

considered in response to significant issues.

Preliminary issues include: scenic quality of the area, recreation experience and facilities, traffic and transportation needs, hydrology of the stream, residential concerns about noise, light, air quality and property values and development, emergency vehicle and public transit issues, water quality, and land use along the corridor.

There is information on use of the crossing in this area and the road corridor in the record for many years under the management of Yavapai County. The last vehicular crossing was washed out in 1978. The record indicates substantial discussions during the subsequent 3–4 years relative to replacement, culminating in an easement issued by the USFS to Yavapai County across national forest lands where they occur between the Village of Oak Creek south of Sedona on Arizona Highway 179 and U.S. Highway 89A in West Sedona, just downstream from the old crossing location. Although the easement was issued by the Forest Service in 1983, detailed construction plans were not submitted at that time. The easement wording allows the Forest Service approval of the detailed construction plans once submitted. All indications in the records up until recently was that the crossing would be replaced by a low water crossing similar to what had been at the location prior to the 1978 flood. Yavapai County has submitted plans (submitted in March 1996) for a bridge in order to better meet their transportation needs at the current time and for the future.

There has been many changes in the transportation system and transportation planning that has occurred since 1983 through Arizona Department of Transportation, Yavapai County and the City of Sedona that relate to the concern about replacement of this crossing, as well as increased residential and recreation development and use in the immediate vicinity of the proposed crossing location. This location is in the foreground of Cathedral Rock, one of the most photographed spots in Arizona.

This project is very controversial with strong feelings both in favor of and against a replacement crossing in this location. The historical presence of a road and crossing are not challenged and there is no general disagreement that traffic management of some forms are needed in the area. Even the most staunch critics of the Red Rock Crossing proposal would add that they realize an alternate crossing of Oak Creek is probably appropriate. They further add, however, that it should not be at Red

Rock Crossing which has far greater value and purpose for the esthetic and amenity values.

Yavapai County will be required to obtain permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for working within Oak Creek. The Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that this proposal falls under their Nation-wide permit requirements and would not require further environmental analysis for permitting. Since Oak Creek is a unique waterway, ADEQ will require a 401 certification before working in the stream channel for construction. Yavapai County will be cooperating with the Forest Service in the development of the EIS and alternatives.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impacts statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewer's positions and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impacts statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the

National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: August 27, 1996.

Fred Trevey,

*Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 96–24028 Filed 9–18–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

### Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction; Applegate Lake Project

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of joint interchange of lands.

**SUMMARY:** On December 7, 1995, and May 6, 1996, the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture respectively signed a joint interchange order agreeing to the transfer of administrative jurisdiction from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Army of 66.28 acres, more or less, lying within the Rogue River National Forest in Jackson County, Oregon, and from the Department of the Army to the Department of Agriculture of 2,755.82 acres, more or less, lying within the exterior boundaries of the Rogue River National Forest in Jackson County, Oregon. As required by the Act of July 26, 1956, Congress has received 45 days advance notice of this action. A copy of the Joint Order, as signed, appears at the end of this notice.

**DATES:** The order is effective September 19, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The maps are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director, Lands Staff, 4 South, Auditors Building, Forest Service, USDA, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to David M. Sherman, Lands Staff, Forest Service, USDA, Telephone: (202) 205–1362.

David G. Unger,  
*Associate Chief.*

Enclosure

Department of the Army

Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretaries, Applegate Lake Project, Oregon and California

Joint Order Interchanging Administrative Jurisdiction of Department of the Army Lands and National Forest System Lands.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Army and in the Secretary of Agriculture by Public Law 804 of the 84th Congress approved 26 July 1956 (70 Stat. 656; 16 U.S.C. 505a, 505b), it is ordered as follows:

(1) The lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army described in Exhibit

"A" attached hereto and made a part hereof, which lands lie within or adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Rogue River National Forest, Oregon, highlighted in gold on the land interchange map, are hereby transferred from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to reservations described in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof, and to outstanding rights or interests of record and to such continued use by the Corps of Engineers of all of these lands which are necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Applegate Lake Project for its intended purposes. The Portland District, Corps of Engineers will retain administration of all outgrants as they are not assignable.

(2) The National Forest System Lands described in Exhibit "C", attached hereto and made a part hereof, which are a part of the Rogue River National Forest, Oregon, highlighted in red on the land interchange map, are hereby transferred from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army, subject to outstanding rights or interests of record.

(3) Pursuant to Section 2 of the aforesaid Act of 26 July 1956, the National Forest lands transferred to the Secretary of the Army by this order are hereby subject only to the laws applicable to the Department of the Army lands comprising the Applegate Lake. The Department of the Army lands transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture by this order are hereby subject to the laws applicable to lands acquired under the Act of 1 March 1911 (36 Stat. 961), as amended.

This order will be effective as of date of publication in the Federal Register.

Dated: December 7, 1995.

Togo D. West, Jr.,

*Secretary of the Army.*

Dated: May 6, 1996.

Dan Glickman,

*Secretary of Agriculture.*

#### EXHIBIT "A" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT

[Department of the Army Fee Acquired Lands, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 40 S., R. 3 W., Section 30, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , portions of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	50.72
T. 40 S., R. 4 W., Section 25, portion of S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	1.08
Section 35, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	40.02
Section 36 .....	1 656.66
T. 41 S., R. 3 W., Section 6, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	441.68

#### EXHIBIT "A" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT—Continued

[Department of the Army Fee Acquired Lands, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 41 S., R. 4 W., Section 1, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	200.00
Section 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	1 564.40
Section 3, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	80.00
Section 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	80.00
Section 10, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	1 561.26
Section 11, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .....	80.00
Total acres .....	2,755.82

<sup>1</sup> Acres as deeded.

Exhibit "B" to Joint Order of Interchange Corps of Engineers Reservations for the Areas To Be Transferred to the Department of Agriculture for the Applegate Lake Project

a. Reserving a perpetual flowage easement for the purpose of inundation, saturation, percolation, and wave action which may result from a pool, including backwater effect therefrom created by operation of the Applegate Lake Project by the Corps at a water elevation of 1,987 feet above mean sea level, U.S.C. & G.S. datum at the dam, including temporary fluctuations above this elevation resulting from wave and surge action due to wind and other uncontrollable or unpredictable forces.

b. Reserving the rights to enter upon all National Forest lands lying within the Applegate Lake Project area, together with rights of ingress and egress for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the project for its intended purposes, mainly flood control, irrigation, water supply, and water quality control. Also reserved is ingress and egress to piezometer and seismograph instruments and a water storage site located at and below the dam axis.

#### EXHIBIT "C" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARMY FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT

[Rogue River National Forest Lands, Willamette Meridian, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 40 S., R. 3 W., Section 30, those portions of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying west- erly of the existing Corps of Engineers fence line and east- ern right-of-way of the Jackson County road .....	17.16

#### EXHIBIT "C" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARMY FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT—Continued

[Rogue River National Forest Lands, Willamette Meridian, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 40 S., R. 4 W., Section 25, those portions of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the easterly right- of-way of the relocated Jack- son County road .....	49.12
Total acres .....	66.28

[FR Doc. 96-24021 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

#### Rural Utilities Service

#### Municipal Interest Rates for the Fourth Quarter of 1996

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the fourth quarter of 1996.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the fourth calendar quarter of 1996.

**DATES:** These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning October 1, 1996, and ending December 31, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, room 2234-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-720-4120. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the fourth calendar quarter of 1996 for municipal rate electric loans. Pursuant to RUS regulations at 7 CFR 1714.4, each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the first Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter.