and watershed management purposes through purchases or exchanges from willing sellers in accordance with State law; (d) the effects of any of the recommendations upon State laws, regulations, and customs of water usage; and (e) measures that would be useful in avoiding or resolving conflicts between the Forest Service's responsibilities for environmental stewardship, the public interest, and property rights and interests of water holders with special use authorizations for water facilities, including the study of the Federal acquisition of water rights, dispute resolution, mitigation, and compensation.

Copies of the Task Force's charter are being filed with the appropriate committees of Congress and the Library of Congress in accordance with section 9(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The objectives of the initial meeting are for the Task Force to elect a chairperson and develop a plan for carrying out its assigned responsibilities. The meeting is open to the public and will be chaired by the Forest Service liaison to the Task Force. Time will be provided each day for public input at times to be scheduled by the chairperson. However, Task Force discussion is limited to Forest Service personnel and Task Force members. Persons who wish to bring water rights matters to the attention of the Task Force may file written statements with the Forest Service liaison before or after the meeting.

The Task Force shall terminate either in August 1997 or upon the submission of a final report.

Dated: September 4, 1996.

Jack Ward Thomas,
Chief.

[FR Doc. 96-23062 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project

AGENCIES: Forest Service, USDA; Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statements.

SUMMARY: Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP). The primary purpose for this revised notice of intent is to provide public notice of the updated completion schedule for the ICBEMP's environmental impact statements (EIS). The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will continue the interim management strategies pending completion of the ICBEMP EISs. Due to differences between Bureau of Land Management (Bureau of Land Management NEPA Handbook 1790-1) and Forest Services (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, at 18.1) NEPA policies, the Bureau of Land Management is preparing a supplemental environmental assessment for the continuation of the PACFISH (see below in Supplementary Information), while the Forest Service has provided information in this notice, in compliance with Forest Service policies, to address the continuation of the PACFISH interim direction.

Due to the complexity of an analysis of this scope, and the government shutdown in the first part of FY96, the timeframe for completing the environmental impact statements (EISs) has changed. The new schedule for release of the draft EISs is Fall 1996, for the public comment period; the public comment period will be 120 days. The adjusted schedule for the release of the final EISs and Records of Decision is Fall 1997.

In February, 1994, the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service proposed to develop and adopt a coordinated ecosystem management strategy for national forests and public lands east of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and Washington (59 FR 4680, February 1, 1994). The strategy later

became known as the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. The ICBEMP strategy will include direction which will protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems for anadromous fish and inland native trout and terrestrial ecosystems. It will also address the social and economic interactions with these biological variables. The purpose is to carry out President Clinton's mandate of July 1993 to develop a scientifically sound and ecosystem-based strategy for management of these lands. The selected alternative may result in amendment to the Forest Service Regional Guides and/or amendment or revision of applicable national forest land management plans and Bureau of Land Management resource management plans.

The original Notice of Intent for the ICBEMP effort was revised on May 23, 1994, to address changes in the scope of the area to be considered in the analysis and to establish a public meeting schedule (59 FR 26624). A third Federal Register notice was published on December 7, 1994, announcing the preparation of an EIS for the Upper Columbia River Basin (UCRB) (59 FR 63071). A fourth notice was published on August 7, 1994, changing the scope of the UCRB planning area. (60 FR 40153). On August 25, 1994, a fifth Federal Register notice was published revising the completion date for the Eastside EIS (60 FR 44298). The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will now produce two EISs, one for eastern Oregon and Washington (Eastside EIS) and one for Idaho, western Montana, and small portions of Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah (UCRB).

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Mealey, Project Management Team, Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, 304 North 8th Street, Room 246, Boise, Idaho 83702, phone 208-334-1770. Gordon Haugen, Columbia River Basin Fish Coordinator (PACFISH), 333 SW First Street, Portland, Oregon 97208, phone 503-326-4929.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Public Involvement for the Long-Term Management Strategy

Formal scoping periods, under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), opened with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS and conduct planning activity for the Eastside Ecosystem Management Project on February 1, 1994 and for the Upper Columbia River Basin on December 7, 1994.

Public meetings, open houses, symposiums, briefings, workshops, Internet access, toll-free numbers, information centers, teleconferences, brochures and newsletters provide opportunities for the public to be involved. Over 350 public meetings and briefings were held throughout the project area from February 1994 through July 1996.

The teleconference scoping meeting for the UCRB was held simultaneously in 27 planned locations on January 28, 1995 via satellite. Local Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service staff were on hand to facilitate discussions, part of which was devoted to sharing and responding to comments and concerns from the 27 sites. The scoping meeting was also broadcast over three public access television stations. In addition, anyone with access to a satellite dish within the continental United States was able to view the program and respond via fax.

Many levels of government participated throughout the planning process including Federal and State agencies, Counties, Resource Advisory Councils, Province Advisory Committees, and Tribes. This has developed into effective partnerships and increased coordination and understanding between the groups.

Mailing lists for the EISs were compiled from Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service offices within the ICBEMP area and from the PACFISH mailing list. As other interested parties requested to be added to the mailing list the total number of persons on the list rose to 4,800.

Public involvement has been a vital and continuing aspect of the Eastside and UCRB planning process. NEPA requirements have been exceeded by involving people early and often, sharing information as it became available even if it was in draft form, and using non-traditional public involvement methods.

This type of public involvement will continue with the release of the draft EISs and through the Records of Decision. Teleconference, meetings, and workshops are planned as ways to continue to provide opportunities for the public to understand and shape the final management strategy.

The Notices of Intent for Eastside EIS and the UCRB EIS, and the Charter for the ICBEMP include objectives for the EISs and Scientific Assessment to develop the basis for management direction to modify and implement Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and Portions of California (PACFISH).