

# 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

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition; Notice of Meeting

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., this notice announces a meeting of the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition.

**DATE AND TIME:** September 14–16, 1999, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, 4th Floor Conference Room, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will continue its study of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The agenda items will include a discussion of general program issues.

**STATUS:** Meetings of the Council are open to the public. Members of the public may participate, as time permits. Members of the public may file written statements with the contact person named below before or after the meeting.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Persons wishing additional information about this meeting should contact Jackie Rodriguez, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 540, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Telephone: (703) 305-2747.

Dated: August 3, 1999.

**Samuel Chambers, Jr.,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 99-21203 Filed 8-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Red Knight Restoration Project, Winema National Forest, Klamath County, OR

**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 restoration projects within the Red Knight planning area on the Chemult Ranger District of the Winema National Forest. Red Knight planning area is located in T29S, T30S, R10E, R11E, Willamette Meridian and covers an area of approximately 36,000 acres. The planning area is located west/northwest of Yamsay Mountain Semiprimitive Recreation Area and south of the Silver Lake Highway. Jackson Creek traverses the planning area. The Winema National Forest invites written comments on this proposal and the scope of analysis. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process so interested and affected persons may participate and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received by September 20, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Red Knight Project, Chemult Ranger District, P.O. Box 150, Chemult, Oregon 97731.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jayne Goodwin, 541-365-7072 or e-mail at: jgoodwin/r6pnw\_\_winema@fs.fed.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This project will be consistent with the Winema National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the Revised Environmental Assessment for the Continuation of Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales (Eastside Screens) and the Inland Native Fish Strategy Environmental

Assessment (INFISH). The Eastside screens were designed to offer conservative protection to riparian, ecosystem, and wildlife values. INFISH provides interim direction to protect habitat and populations of resident native fish outside of anadromous fish habitat. The Red Knight planning area incorporates the following Forest Plan Management Areas (MA): Scenic Management (MA-3) designed to maintain and create visually pleasing scenery; Old-Growth Ecosystems (MA-7) designed to provide, maintain and enhance existing mature and old-growth communities; Riparian Areas (MA-8) designed to protect soil, water, wetland, floodplain, wildlife, and fish resource values; Timber Production (MA-12) designed to produce a high level of growth and timber production; and Upper Williamson (MA-15) designed to provide a natural-appearing forest setting for dispersed recreation activities and special wildlife habitats. The planning area is within former Klamath India Reservation lands.

### Purpose and Need

Portions of the Red Knight planning area are crowded with trees that are competing for nutrients, water, and growing space. Dwarf mistletoe infections are present. Mature and old-growth ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitat is at risk from competition-induced mortality and wildlife. Aspen stands are declining due to lodgepole pine encroachment. Fire suppression and growth of stands have resulted in development of excessive fuel accumulations and a decline in forage production. Prior to recognition of the value of standing and down dead trees, past harvest practices created a shortage of snags and down logs. Current open road densities exceed recommendations for big game habitat. Densities average approximately 5 miles of open road per section (a section is one square mile).

The existing conditions described above have created needs—(1) for sustainable mature and old-growth habitat and quaking aspen habitat for support of populations of native species; (2) for reduced risk of stand replacement fires within the planning area; and (3) for sustainable habitat for big game. Scoping may identify more needs.

### Proposed Action

Proposed activities include approximately 12,000 acres of commercial thinning (thinning-from-below) and 24,000 acres of precommercial thinning. Approximately 11,000 of the 24,000 acres of precommercial thinning would occur within proposed commercial thinning areas. Other proposed activities are approximately 400 acres of pruning of dwarf mistletoe-infected trees, 50 acres of quaking aspen regeneration, 10,000 acres of prescribed burning or mowing of shrubs, seedlings, and small saplings, creation of 2,000 snags, evaluate access and travel opportunities, 50 miles of road closures, and 37 miles of road obliteration.

### Alternatives

The No Action alternative will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives and will be fully developed and analyzed. With the No Action alternative, there would be no activities implemented based on the Red Knight analysis. Previously approved activities, and routine protection and maintenance activities will continue. The proposed action, as described above, will be considered and other alternatives developed around the proposed action to address issues identified in the scoping and public involvement process.

### Issues

Preliminary issues identified are—Klamath Tribes culture and treaty resources (subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering), mature and old-growth habitat, forest health, and wildfire risk.

### Public Involvement

Scoping determines issues to be addressed and identifies the significant issues related to a proposed action. The Forest Service will seek information and comments from Tribes, Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals and organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. Scoping will be achieved through mailings, newspaper notices, website postings ([www.fs.fed.us/r6/winema](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/winema)), and field trips. Field trips to the planning area are scheduled for August, September, and October of 1999.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however,

those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

### Estimated Dates for Draft and Final EIS

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public comment by April 2000. The comment period on the draft EIS 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 draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 55 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 the 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS 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.

Comments on the draft EIS will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the final EIS. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in July 2000. The Forest Service is the lead agency. Forest Supervisor, Winema National Forest, is the responsible official. The responsible official will document the decision and rationale for the decision for the Red Knight Restoration Project in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: July 29, 1999.

**Mary C. Erickson,**

*Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Winema National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 99-21110 Filed 8-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Institute of Science and Technology.

*Title:* Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award Application.

*Agency Form Number:* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0693-0006.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection.

*Burden Hours:* 10,000.

*Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 100.

*Needs and Uses:* The Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award is nationwide award to promote the awareness of performance excellence, recognize excellent performance achievements of U.S. organizations, and to share successful quality strategies and practices. The information provided is used to evaluate the applicant's eligibility to receive the Award.