

roads, and if so, the location and size of openings to be maintained and roads to be mowed.

- What improvements or developments, if any, should be undertaken to enhance dispersed recreation opportunities.
- Whether or not to relocate a portion of snowmobile trail #3, and if so, where.
- What, if any, specific project monitoring requirements would be needed to assure design criteria are implemented and effective.

Public Involvement and Scoping

In July 1998, initial scoping was done for the Thumper Vegetation Management Project that was listed in the 1998 winter edition of the *Ottawa Quarterly*. The 1999 summer edition of the *Ottawa Quarterly* further included the Winterfest Timber Sale as part of the Thumper Vegetation Management Project. This project was never completed and is now included in the Baltimore analysis. Comments received regarding the Thumper Vegetation Management Project prior to this notice will be included in the documentation for the EIS. The public is encouraged to take part in the process by communicating or visiting with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as other individuals or organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft and final EIS. The scoping process will include:

- Initiating public involvement.
- Identifying potential issues.
- Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Identifying alternatives to the proposed action.
- Identifying potential environmental effects of this proposed action and the alternatives (*i.e.* direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

Preliminary Issues

Tentatively, a few preliminary issues of concern have been identified. These issues are briefly described below.

Transportation System

Implementation of the proposed action would decommission roads not needed for the long-term transportation system. Some additional segments of road would be managed as closed to some types of motorized use. This may affect the public's ability to use traditional access routes.

Vegetation

There are large areas of mature and declining Aspen that are at high risk of loss to insects or disease. When proposed harvest areas are added to recently harvested adjacent areas (0–10 years ago), several temporary open areas exceeding 40 acres would be created.

Public Health and Safety

A portion of snowmobile trail #3 is located in the US–45 right of way. The present trail location creates a situation where snowmobile traffic must parallel the highway, cross the highway several times, and cross the Ontonagon River by traveling over and along the US–45 bridge. This creates a less than ideal safety situation for motor vehicle users on the highway and also for snowmobilers. Within the scope of this project, proposing to relocate a portion of the existing trail could reduce the amount of trail within the US–45 right of way. For reasons outside the scope of this project, a separate analysis and document is needed to propose alternative methods for crossing the Ontonagon River, which could reduce the number of times the trail has to cross US–45 and eliminate snowmobiles having to travel over and along the US–45 bridge.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft EIS will be prepared for comment. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the EPA and to be available for public review in November 2002. At that time the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. 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**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

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, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement 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 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 EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. 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.

Dated: June 24, 2002.

Robert Lueckel,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on July 18, 2002. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m., in the Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor's Office, 4077 SW Research Way, Corvallis, Oregon. Agenda items, with a theme of "Landscape Dynamics," will include an overview of the Coastal Landscape & Monitoring System (CLAMS), an overview of the University of Washington Landscape Management System, a Nestucca Adaptive Management Area overview, and a

round robin information sharing session. A fifteen-minute public comment period is scheduled for approximately 11:15 a.m. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at anytime. The meeting should end around 2:30 p.m. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be on your own.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joni Quarnstrom, Public Affairs Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, 541/750-7075 or write to Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest, P.O. Box 1148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Dated: June 28, 2002.

Gloria D. Brown,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-16942 Filed 7-5-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on August 2, 2002. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m., in the Siuslaw Fire & Rescue Station, 2625 Highway 101 North, Florence, OR. Agenda items will include: An update by the Siuslaw NF Supervisor, feedback on the National Forest Counties & Schools Coalition Conference, 2002 projects status, fiscal adjustments for 2002, counties electronics for 2003, project success stories, Forest Work Camp in one grant, presentation of public projects, presentation of new Forest Service projects, a review of project selection criteria, and a public comment period. The public comment period is expected to begin at approximately 10:05 a.m. The meeting is expected to adjourn at 4 p.m. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Stanley, Community Development Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, 541/750-7210 or write to Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest, P.O. Box 1148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Dated: June 28, 2002.

Gloria D. Brown,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-16941 Filed 7-5-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Broadband Pilot Grant Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funds availability.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces a pilot grant program for the provision of broadband transmission service in rural America. For fiscal year 2002, \$20 million in grants will be made available through a national competition to applicants proposing to provide broadband transmission service on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis. The "community-oriented connectivity" approach will target rural, economically-challenged communities and offer a means for the deployment of broadband transmission services to rural schools, libraries, education centers, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, public safety organizations as well as residents and businesses. This all-encompassing connectivity concept will give small, rural communities a chance to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to foster economic growth, provide quality education and health care opportunities, and increase and enhance public safety efforts.

DATES: Applications for grants will be accepted as of the date of this notice through November 5, 2002. All applications must be delivered to RUS or bear postmark no later than November 5, 2002. Comments regarding the information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act must be received on or before September 6, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590, Telephone (202) 720-9554, Facsimile (202) 720-0810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), RUS invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These requirements have been approved by emergency clearance under OMB Control Number 0572-0127.

Comments on this notice must be received by September 6, 2002.

Comments are invited on (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522.

Title: Broadband Pilot Grant Program

Type of Request: New collection.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 152 hours per response.

Respondents: Public bodies, commercial companies, cooperatives, nonprofits, Indian tribes, and limited dividend or mutual associations and must be incorporated or a limited liability company.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 105.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 16,005 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Michele Brooks, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 690-1078.

All responses to this information collection and recordkeeping notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

General Information

The provision of broadband transmission service is vital to the economic development, education, health, and safety of rural Americans. To further this objective, RUS will provide financial assistance to eligible entities that propose, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, to provide broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services. RUS will provide