

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of November 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-29320 Filed 11-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

National Drought Policy Commission

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Commission meeting, public hearing and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Drought Policy Act of 1998 established the National Drought Policy Commission (Commission). The Farm Service Agency (FSA) was identified as the lead USDA agency to provide support to the Commission. The Commission shall conduct a thorough study and submit a report to the President and Congress on national drought policy. Prior meetings of the Commission were held on July 22, 1999, and September 22, 1999, and public hearings on July 23, 1999, September 22, 1999, and October 13, 1999. Minutes of these meetings and a list of Commission members can be found on the Commission's web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/drought>. This notice announces the third meeting, and fourth public hearing and seeks comments on issues that the Commission should address and recommendations that the Commission should consider as part of its report.

DATES: The Commission will conduct a public hearing on December 1, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the First Floor Board Room of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Office Building, 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California.

The Commission will meet on December 2, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the same location. All times noted are Pacific Standard Time.

All meetings and public hearings are open to the public; however, seating is limited and available on a first-come basis.

Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Commission at the public hearing, must contact the Executive Director, Leona Dittus, in writing (by letter, fax or internet) no later than 12 noon, November 24, 1999, in order to be included on the agenda. Presenters will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis. The request should identify the name and affiliation

of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. Thirty-five copies of any written presentation material shall be given to the Executive Director by all presenters no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Commission and the interested public. Those wishing to testify, but who are unable to notify the Commission office by November 24, 1999, will be able to sign up as a presenter the day of the hearing (December 1) between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. These presenters will testify on a first-come, first-served basis and comments will be limited based on the time available and the number of presenters. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting, or may be mailed or faxed to the Commission office.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Leona Dittus by telephone at 202-720-3168 on Internet: leona.dittus@usda.gov, or through Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, by COB November 24, 1999.

COMMENTS: The public is invited to respond and/or to submit additional comments, concerns, and issues for consideration by the Commission.

ADDRESSES: Comments and statements should be sent to Leona Dittus, Executive Director, National Drought Policy Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 6701-S, STOP 0501, Washington, DC 20250-0501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leona Dittus (202) 720-3168; FAX (202) 720-9688; Internet: leona.dittus@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission will review the first draft of the Commission findings. They will also discuss the status of Commission activities and other committee business. Below is a draft vision statement and set of principles to guide the Commission. Draft Vision Statement: Our vision is of a U. S. citizenry and its governments well prepared for and capable of mitigating in a consistent and timely manner the impacts of drought in the new millennium.

This vision is based on the following principles:

- A well-informed, involved public;
- Self-reliance and self-determination;
- Consideration of all affected entities and related issues, including legal, economic, geographic, climate, religious, and cultural differences, and environmental concerns;
- Lessons from past drought experiences;
- Comprehensive, long-term strategic planning, emphasizing preparedness and mitigation;

Federal role focused on appropriate coordination, technical assistance, education, and incentives while at all times respecting the rights and sovereignty of States, local governments, and tribes.

In addition to your own views and thoughts regarding a national drought policy, as you review the draft vision and guiding principles, the Commission would be interested in your thoughts regarding the following questions:

1. What is the best means for informing the public of Federal assistance for drought planning and mitigation?
2. What type of information do you need for responding to the drought?
3. What needs do you or your organization presently have with respect to addressing drought conditions?
4. What do you see as the Federal role with respect to drought preparedness? Drought response? Should Federal emergency assistance be contingent on advance preparedness?
5. Are there any ways you feel that the Federal Government could better coordinate with State, regional, tribal, and local governments in mitigating or responding to droughts?
6. What lessons have you or your organization learned from past drought experiences that would be beneficial in the creation of a national drought policy?

The purpose of the Commission is to provide advice and recommendations to the President and Congress on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy, designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. Tasks for the Commission include developing recommendations that will: (a) Better integrate Federal laws and programs with ongoing State, local, and tribal programs, (b) improve public awareness of the need for drought mitigation, prevention, and response, and (c) determine whether all Federal drought preparation and response programs should be consolidated under one existing Federal agency, and, if so, identify the agency. The Commission will be chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture or his designee. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair will act in his stead. Administrative staff support essential to the execution of the Commission's responsibilities shall be provided by USDA.

Commission members specifically cited in Pub. L. 105-199, include the Secretaries of Agriculture, Interior, Army, and Commerce, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; two persons nominated by the National

Governors' Association, a person nominated by the National Association of Counties, and a person nominated by the Conference of Mayors. Those four members are appointed by the President. Six additional Commission members have been appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army. The six at-large members represent groups acutely affected by drought emergencies, such as the agricultural production community, the credit community, rural and urban water associations, Native Americans, and fishing and environmental interests.

Signed at Washington, DC, November 3, 1999.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 99-29397 Filed 11-5-99; 9:39 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers To Be Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions and Corrections for the Southern Region; Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, West Virginia, Arkansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and correction.

SUMMARY: Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will publish notice of decisions subject to administrative appeal under 36 CFR part 217 in the legal notice section of the newspapers listed in the Supplementary Information section of this notice. As provided in 36 CFR part 217.5(d), the public shall be advised through **Federal Register** notice, of the principal newspaper to be utilized for publishing legal notices of decisions. Newspaper publication of notices of decisions is in addition to direct notice of decisions to those known to be interested in or affected by a specific decision. The Responsible Official under 36 CFR part 215 gave annual notice in the **Federal Register** published on May 17, 1999, of principal newspapers to be utilized for publishing notices of proposed actions and of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215. The list of newspapers to be used for 215 notice and decision is corrected.

DATES: Use of these newspapers for purposes of publishing legal notices of

decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR parts 217 and the use of the corrected newspaper listed under 36 CFR part 215 shall begin on or after November 9, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Paul Kruglewicz, Regional Appeals Coordinator, Southern Region, Planning, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30367-9102, Phone: 404-347-4867.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will give legal notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR par 217 in the following newspaper which are listed by Forest Service Administrative unit. Where more than one newspaper is listed for any unit, the first newspaper listed is the principal newspaper that will be utilized for publishing the legal notices of decisions. Additional newspapers listed for a particular unit are those newspapers the Deciding Officer expects to use for purposes of providing additional notice. The timeframe for appeal shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the decision in the principal newspaper. The following newspapers will be used to provide notice.

Southern Region

Regional Forester Decisions

Affecting National Forest System lands in only one state of the 3 states of the Southern Region and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or only one Ranger District will appear in the principal newspaper elected by the National Forest of that state or Ranger District.

National Forests in Alabama, Alabama

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Montgomery Advertiser, published daily in Montgomery, AL

District Ranger Decisions

Bankhead Ranger District: *Northwest Alabamian*, published weekly (Monday & Thursday) in Haleyville, AL

Conceh Ranger District: *The Andalusia Star News*, published daily (Tuesday through Saturday) in Andalusia, AL
Oakmulgee Ranger District: *The Tuscaloosa News*, published daily in Tuscaloosa, AL

Shoal Creek Ranger District: *The Anniston Star*, published daily in Anniston, AL

Talladega Ranger District: *The Daily Home*, published daily in Talladega, AL

Tuskegee Ranger District: *Tuskegee News*, published weekly (Thursday) in Tuskegee, AL

Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico

Forest Supervisor Decisions

El Nuevo Dia, published daily in Spanish in San Juan, PR
San Juan Star, published daily in English in San Juan, PR
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Georgia

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Times, published daily in Gainesville, GA

District Ranger Decisions

Armuchee Ranger District: *Walker County Messenger*, published bi-weekly (Wednesday & Friday) in LaFayette, GA

Toccoa Ranger District: *The News Observer*, published weekly (Wednesday) in Blue Ridge, GA

Brasstown Ranger District: *North Georgia News*, published weekly (Wednesday) in Blairsville, GA

Tallulah Ranger District: *Clayton Tribune*, published weekly (Thursday) in Clayton, GA

Chattooga Ranger District: *Northeast Georgian*, published twice weekly (Tuesday & Friday) in Cornelia, GA

Chieftain & Toccoa Record, published twice weekly (Tuesday & Friday) in Toccoa, GA

White County News Telegraph, published weekly (Thursday) in Cleveland, GA

The Dahlonega Nuggett, published weekly (Thursday) in Dahlonega, GA

Cohutta Ranger District: *Chatsworth Times*, published weekly (Wednesday) in Chatsworth, GA

Oconee Ranger District: *Monticello News*, published weekly (Thursday) in Monticello, GA

Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Knoxville News *Sentinel*, published daily in Knoxville, TN (covering McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties)
Johnson City Press, published daily in Johnson City, TN (covering Carter, Cocke, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties)

District Ranger Decisions

Ocoee-Hiwassee Ranger District: *Polk County News*, published weekly (Wednesday) in Benton, TN

Tellico-Hiwassee Ranger District: *Monroe County Advocate*, published weekly (Thursday) in Sweetwater, TN

Nolichucky-Unaka Ranger District: *Johnson City Press*, published daily in Johnson City, TN

Watauga Ranger District: *Johnson City Press*, published daily in Johnson City, TN