

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 87

Thursday, May 6, 1999

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

Proposed Sloan-Kennally Timber Sale, Payette National Forest, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Sloan-Kennally Timber Sale in the **Federal Register** March 19, 1991, (Vol. 56, No. 53, p. 11541-11542). The Forest Service then published a revised notice of intent in the **Federal Register** September 23, 1994, (Vol. 59, No. 184, p. 48878) changing the dates for release of the draft EIS (DEIS) and final EIS (FEIS). The revised notice is hereby revised to show another change in the project schedule. In addition, the Payette National Forest is offering another scoping opportunity for comments on the scope of analysis and issues to address in this revised DEIS.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written scoping comments to: Dan Anderson, Sloan-Kennally Timber Sale Team Leader, New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box J, New Meadows, Idaho 83654, Fax (208) 347-0309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the project should be directed to Dan Anderson, phone (208) 347-0300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Payette National Forest issued a DEIS on the Sloan-Kennally Project in August 1994, but because large fires burned on the Payette later that year and the priorities of the Forest shifted to subsequent timber salvage efforts, the FEIS was never issued. Due to the elapsed time, the incorporation of the Inland Native

Fish Strategy (INFISH) into the Forest Plan, the issuance of an interim roadless policy for the agency, and the listing of bull trout under the Endangered Species Act, the Forest expects to issue a revised DEIS in June 1999, and a FEIS in October 1999.

The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process that is continuing on the proposal so that interested and affected people know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision. The Forest conducted public scoping and addressed comments in the DEIS. The Forest now invites additional comments on the scope of the analysis and the issues to address in the revised DEIS.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis, particularly during scoping of issues and during review of the revised DEIS.

The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in detail.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
4. Determining potential cooperating agencies and responsibilities.

Issues that were considered and analyzed in the DEIS were water quality, soil productivity, wildlife habitat, roadless character and wilderness potential, biodiversity, economics and socio-economics, fish habitat, recreation, and visual quality. It is important to bring any new issues to the attention of the Forest now so that they may be considered in the revised DEIS.

The Responsible Official is David F. Alexander, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest.

Dated: April 30, 1999.

Miera Crawford,

External Relations Branch Chief.

[FR Doc. 99-11336 Filed 5-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Proposed Little Weiser Landscape Vegetation Management Project, Payette National Forest, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Little Weiser Landscape Vegetation Management Project, Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest, Idaho. The proposed action would harvest timber on 3,000 to 3,800 acres, construct about 8 miles of new road, reconstruct approximately 30 miles of system and non-system roads, obliterate 4.2 miles of roads, close approximately 40 miles of existing non-system roads, treat fuels, and plant conifer seedlings on 2,300 to 2,600 acres after harvest. The Forest Service will develop a range of alternatives, including a no action alternative, to address issues.

The agency invites public comments on the scope of the analysis and issues to be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). In addition, the agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process that is beginning on the proposal so that interested and affected people can know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 18, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions to: Dautis Pearson, Team Leader, Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 567, Council, Idaho 83612. Fax (208) 253-0109.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action should be directed to Dautis Pearson, phone (208) 253-4215.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Payette National Forest prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on this Little Weiser proposal in March 1997. The Forest Supervisor signed a Decision Notice approving the project on December 23, 1997. In 1998, a lawsuit challenged this project, among others. In response to a settlement agreement resolving the litigation, the Forest Supervisor in February 1999, agreed to withdraw the decision and prepare an environmental impact statement that would update the analysis in the EA. The Forest Supervisor will then issue a new decision.

The Payette National Forest Plan (1988) provides Forest-wide direction

for management of the land and resources of the Payette National Forest, including this project area. The project would be consistent with the Plan as amended by the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH) of 1995.

Public participation will be important at several points during the analysis, particularly during scoping of issues and review of the DEIS. The first opportunity in the process is scoping. This notice begins the 30-day scoping period.

The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in detail.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
4. Determining potential cooperating agencies and responsibilities.

The Forest Service has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, on potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.

Preliminary issues include effects on soils, water, fish, timber, vegetation, wildlife, fire management, heritage resources, recreation, visual quality, and socio-economics.

The next major opportunity for public input is with the DEIS. The DEIS will analyze a range of alternatives to the proposed action, including the no-action alternative. The Forest expects to file the DEIS with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for public review in July 1999. EPA will then publish a notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The Forest Service invites public comments at that time.

The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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 any DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, courts may waive or dismiss environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS). *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 the agency can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues raised by the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the DEIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives it analyzes. 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.

The Forest Service will respond to comments received in the FEIS (40 CFR 1503.4). The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences disclosed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the final decision regarding this proposal. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for it in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215.

David F. Alexander, Forest Supervisor of the Payette National Forest, is the responsible official for this EIS.

Dated: April 30, 1999.

Miera Crawford,

External Relations Branch Chief.

[FR Doc. 99-11337 Filed 5-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: May 11, 1999; 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Cohen Building, Room 3321, 330 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

CLOSED MEETING: The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in closed session to review and discuss a number of issues relating to U.S. Government-funded non-military international broadcasting. They will address internal procedural, budgetary, and personnel issues, as well as sensitive foreign policy issues relating to potential options in the U.S. international broadcasting field. This meeting is closed because if open it likely would either disclose matters that

would be properly classified to be kept secret in the interest of foreign policy under the appropriate executive order (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(1)) or would disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. (5 U.S.C. 552b. (c)(9)(B)) In addition, part of the discussion will relate solely to the internal personnel and organizational issues of the BBG or the International Broadcasting Bureau. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(2) and (6))

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact either Brenda Hardnett or John Lindburg at (202) 401-3736.

Dated: May 3, 1999.

John A. Lindburg,

Legal Counsel and Acting Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 99-11474 Filed 5-3-99; 5:08 pm]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the New Mexico Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the New Mexico Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 2:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on May 26, 1999, at the Double Tree Hotel, 201 Marquette, N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. The purpose of the meeting is to review current civil rights developments in the State and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 99-11369 Filed 5-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P