

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspaper Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions for the Northern Region; Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and portions of South Dakota and Eastern Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Northern Region to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217 and to publish notices for public comment and notice of decision subject to the provisions of 36 CFR part 215. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notices for public comment or decisions; thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers will begin with decisions subject to appeal that are made on or after April 15, 1999. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Acting Regional Appeals and Litigation Coordinator; Northern Region; P.O. Box 7669; Missoula, Montana 59807. Phone: (406) 329-3647.

The newspapers to be used are as follows:

Northern Regional Office

Regional Forester decisions in Montana:
The Missoulian, Great Falls Tribune, and The Billings Gazette

Regional Forester decisions in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington: The Spokesman Review
Regional Forester decisions in North Dakota: Bismarck Tribune
Regional Forester decisions in South Dakota: Rapid City Journal
Beaverhead/Deerlodge—Montana Standard
Bitterroot—Ravalli Republic
Clearwater—Lewiston Morning Tribune
Custer—Billings Gazette (Montana), Rapid City Journal (South Dakota)
Dakota Prairie National Grasslands—Bismarck Tribune (North Dakota), Rapid City Journal (South Dakota)
Flathead—Daily Interlake
Gallatin—Bozeman Chronicle
Helena—Independent Record
Idaho Panhandle—Spokesman Review
Kootenai—Daily Interlake
Lewis & Clark—Great Falls Tribune
Lolo—Missoulian
Nez Perce—Lewiston Morning Tribune

Supplemental notices may be placed in any newspaper, but time frames/deadlines will be calculated based upon notices in newspapers of record listed above.

Dated: April 5, 1999.

Kathleen A. McAllister,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 99-8880 Filed 4-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Keystone-Quartz Ecosystem Management Project, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Beaverhead County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposed action to manipulate forest and range vegetation on about 1200 acres. This area lies at the northern end of the Pioneer Mountains, three miles south of Wise River, Montana.

The proposed action would thin about 1042 acres of Douglas-fir forest to improve wildlife habitat, release about 85 acres of aspen/shrub communities to restore wildlife habitat, thin about 21

acres of dense lodgepole pine to improve overall forest health, and restore about 43 acres of shrub/grass habitat that has been lost to conifer succession.

DATES: Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing no later than April 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The responsible official is Cynthia A. Tencick, District Ranger, Wise River Ranger District, PO Box 100, Wise River, MT 59762. Send written comments to the responsible official.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Quinn, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Wise River Ranger District, or phone: (406) 683-3900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: About 65% of the Douglas-fir thinning will be done using slashing and prescribed fire, and 35% using wood product removal and prescribed fire. Aspen/shrub restoration will be done using commercial timber harvest. Lodgepole pine thinning will be done by the sale of fence materials. Shrub/grass restoration will be done using slashing and prescribed fire.

The project area is located in the Keystone, Spring, Titan, Lime Kiln and Quartz Hill drainages (T1S, R11W, Sections 10, 11, 12 and 14; and T1S, R10W, Sections 16, 17, 20, 29 and 30). The scope of this proposal is limited to specific forest thinning, timber harvest, prescribed burning and other stand treatments, area improvements and related mitigation requirements lying within the affected area.

Public participation is important to this analysis. Part of the goal of public involvement is to identify additional issues and to refine the general, tentative issues. A scoping notice describing the project was mailed to those who requested information on timber harvest and burning activities on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been involved in the development of this proposal and will be consulted through the analysis and decision making process. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted concerning effects to threatened and endangered species.

Preliminary issues identified by Forest Service specialists include effects to vegetation, wildlife habitat, and the existing character of inventoried roadless areas. Timber harvest and

prescribed fire are proposed in Inventoried Roadless Area 1-010. No road building is proposed in an inventoried roadless area. The analysis will consider all reasonably foreseeable activities, including proposed actions on adjacent BLM lands.

People may visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. Two periods are specifically designated for comments on the analysis: (1) During the scoping process and (2) during the draft EIS period.

During the scoping process, the Forest Service is seeking additional information and comments from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organization who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. The agency invites written comments and suggestions on this action, particularly in terms of identification of issues and alternative development.

The draft EIS should be available for review in April, 1999. The final EIS is scheduled for completion in June, 1999.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The responsible official who will make the decision on this proposal after considering comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision.

Dated: March 29, 1999.

Cynthia A. Tencick,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 99-8896 Filed 4-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on May 7, 1999, in Incline Village, Nevada. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 7, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Donner Room inside the Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Country Club Drive and Lake Shore Boulevard, Incline Village, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juan Palma or Sherry Hazelhurst, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committee. Items to be covered on the agenda include: (1) Subcommittee Reports; (2) Agency Briefings; (3) Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Review and Comment; (4) Washoe Commitments Update; (5) Basin Transportation Planning (MPO); (6) FACA Procedures for Subcommittee Meetings; (7) Future Agenda Development; and (8) Open Public Comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: April 5, 1999.

Bradley E. Powell,
Acting Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region.

[FR Doc. 99-8881 Filed 4-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

ACTION: Notice of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include Conservation Crop Rotation, Pond Sealing or Lining—Flexible Membrane, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Waste Storage Facility, Waste Treatment Lagoon, and Water Well. NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land or on land determined to be wetland.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Comments will be received on or before June 8, 1999. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 60-day period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in Washington, DC. Submit individual inquiries in writing to William Hughey, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. For the next 60 days, NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of change will be made.