

Salvage sales are proposed within the Middle Fork John Day River Watershed on the Long Creek Ranger District. This analysis will evaluate a range of alternatives for implementation of the timber sales. The area being analyzed is approximately 28,000 acres.

The salvage sales would be located north of County Road 20 and within the Granite Boulder, Ragged Ruby Beaver, Sunshine Dry, Big Boulder, Balance Dunston Coyote Horse, Jungle Elk Deep, Bear Hawkins Mosquito, and Big subwatersheds. The majority of the salvage harvest would be dead or dying timber. The proposed volume for all sales is estimated to be approximately 145 million board feet from approximately 12,000 acres.

Salvage harvesting is proposed within some Riparian Habitat Conservation Area buffers, the former Greenhorn Mountain and Jumpoff Joe RARE II areas, and the Vinegar Hill-Indian Rock Scenic Area. No new road construction is proposed within these areas. Salvage harvesting is also proposed within two dedicated old-growth stands, their accompanying replacement old-growth stands, and a Wildlife Emphasis Area. The Wildlife Emphasis Area is within the former Jumpoff Joe RARE II area.

Preliminary issues include: effects on former RARE II areas; a Scenic Area; anadromous fish; sensitive fish and wildlife species; fuel loads; water quality; and timber production.

A full range of alternatives will be considered, including a no-action alternative. Issues gathered through scoping may vary action alternatives in (1) the amount and location of acres considered for treatment; (2) the amount of roads constructed for access; and (3) the number, type, and location of other integrated resource projects.

Scoping process will include: (1) identifying potential issues; (2) identifying issues to be analyzed in depth; (3) eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental analysis; (4) explore additional alternatives; and (5) identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from: other Federal, State, and Local agencies; Tribes; organizations; and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in the preparation of the draft EIS.

Comments will be appreciated throughout the analysis process. The draft EIS is to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

and will be available for public review by March 1997. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date of EPA's Notice of Availability appear in the Federal Register. It is important that those interested in the management of the Malheur National Forest participate at that time.

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 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). 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, 1002 (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 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 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.)

After the 45 day comment period ends on the draft EIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final EIS. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by July 1997. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received (40 CFR 1503.7). The responsible official, Forest Supervisor, F. Carl Pence, will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision regarding the project. The responsible official will document the

Summit Fire Recover Project decision and rationale for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to review under Forest Service Appeal Regulations 36 CFR Part 215.

Dated: October 11, 1996.

F. Carl Pence,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-26878 Filed 10-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## Water Rights Task Force Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service announces meetings of the Water Rights Task Force established on August 20, 1996, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, as amended. The chairman has scheduled the third meeting of the Task Force in Reno, Nevada, on November 11-12; the fourth meeting in Denver, Colorado, on December 16; and the fifth meeting in San Francisco, California, on January 16-17, 1997.

**DATES:** The third meeting will be held November 11 from noon to 6:00 p.m. and November 12 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The fourth meeting will be held December 16 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The fifth meeting will be held January 16 from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. and January 17 from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

**ADDRESSES:** The third meeting will be held in the Crystal 5 Conference Room of the Reno Hilton Hotel, 2500 East Second Street, Reno, NV; the fourth meeting will be held in the 1st floor Auditorium of the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 740 Simms Street, Golden, CO; and the fifth meeting will be held in the Black Oak Room, 5th floor, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA.

Send written comments to Eleanor Towns, FACA Liaison, Water Rights Task Force, c/o USDA Forest Service, MAIL STOP 1124, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090. Telephone: (202) 205-1248; Fax: (202) 205-1604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Glasser, Watershed & Air Management Staff, Telephone: (202) 205-1172; Fax: (202) 205-1096.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Water Rights Task Force is composed of seven members appointed by Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture to study and make recommendations on issues pertaining to water rights. At the forthcoming meetings, the Task Force

will develop and begin to implement its work plan for carrying out its assigned responsibilities. All meetings are open to the public and time will be provided at each meeting for the public to address the Task Force, as follows: November 11, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.; December 16, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., and January 16, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.; however, discussion is limited to Task Force members and Forest Service personnel. Persons who wish to bring water rights matters to the attention of the Task Force may also file written statements with the Forest Service liaison at the address listed earlier in this notice either before or after each meeting.

Notice of the establishment of the Water Rights Task Force was published in the Federal Register on September 11, 1996 (61 FR 47858). The Task Force terminates either in August of 1997 or upon submission of a final report.

Dated: October 15, 1996.

Mark A. Reimers,

*Acting Chief.*

[FR Doc. 96-26900 Filed 10-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

### **Timber Sale Contracts; Change in Stumpage Rate Adjustment Procedure**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; reopening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On August 7, 1996, the Forest Service published in the Federal Register a proposed policy to eliminate the stumpage rate adjustment procedure used to adjust timber sale contract tentative rates (bid rates) on most timber sales. The agency requested public comment on the proposed policy (61 FR 41124), with the comment period closing October 7, 1996. The comment period is now being reopened for 90 days to allow consideration of this proposal concurrently with consideration of a proposed rule published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register to change the procedures for market-related contract term addition. All comments received between August 7, 1996, and the reopening of the comment period will be considered; therefore respondents do not need to resubmit comments previously submitted.

**DATES:** The additional comment period will end on January 21, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Director, Timber Management Staff, MAIL STOP 1105, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Dated: October 8, 1996.

J. Kenneth Myers,

*Acting Chief.*

[FR Doc. 96-26756 Filed 10-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

### **ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD**

#### **Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) gives notice of the dates and location of the meetings of the Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee.

**DATES:** The Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee will meet on November 6, 7, and 8, 1996 beginning at 9:30 a.m. each day.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association offices, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding the meetings, please contact Dennis Cannon, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-5434 extension 35 (voice); (202) 272-5449 (TTY). Electronic mail address: cannon@access-board.gov. This document is available in alternate formats (cassette tape, braille, large print, or computer disk) upon request.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 24, 1996, the Access Board published a notice appointing members to its Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee (Committee). 61 FR 26155 (May 24, 1996). The Committee will make recommendations to the Access Board on accessibility guidelines for telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment. These recommendations will be used by the Access Board to develop accessibility guidelines in conjunction with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under section 255 (e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Committee is composed of representatives of manufacturers of telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment;

organizations representing the access needs of individuals with disabilities; telecommunications providers and carriers; and other persons affected by the guidelines.

At its first meeting on June 12-14, 1996, the Committee took the following actions:

- The statutory definitions of telecommunications, telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment are to be construed broadly.
- Providing access is not a "change in form" of information within the meaning of the statute's definition of telecommunications and, therefore, not excluded.
- A listserv was created through the Trace Center: taac-l@trace.wisc.edu. To subscribe, send e-mail to listproc@trace.wisc.edu with the message subscribe taac-l <firstname lastname>.

At its second meeting on August 14-16, 1996, the Committee agreed on the following points:

- In customer premises equipment (CPE), it is not always possible to separate the effects of software from hardware and one manufacturer may choose to perform the same function with one or the other. Therefore, the guidelines must cover both.
- It is not always possible to determine whether a particular function resides with the CPE, the telecommunications carrier, or the source material. Therefore, the guidelines will be developed with the assumption that the function resides in the CPE and urge the FCC to apply the same guidelines to entities and services under its jurisdiction.
- The Committee also agreed that the existing definitions of CPE and telecommunications equipment are sufficient.
- While the definition of "readily achievable" in the Telecommunications Act is the same as in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the term is applied differently. In the ADA, the term applies to barrier removal in existing facilities whereas the Telecommunications Act applies the term to the manufacture of new equipment. An ad hoc task group was formed to develop criteria to assess "readily achievable" in this new context.
- Subcommittees on Compliance Assessment and Guidelines content were created. Discussions will be conducted primarily by e-mail. To participate in a subcommittee, send e-mail to cannon@access-board.gov.