

who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action are invited to participate in the scoping process. This process will determine the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Following the publication of this notice, a scoping document will be mailed to interested people and organizations. The document will briefly describe the project and project area, the purpose and need for the project, the proposed action, and will invite public comment. Scoping meetings will then be held in Sitka and Tenakee Springs, Alaska. Locations and times of the scoping meetings will be announced in local newspapers and on local radio stations.

Following scoping, the Interdisciplinary Planning Team will review comments received during the scoping period to determine which issues as significant and within the scope of this project. The team will then develop a range of alternatives to address the significant issues. One of these will be the "No Action" alternative, in which no additional timber harvest or road construction is proposed. Other alternatives will consider various levels and locations of timber harvest in response to issues and non-timber objectives. The team will then prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will display the alternatives and the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of each alternative.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency after March, 1998. The comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. In addition to commenting on the proposed action and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement when it is released, agencies and other interested persons or groups are invited to write to or speak with Forest Service officials at any time during the planning process.

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 important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments or objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider 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 Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the document. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR 1503.3, in addressing these points.

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; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. 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 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 the name and address.

Decisions To Be Made

Gary A. Morrison, Forest Supervisor of the Chatham Area, is the Responsible Official and will decide whether or not to authorize timber harvest within the Finger Mountain Project Area. In addition, if timber harvest will occur, he will determine the following: (1) Is the design of the timber sales consistent with meeting resource protection standards and guidelines in the Land and Resource Management Plan? (2) How much timber volume is to be made available and what are the effects of the planned activities? (3) What is the location and design of the timber harvest units, log transfer facilities, and road system needed to develop the project area? (4) What mitigation and monitoring measures are required for sound resource management? (5) Is there a significant possibility of a significant restriction on subsistence uses?

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is expected to be released by August, 1998. The Responsible Official will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments, and the environmental consequences displayed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and supporting reason will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Dated: June 23, 1997.

Gary A. Morrison,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-16985 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

California Coast Province Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The California Coast Province Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on July 16, 1997, at the Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor's Office Conference Room, 1330 Bayshore Drive, Eureka, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Presentation on implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan; (2) Presentation on the federal wildland fire policy; (3) Presentation on the role of fuels management in forest ecology; (4) Report and recommendations from Public/Private/Tribal Partnership Opportunities Subcommittee; (5) Report and recommendations from Monitoring

Subcommittee; (6) Report and recommendations from Work on the Ground Subcommittee; (7) Report and recommendations from the PAC/SCERT coordinating committee; (8) Report and recommendations from Recreation/Tourism Subcommittee; and (9) Open public forum. The PAC will also meet for a field trip to the Six Rivers National Forest on July 17. The field trip will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor's Office and conclude at 5 p.m. All California Coast Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Daniel Chisholm, USDA, Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA, 95988, (916) 934-3316 or Phebe Brown, Province Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA, 95988, (916) 934-3316.

Dated: June 20, 1997.

Daniel K. Chisholm,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-17018 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Yakima Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee; Notice of Field Tour

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

SUMMARY: The Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on July 9, 1997 at the Cle Elum Ranger District office, 803 W. 2nd Street, Cle Elum Washington. The Provincial Advisory Committee members will meet at the Ranger District office at 9:00 a.m., then proceed to the field tour in the Buck meadows area. The tour will end at 4:00 p.m. This field tour will focus primarily on management of dispersed recreation in riparian areas. All 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: June 23, 1997.

Sonny J. O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Wenatchee National Forest.

[FR Doc. 97-16986 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in Minnesota and Mississippi

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designations of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (Minnesota) and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (Mississippi) will end December 31, 1997, according to the Act. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in Minnesota and Mississippi to submit an application for designation.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before July 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Applications may be submitted by FAX on 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications will be made available for public inspection at this address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

Section 7(f)(1) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Minnesota, main office located in

Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Mississippi, main office located in Jackson, Mississippi, to provide official inspection and Class X and Class Y weighing services under the Act on January 1, 1995.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies shall end not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of the Act. The designations of Minnesota and Mississippi end on December 31, 1997, according to the Act.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Minnesota, except those export port locations within the State, is assigned to Minnesota.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Mississippi, except those export port locations within the State, is assigned to Mississippi.

Interested persons, including Minnesota and Mississippi, are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder. Designation in the Minnesota and Mississippi areas is for the period beginning January 1, 1998, and ending December 31, 2000. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

Applications and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*)

Dated: June 19, 1997

Neil E. Porter

Director, Compliance Division

[FR Doc. 97-16908 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

Formal Determinations, Releases, Assassination Records Designation, and Reconsideration

AGENCY: Assassination Records Review Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Assassination Records Review Board (Review Board) met in a closed meeting on June 10, and made