

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.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice, at this early stage, of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EIS's 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, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until 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 substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at the time when it can meaningfully consider 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 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 EIS or 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).

The final EIS is scheduled for completion July 2002. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

The Forest Service is the lead agency. Jean Lavell, District Ranger, is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official, she will decide which, if any, of the proposed plans will be implemented. She will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: May 30, 2001.

Karyn L. Wood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-14049 Filed 6-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Reconstruction of Meadows Road #205 and Issuance of a Road Easement for Access to Private Land

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement in conjunction with issuance of a road easement and reconstruction of the Meadows Road #205 through an inventoried roadless area Dolores County, Colorado.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement in conjunction with a proposal to issue a road easement to a private landowner and the reconstruct an existing classified roadway, the Meadows Road #205, across a portion of an inventoried roadless area to access the landowners property.

This notice describes known issues with the proposed road reconstruction project, estimated dates for filing the environmental impact statement, information concerning public and tribal participation, and the names and addresses of the agency officials who can provide additional information.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by July 6, 2001. The agency expects to file a draft environmental impact statement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and make it available for public, agency, and tribal government comment in late summer of 2001. A final environmental impact statement is expected to be filed in November of 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: James Powers, Forest Planner, San Juan National Forest, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Reidinger, Forester, Mancos-Dolores

Ranger District, P.O. Box 210 Dolores, Co. 81323 (970-882-7296).

Responsible Official: Rick Cables, Rocky Mountain Regional Forester at P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, CO 80225-0127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to part 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for road reconstruction and issuance of an easement across such road in an inventoried roadless area for the purpose of providing the applicant access to non-federally owned lands within the boundaries of the National Forest System.

The Regional Forester gives notice that the Forest is initiating an environmental-analysis and decision-making process for this proposed action so that interested or affected people can participate in the analysis and contribute to the final decision.

Opportunities will be provided to discuss the road reconstruction and easement issuance proposal openly with the public. The public is invited to help identify issues and define the range of alternatives to be considered in the environmental impact statement. Written comments identifying issues for analysis and the range of alternatives will be encouraged.

The public has already identified a number of issues. Additional issue identification (scoping) will continue in the summer of 2001. Requests to be on the mailing list should be sent to: John Reidinger, Forest, P.O. Box 210, Dolores, Co. 81323 (970) 882-7296.

This project is being undertaken to provide access to a private, non-federally owned land as required by the Alaska Native Interest Lands Conservation Act (Pub. L. 96-487). Private land inholders are to be provided access across National Forest System land to private land that is adequate to secure the owners thereof of reasonable use and enjoyment of their land. The private landowner has proposed use of the existing road across the inventoried roadless area to meet their access needs.

Major Issues

Lizard Head Roadless Area

This RARE II area is an area of approximately 4,940 acres that is immediately south of the Lizard Head Wilderness and north of Colorado Highway 145. It has a low wilderness attribute rating because of its proximity to the highway and the West Dolores road and was excluded from the Lizard

Head wilderness when it was created in 1983. The existing Meadows road #205 crosses a portion of this inventoried roadless area.

Wetlands

The existing roadway crosses a several small areas of wetlands.

Geological Hazards

The only alternative to the Meadows Road that provides access to the private lands is another existing two-track road that is unsafe and is closed by landslides.

Involving the Public

The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from individuals, organizations, tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies that are interested in or may be affected by the proposed action. The range of alternatives to be considered in the DEIS will be based on public issues, management concerns, resource management opportunities, and specific decisions to be made.

Public participation will be solicited by notifying in person and/or by mail known interested and affected local government agencies. News releases will be used to give the public general notice.

Release and Review of the EIS

We expect the DEIS to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public, agency, and tribal government comment in summer of 2001. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability for the DEIS in the Federal Register. 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 the DEIS must participate in the environmental review of the proposal in such a way that their participation is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions, *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but are not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) may be waived or dismissed by the courts: *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Hertages, 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 comment period, so that substantive comments and objectives are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns relating to the proposed actions, comments on the DEIS 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 DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statements. In addressing these points, 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.

After the comment period on the DEIS ends, comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the Final EIS. The FEIS is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2001. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making decisions regarding these revisions. The responsible official will document the decisions and reasons for the decisions in a Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR part 251.

Dated: May 29, 2001.

Calvin N. Joyner,

Forest Supervisor, San Juan National Forest.

[FR Doc. 01-13991 Filed 6-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Friday, June 8, 2001, at the Wenatchee National Forest headquarters main conference room, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until

3 p.m. During this meeting we will finalize advice on Dry Forest Strategy management implementation on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, develop advice on noxious weed management, and share information on the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. All Eastern Washington Cascades and Yakima Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-662-4335.

Dated: May 21, 2001.

Sonny J. O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

[FR Doc. 01-13992 Filed 6-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council, Hells Canyon Subgroup

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hells Canyon Subgroup of the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council will meet on June 15-16, 2001 at the Wallowa Mountains Visitors Center, 88401 Hwy 82, Enterprise, OR 97828. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. the first day and day 2 will begin at 8 a.m. and will be a field trip to the Buckhorn Lookout Area. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Update on CMP (2) Review of the fires on the NRA in 2000. Public comments will be received June 15, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. at the Wallowa Mountains Visitors Center.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kendall Clark, Area Ranger, USDA, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, 88401 Highway 82, Enterprise, OR 97828, 541-426-5501.

Dated: May 30, 2001.

Karyn L. Wood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-14048 Filed 6-5-01; 8:45 am]

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