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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Public Meetings of Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is issuing this notice to advise the public that meetings of the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (Committee) will be held to discuss ways to increase new farming and ranching opportunities for these producers, including the review of proposals and recommendations drafted at previous meetings.

DATES: The public meetings will be held April 11-12, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Westin Crown Center Hotel, 1 Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri (telephone (816) 474-4400). All times noted are Central Standard Time (CST).

ADDRESSES: Mark Falcone, Designated Federal Official for the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5438-S, STOP 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; telephone (202) 720-1632; FAX (202) 690-1117; e-mail mark_falcone@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Falcone at (202) 720-1632.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 5 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-554) required the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Committee for the purpose of advising the Secretary on the following:

(1) The development of a program of coordinated financial assistance to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers required by section 309 (i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Federal and State beginning farmer programs provide joint financing to beginning farmers and ranchers); (2) methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the program; (3) methods of encouraging States to participate in the program; (4) the administration of the program; and (5) other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities.

Departmental Regulation 1042-119 dated November 25, 1998, formally established the Committee and designated FSA to provide support. The

Committee is comprised of 16 members appointed by the Secretary. Members represent the following groups: (1) FSA; (2) State beginning farmer programs; (3) commercial lenders; (4) private nonprofit organizations with active beginning farmer programs; (5) the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; (6) educational institutions with demonstrated experience in training beginning farmers or ranchers; (7) other entities providing lending or technical assistance to qualified beginning farmers or ranchers; and (8) farmers and ranchers. The Committee meets at least once a year and all meetings are open to the public. The duration of the Committee is indefinite.

The initial meetings of the Committee, held August 31-September 2, 1999, provided an opportunity for members to exchange ideas on ways to increase opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers through Federal-State partnerships and to encourage more State participation. Members discussed various issues and drafted numerous recommendations, six of which the Committee determined were priorities and were submitted to the Secretary in writing. During the April meetings, members will discuss the Secretary's response to the six recommendations and review other draft proposals. Guest speakers from the Iowa State University's Beginning Farmer Center and the National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs will address relevant issues.

Attendance is open to all interested persons but limited to space available. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should submit their request in writing (letter, fax, or e-mail) to Mark Falcone at the above address. Statements should be received no later than April 6, 2000. Requests should include the name and affiliation of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. The floor will be open to oral presentations beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST on April 11, 2000. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes, and presenters will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations to attend or participate in the meetings should contact Mark Falcone by April 6, 2000.

Signed in Washington, DC, on March 17, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

East Fork of the Jemez Wild and Scenic River, Santa Fe National Forest, Sandoval County, New Mexico; Boundary Establishment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 16 U.S.C. 1274, the USDA Forest Service has transmitted the final boundary of the East Fork of the Jemez Wild and Scenic River to the Senate and House of Representatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information may be obtained by contacting Diane Tafoya, Recreation Staff Officer, Jemez Ranger District, P.O. Box 98, Jemez Springs, NM 87025, 505-829-3535.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The detailed legal description and map of the East Fork of the Jemez Wild and Scenic River boundary are available for public inspection in the following Forest Service offices: USDA Forest Service Auditors Building, 201 14th St. SW at Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC; USDA-FS Southwestern Regional Office, 517 Gold Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM; USDA-FS Santa Fe National Forest, 1474 Rodeo Rd., Santa Fe, NM; USDA-FS Jemez Ranger Station, Jemez Springs, NM.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, as amended by Public Law 101-306 on June 6, 1990 designated the 11-mile segment of the East Fork of the Jemez River, from the Santa Fe National Forest boundary to its confluence with the Rio San Antonio, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classifications: (a) The 2-mile segment for the Santa Fe National Forest boundary to the second crossing of State Highway 4, near Las Conchas trailhead, as a recreational river; and (b) the 4-mile segment from the second crossing of State Highway 4, near Las Conchas trailhead, to the third crossing of State Highway 4 approximately one and one-quarter miles upstream from Jemez Falls, as a wild river; and (c) the 5-mile segment from the third crossing of State Highway 4, approximately one and one-quarter miles upstream from Jemez Falls, to its confluence with the Rio San Antonio, as a scenic river. The final boundary for the designated segments approximately follows the original corridor boundary of 1/4-mile of the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river, with adjustments made in

order to follow legal and locatable landlines.

Dated: March 10, 2000.

James T. Gladen,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 00-7281 Filed 3-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Pecos Wild and Scenic River, Santa Fe National Forest, San Miguel and Mora Counties, New Mexico; Boundary Establishment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 16 USC 1274, the USDA Forest Service is transmitting the final boundary of the Pecos Wild and Scenic River to the Senate and House of Representatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information may be obtained by contacting Dan Crittenden, District Ranger, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, P.O. Drawer 429, Pecos, NM 87552-0429, 505-757-6121.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The detailed legal description and map of the Pecos Wild and Scenic River boundary are available for public inspection in the following Forest Service offices: USDA Forest Service Auditors Building, 201 14th St. SW at Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC; USDA-FS Southwestern Regional Office, 517 Gold Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM; USDA-FS Santa Fe National Forest, 1474 Rodeo Rd., Santa Fe, NM; USDA-FS Pecos Ranger Station, Pecos, NM.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, as amended by Public Law 101-306 on June 6, 1990 designated the 20.5 mile segment of the Pecos River, from its headwaters to the townsite of Tererro, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classifications: (a) The 13.5 mile segment from its headwaters to the Pecos Wilderness boundary, as a wild river; and (b) the 7-mile segment from the Pecos Wilderness boundary to the townsite of Tererro, as a recreational river. The final boundary for the designated segments approximately follows the original corridor boundary of 1/4-mile of the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river, with adjustments made in order to follow legal and locatable landlines.

Dated: March 10, 2000.

James T. Gladen,

Deputy Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Smoky Canyon Mine, Panels B and C, BLM Pocatello Field Office and Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Caribou County, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, USDI and Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pocatello Field Office and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), Caribou-Targhee National Forest, will jointly prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental and human effects of a proposed mine plan for future operations at the existing J.R. Simplot Smoky Canyon Phosphate Mine, Caribou County, Idaho, located approximately 20 miles west of Afton, Wyoming. The proposed mining operations would utilize land administered by the FS, BLM and land that is privately owned. Mining would take place on Federal Phosphate Leases I-012890, I-026843, and I-027801, within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

J. R. Simplot Company must obtain federal permits prior to mining under the proposed mine plan. The existing mining and milling operations were authorized by a Record of Decision that was issued in 1982 upon completion of the original Smoky Canyon Phosphate Mine EIS. The conditional permits granted by the BLM and FS at the beginning of the Smoky Canyon mining operations required that subsequent site-specific mine plans for the individual mine panels be submitted to the agencies for their review and that appropriate mitigation measures be developed using further environmental analysis. The environmental effects from the proposed B and C Panels were assessed in the 1982 EIS, however this SEIS will further evaluate the effects of the proposed mine plan in light of additional information on selenium and

other potential contaminants collected since 1982. Based on the supplemental environmental analysis, the BLM and FS would make decisions regarding the Panel B and C Mine and Reclamation Plan and additional land use authorizations for the proposed mining activities, potentially including: lease modifications by the BLM and a Special Use Permit by the FS. In addition, a Section 404, Clean Water Act permit may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the proposed operations.

Agency Decisions

The BLM Pocatello Field Office Manager, who is the responsible official for the SEIS and on-lease lands, and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Supervisor, who is the responsible official for Caribou-Targhee National Forest lands not on-lease will make separate decisions related to appropriate land use authorizations regarding this proposal considering: scoping comments and responses, anticipated environmental consequences discussed in the SEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. These decisions may include approval of a site specific Mine and Reclamation Plan; issuance of phosphate lease modifications by the BLM; and special use permits by the FS. A Section 404, Clean Water Act Permit may also be required by the Corps. They would render a decision related to that permit and how to mitigate the impacts to affected wetlands and Waters of the United States.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this Notice should be received on or before April 24, 2000.

Scoping Procedure

The scoping procedure to be used for this SEIS will involve the following: a broad mailing asking for comments, issues and concerns to interested and potentially affected individuals, groups, Federal, State and local government; news releases or legal notices; and public scoping meetings.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Linda Matthews, JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc., 8160 South Highland Drive, Suite A-4, Sandy, Utah 84093, (lmatthews@jbr-env.com).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Cundick, Bureau of Land Management, Pocatello Field Office, 1111 N. 8th Ave., Pocatello, Idaho 83201, phone (208) 478-6354; or Philippe de Hanaut, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Soda Springs Ranger District, 421 W. Second