

public health strategy at the field management level.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this public meeting, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information on FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on: May 31, 2001.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-14474 Filed 6-5-01; 1:59 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Holmes/Chipmunk Timber Sale Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Holmes/Chipmunk Area. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to manage approximately 34,000 acres of Federal land. The proposed action would provide approximately 25 to 35 million board feet of timber to local and regional timber markets, final harvest approximately 4,000 acres of 60+ year old aspen experiencing substantial

mortality from blow down, decay, and old age, treat approximately 500 acres of red and white pine communities through prescribed burning and hand release treatments, and provide access to non-federally owned lands within the project boundaries. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed, including a no-action alternative. The proposed project is located on the LaCroix Ranger District, Cook MN, Superior National Forest. In addition, the LaCroix Ranger District may create temporary openings greater than 40 acres under 36 CFR 219.27(d)(ii).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by July 27, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to: LaCroix Ranger District, Superior National Forest, Attn: Holmes/Chipmunk EIS, 320 N HWY 53, Cook, MN 55723.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Constance Chaney, District Ranger, or John Galazen, Team Leader, LaCroix Ranger District, Superior National Forest, 320 N HWY 53 Cook, MN 55723, telephone (218) 666-0020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participating will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies, individuals, and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues, (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth, and (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written comments will be solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list and to the local newspaper. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by July 23, 2001. Issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project on and the relationship of the project to: age class distribution, species composition, reforestation, Shipstead Newton Nolan areas, temporary roads, Proposed Management Area 8.4 (inventoried candidate special management complexes), and others.

Based on the results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the Project Area, alternatives, including a no-action alternative, will be developed for the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is

projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May 2002. The Final EIS is anticipated in November 2002.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be a minimum of 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 EISs 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, 553, (1978)). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the Draft EIS stage 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 a time when they can be meaningfully considered and responded to in the Final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the Proposed Action, comments during scoping and on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible and refer to specific pages or chapters. Comments may address the adequacy of the Draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed. 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 in 40 CFR 1503.3. Comments received in response to this solicitation, 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. 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. Requesters should be aware that, under 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. If the requester 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 seven days.

Permits/Authorizations: The proposed action may create temporary openings greater than 40 acres. A 60-day public notice and review by the Regional Forester would be needed for such action.

Responsible Official: Constance Chaney, LaCroix District Ranger, Superior National Forest, is the responsible official. In making the decision, the responsible official will consider the comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The responsible official will state the rationale for the chosen alternative in the Record of Decision.

Dated: May 29, 2001.

Constance Chaney,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 01-14368 Filed 6-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Monday, June 18, 2001. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the South Room of the Stayton Community Center located on 400 West Virginia Street in Stayton, Oregon.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (Pub. L. 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA,

and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. The tentative agenda will focus developing standards and guidelines for management of the SRA and discussion of public involvement strategies.

The public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to the June 18 meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips; Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District, HC 73 Box 320, Mill City, OR 97360; (503) 854-3366.

Dated: June 1, 2001.

Y. Robert Iwamoto,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

Disclaimer: This meeting notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to lack of time to adequately plan the meeting between the councils last meeting on May 5 and this upcoming meeting on Monday, June 18. This late notice is authorized under 41 CFR 1016.1015(b)(2).

[FR Doc. 01-14322 Filed 6-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Maine State Office.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Section IV of the Maine State NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) located at www.me.nrcs.usda.gov under "Draft Standards for Comments" for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS to issue revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These revised standards are the following: 327

Conservation Cover; 330 Contour Farming; 340 Cover & Green Manure Crop; 324 Deep Tillage; 380 Farmstead & Feedlot Windbreak; 394 Firebreak; 511 Forage Harvest Management; 666 Forest Stand Improvement; 655 Forest Harvest Trails and Landings; 412 Grassed Waterway or Outlet; 561 Heavy Use Area Protection; 441 Irrigation System, Microirrigation; 590 Nutrient Management; 595 Pest Management; 516 Pipeline; 521A Pond Sealing or Lining Flexible Membrane Lining; 338 Prescribed Burning; 391 Riparian Forest Buffer; 490 Site for Woody Plant Establishment; 580 Streambank & Shoreline Protection; 395 Stream Habitat Improvement and Management; 585 Stripcropping, Contour; 612 Tree and Shrub Establishment; 660 Tree and Shrub Pruning; 620 Underground Outlet; 472 Use Exclusion; 313 Waste Storage Facility; 359 Waste Treatment Lagoon; 642 Water Well; 351 Well Decommissioning; 657 Wetland Restoration; 644 Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before July 9, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Christopher R. Jones, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology/Planning, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite #3; Bangor, Maine 04401.

A copy of this standard is available from the above individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State Technical Guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: May 4, 2001.

Christopher R. Jones,

Assistant State Conservationist for Technology/Planning.

[FR Doc. 01-14314 Filed 6-6-01; 8:45 am]

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