

within the Ash Creek Planning Area and will be removed in a manner consistent with the Forest Plan.

Proposed Action. The proposed action is to harvest about 350 acres of mature and late seral dead and dying trees, spread throughout 23 separate timber stands comprising about 1,366 acres that were killed in the Boulder Fire. Of these dead trees, about 2 to 6 trees per acre will be left as coarse down wood and snags. No new roads or temporary roads are being planned. The proposed harvest is in the matrix land allocation of the Ash/Zinc sub-watershed. Upon completion of harvest activities, the area will be planted with a mixture of conifers: Douglas-fir; sugar pine; white pine; incense-cedar; Pacific yew; and native hardwoods and shrubs.

This analysis will consider a range of alternatives that will address the purpose and need for the proposed project. The no-action alternative will be part of this range so that effects associated with not implementing any of the proposed activities can be evaluated. Preliminary issues identified include effects on: habitat of species associated with late-successional and old growth forests; aquatic habitats; and hydrologic processes.

Scoping Process. The Umpqua National Forest is seeking public input on this proposed action. A comment sheet will be posted to the Forest website and mailed with the scoping letter. The proposed action will be published in the Umpqua National Forest Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions and posted on the Forest Web site on the Internet: www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua/planning/planning1.html.

The Forest Service will be seeking additional information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, tribal governments, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested or affected by the proposed project. Public meetings and field trips are scheduled. Dates and locations for these activities will be announced. The scoping process will include identifying: issues; alternatives to the proposed action; and potential environmental effects (that is, direct, indirect and, cumulative effects) of the proposed action and alternatives.

Comment Requested. Comments received in response to this notice and through scoping, include 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; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to

appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR part 215. Additionally, 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. Persons requesting such confidentiality 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, 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.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review May 2003. 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**. The final EIS is scheduled to be available September 2003.

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 a draft EIS 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 EIS stage, but that are not raised until after 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 a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

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 statement. 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. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive 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 Ash Creek Fire Salvage. The Responsible Official is James A. Caplan, Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the Ash Creek Fire Salvage decision in the Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to review under Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: March 11, 2003.

James A. Caplan,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-6686 Filed 3-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Meeting of the Land Between The Lakes Advisory Board

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Land Between The Lakes Advisory Board will hold a meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2003. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App.2.

The meeting agenda includes the following:

- (1) Welcome/Introductions/Agenda
- (2) General Information Update on Land Between The Lakes
- (3) Update on Environmental Education Projects
- (4) Land and Resource Management Planning—Appreciative Inquiry Process
- (5) Presentation by Mr. David Nickell, representing Concept Zero
- (6) Review of Public Comments Received

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments are invited and may be mailed to: William P. Lisowsky, Area Supervisor, Land Between The Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211. Written comments must be received at Land Between The Lakes by March 31, 2003, in order for copies to be provided to the members at the meeting. Board members will review written comments received, and at their request, oral clarification may be requested at a future meeting. At this meeting on April 8, 2003, Mr. David Nickell, representing Concept Zero, will make an oral presentation approved by the Board at the October 2002 meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., CDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Stewart County Public Library, 102 Natcor Road, Dover TN, and will be open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Byers, Advisory Board Liaison, Land Between The Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211, 270-924-2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Dated: March 14, 2003.

William P. Lisowsky,
Area Supervisor, Land Between The Lakes.
[FR Doc. 03-6678 Filed 3-19-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section 4 of the Pennsylvania State Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Pennsylvania NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Pennsylvania that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in practice standard 338 Prescribed Burning to account for improved technology. The prescribed burning practice can be used in systems that have a need to control undesirable vegetation, improve forage quality and quantity, or reduce wildfire hazards through the use of controlled burning.

These *draft* standards include the following: Prescribed Burning PA338.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robin E. Heard, State Conservationist, USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service, One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-2993, telephone (717) 237-2200; fax (717) 237-2238.

Copies of these *draft* practice standards are made available electronically on the Pennsylvania Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web site at <http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov>. Click on the "New eFOTG" button, select Pennsylvania on the map, and access Section IV to review the *draft* practice standards.

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 in Pennsylvania will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS in Pennsylvania regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: February 28, 2003.

Robin E. Heard,
State Conservationist.
[FR Doc. 03-6669 Filed 3-19-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Louisiana Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that conference call of the Louisiana Advisory Committee to the Commission will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 12 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2003. The purpose of the conference call is to discuss the Committee's environmental justice report and to plan future activities. The conference call is available to the public through the following call-in number: 1-800-497-7709, access code: 15708639. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting.

To ensure that the Commission secures an appropriate number of lines, persons are asked to register by contacting Farella E. Robinson of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414), by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2003.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 4, 2002.

Ivy L. Davis,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 03-6738 Filed 3-19-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that conference call of the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the Commission will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2003. The purpose of the conference call is to discuss the Committee's project on state human relations legislation and plan future activities. The conference call is available to the public through the following call-in number: 1-800-473-8794, access code: 15708651. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting.

To ensure that the Commission secures an appropriate number of lines, persons are asked to register by contacting Farella E. Robinson of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414), by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2003.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 4, 2002.

Ivy L. Davis,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 03-6737 Filed 3-19-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-