

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), notice is hereby given of the third meeting of the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. The purpose of this meeting is to review the report on the effects of the Federal Agricultural Improvement Act of 1996 and to plan Commission activities for 1999. This meeting will be open to the public.

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: The meeting will be held in Room 5140, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, from 8:30–5:00 EST on November 16, 1998, and 8:30 am 12 noon EST on November 17, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith J. Collins (202–720–5955), Chief Economist, Room 112–A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3810.

Dated: October 21, 1998.

Keith J. Collins,
Chief Economist.

[FR Doc. 98–28788 Filed 10–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Customer Service Comment Cards

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to establish a new information collection. The new collection is necessary to monitor customer satisfaction with existing Forest Service customer services, business practices, operations, and facilities, and to provide a means to address customer complaints.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing December 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Director, Office of Communications, 2 CEN AUD, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090–6090, or e-mail comments to Barbara.Hunter/wo@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments in the Office of the Director of Communications. To facilitate entrance into the building, visitors are encouraged to call ahead (202) 205–1273.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara B. Hunter, Office of Communications, National Customer Service Team, telephone (202) 205–0979, or e-mail to Barbara.Hunter/wo@fs.fed.us.

Description of Information Collection

Title: “Your Comments” Customer Service Comment Card

OMB Number: New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of Request: This is a new information collection that has not received approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: Executive Order 12862, issued September 11, 1993, directed Federal agencies to change the way they do business, to reform their management practices, to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector, and to establish and implement customer service standards to carry out the principles of the National Performance Review. In response to this order, the Forest Service established and implemented customer service standards and posted these standards at all Forest Service offices, work sites, and visitor centers. “Your Comments” Customer Service Comment Cards are voluntary customer surveys, which will be used to monitor

customer perceptions of how well the Forest Service meets its posted customer service standards, as well as how Forest Service customers view the agency’s business practices, operations, and facilities. The survey also will provide a means to learn about and address customer complaints.

Forest Service personnel will collect information everywhere the agency does business. Forest Service personnel will make customer service survey cards available to customers in person, by mail, and on the internet. The “Your Comment” Customer Service Cards will include the following survey statements that will be rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “Strongly agree” and 5 being “Not applicable.”

1. I received prompt courteous service.

2. I was provided the information or service I needed.

3. For my request or business, the procedure was clear and efficient.

4. I was satisfied with the facilities used.

Completion of this card will be voluntary. Customers will mail the cards back to the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington, DC, or send their responses electronically on the internet. The data from this information collection will be evaluated and included in reports to the National Partnership for Reinventing Government (formerly the National Performance Review), the Department of Agriculture, to agency officials, and to Forest Service customers. The “Your Comment” Customer Service Comment Cards and e-mail messages will be mailed back to Forest Service personnel in the respective field units where the customers were served, so that any complaints and suggestions may be used to improve services, business practices, operations, and facilities at the units. This will give Forest Service personnel an opportunity to respond to customers by phone, e-mail, or mail, when considered necessary and appropriate.

Estimate of Burden: 5 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Respondents will include anyone who visits or contacts one of the Forest Service offices, work sites, or visitor centers, either in person, by telephone or on the internet. This includes individuals and groups of varying ages and abilities, U.S. citizens and citizens from other countries, who visit or plan to visit

National Forest System lands, for recreation or educational purposes; special interest groups; local residents; and individuals conducting business with the Forest Service including, but not limited to, grazing permittees, minerals, oil and gas permittees, land lessees, timber customers, other forest products customers, research scientists, special-use customers, educators, librarians, historians, writers, media contacts, moviemakers, law enforcement officers, fire fighters, representatives of other Federal, State, county, or local Government agencies, and foreign governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,708 hours per year.

Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information, 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comment

All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: October 22, 1998.

Sandra H. Key,

Acting Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 98-28822 Filed 10-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Subcommittee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee will meet on November 5, 1998, at the Embassy Suites Portland Downtown, 319 SW Pine Street, Portland, Oregon 97204-2726. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. The meeting will begin at 9:15 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. Agenda items to be discussed include, but are not limited to: continued discussion of future agenda topics; review ongoing and potential activities for the coming year; and progress reports on effectiveness monitoring and information issues. The IAC meeting will be open to the public and is fully accessible for people with disabilities. Interpreters are available upon request in advance. Written comments may be submitted for the record at the meeting. Time will also be scheduled for oral public comments. Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Don Knowles, Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, 333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (Phone 503-808-2180).

Dated: October 21, 1998.

Donald R. Knowles,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 98-28819 Filed 10-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Province Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on November 17, 1998 in Roseburg, Oregon at the Umpqua National Forest Supervisor's Office. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) local issues presentation by management representatives of the Roseburg Bureau of Land Management and Umpqua National Forest; (2) Public comment; (3) Applegate Adaptive Management Area Guide; (4) Mining and riparian area conflicts; (5) Possibly a representative from the Regional Ecosystem Office will discuss Advisory Committee questions. All Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chuck Anderson, Province Advisory Committee Coordinator, USDA, Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 333 W. 8th Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, phone (541) 858-2322.

Dated: October 21, 1998.

Charles J. Anderson,

Acting Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 98-28864 Filed 10-27-98; 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.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practice for review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include "Contour Buffer Strips", "Cross Wind Trap Strips", "Dry Hydrant", "Field Border", "Filter Strip", "Irrigation Water Management", "Residue Management, Mulch Till", "Residue Management, No Till and Strip Till", "Waste Utilization". NRCS State Conservationist's who choose to adopt these practices for use within their state will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land or on land determined to be wetland.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 60-day period commencing with this date of publication. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 60 day period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in Washington, DC. Submit individual inquiries in writing to William Hughey, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture