

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

Research, Education, and Economics Notice of the Advisory Committee on Small Farms Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Enrique Nelson Escobar, Executive Director of the USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms, Research, Education and Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mail Stop 2027, Room 1412, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-3810. Telephone: 202-720-9354, Fax: 202-720-0443, or e-mail: adrain@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms, consisting of 19 members, representing small farms, ranches, and woodlot owners and the diverse groups USDA programs serve, has scheduled a meeting for April 18-20, 2000. The Committee meeting will be held 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, on Wednesday, April 20, 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m., and on Thursday, April 20, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. During this time the Advisory Committee will: (1) Hear reports from working sub-committees, (2) hear comments from the general public, (3) finalize plans for achieving the committee objectives, and (4) determine how and when the Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary.

Dates and Locations: April 18—8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Advisory Committee General Meeting, Jamie L. Whitten

Federal Building, Rooms 104-A and 107-A, 1400 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. April 19—8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Advisory Committee General Meeting, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, Rooms 104-A and 107-A, 1400 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. On April 19, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the general public will have an opportunity to provide oral and written comments to the Committee in Room 104-A, 1400 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. April 20—8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Advisory Committee General Meeting, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, Room 104-A, 1400 Jefferson Drive, S.W. Washington, D.C.

Type of Meeting: Open to the public.

Comments: The public may file written comments to the USDA Advisory Committee contact person before or within a reasonable time after the meeting. All statements will become a part of the official records of the USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms and will be kept on file for public review in the office of the Acting Director of Small Farms, Room 1410 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC . 20250.

I. Miley Gonzalez,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 00-8066 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Davis Land Exchange; White River National Forest; Colorado

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; availability of the Davis Land Exchange Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Davis Land Exchange on the Aspen Ranger District of the White River National Forest is available for public review and comment.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked by May 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Davis Land Exchange Project Manager,

White River National Forest, Aspen Ranger District, 806 West Hallam Street, Aspen, CO 81611. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying at the Aspen Ranger District office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for copies of the Environmental Assessment and questions about this project should be addressed to Allan Grimshaw, Aspen Ranger District, 806 West Hallam Street, Aspen CO, 81611, 970-925-3445.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States has entered into a settlement agreement which proposes the use of a land exchange to settle a title claim against the United States. The exchange would result in conveyance of 7.32 acres of Federal land for approximately 61 acres of non-Federal land. This environmental assessment has been prepared to evaluate the effects of such a land exchange. It also evaluates the effects of one alternative: Requesting the court release the United States from the settlement agreement and allow the litigation to continue. Comments will be considered in development of a decision.

Dated: March 17, 2000.

James R. Furnish,

Deputy Chief for National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 00-8053 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Northern Sierra Forest Plan Amendment EIS: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Stanislaus National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit: Carson City, Douglas, and Washoe Counties, Nevada and Alpine, Eldorado, Nevada, Sierra, Lassen, and Toulumne Counties, California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Supplement of a notice of intent to revise expected public comment availability, clarify the forest plans amended, and identify changes in the scope of the amendment.

SUMMARY: This Federal Register notice revises the Notice of Intent published in the November 10, 1998 Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 217, Pages 63023–63024. The agency expects to file the draft EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency and make it available for public comment in May, 2000.

In addition to comprehensive amendment of the Toiyabe Land and Resource Management plan for the Carson Ranger District, the EIS will address amendment of the Stanislaus Land and Resource Management Plan for management of that portion of the Carson Iceberg Wilderness Area in the Stanislaus National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Land and Resource Management Plan for management of that portion of the Mount Rose Wilderness Area in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Based on public input and further analysis, the scope of the amendment for the Toiyabe Plan has been modified from that published in the original notice. Topics to be included are now: (1) Improving public access, (2) enhancing recreation opportunities and reducing user conflicts, (3) protecting scenery along scenic corridors and as a backdrop the areas communities, (4) preserving wilderness character, (5) protecting watersheds, (6) enhancing ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, (7) improving the landownership pattern, (8) protecting and interpreting heritage resources, (9) managing American Indian religious and cultural uses in a government-to-government relationship with tribes, (10) providing for harvest of forest products to achieve ecosystem integrity goals, (11) managing livestock grazing to ensure long-term ecological sustainability, (12) managing mining to protect scenic and other resources, and (13) providing for development of special use facilities compatible with scenic integrity and other resource objectives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Loomis, Sierra Ecosystem Planner, 1536 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701, phone 775 884-8132.

Dated: March 21, 2000.

Karen Shimamoto,

Deputy Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

[FR Doc. 00-8132 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tuxekan Island Timber Sale Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Tongass National Forest Timber Sale Program. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has selected harvest units, designed roads, and planned for future stand management activities. The proposed action is to harvest approximately 20 MMBF of timber on Tuxekan Island. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed and include a no-action alternative. The proposed project is located on Tuxekan Island west of Prince of Wales Island in townships 69 and 70 east (T69E, T70E) and ranges 78 and 79 south (R78S, R79S), Copper River Meridian, on the Thorne Bay Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by May 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to District Ranger; Thorne Bay Ranger District; Tongass National Forest; Attn: Tuxekan Island Timber Sale EIS; P.O. Box 19001; Thorne Bay, AK 99919.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to: Stan McCoy, Thorne Bay Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 19001, Thorne Bay, AK 99919, telephone (907) 828-3243 or E-mail: samccoy@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

(1) *Public Participation:* Public participation will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Native, Federal, State, local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Public scoping meetings are scheduled in Alaska at Edna Bay, Klawock, Naukati, and Thorne Bay. Meeting dates are tentatively scheduled for April, 2000 and will be published in the Ketchikan Daily News and the Island News newspapers distributed in southeast Alaska. Meeting dates will also be

available from the Thorne Bay Ranger District by calling (907) 828-3304. Written scoping comments are being solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by May 31, 2000.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives including a "no action" alternative will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The Draft EIS filing date with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is scheduled for January 2001. Public comment on the Draft EIS will be solicited for a minimum of 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), are planned during this 45-day comment period if needed. The Final EIS is anticipated by October 2001.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and 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.

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of Draft EIS 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 concerns. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *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). The reason for this is to ensure that subsistence comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can