

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 65, No. 9

Thursday, January 13, 2000

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

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 a meeting in November of the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the future role of the Federal Government in support of production agriculture. The meeting is open to the public.

PLACE, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING: This meeting will be held January 27–28, 2000, in Room 221–A Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, from 9:00 a.m. est until 5:00 p.m. est.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy M. Peters (202–720–4860), Assistant Director, Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture, Room 3702 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–0524.

Dated: January 3, 2000.

Keith J. Collins,
Chief Economist.

[FR Doc. 00–783 Filed 1–12–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Threemile Stewardship Project; Custer National Forest, Ashland Ranger District; Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Montana

AGENCY: Forests Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of the Threemile Stewardship Project. This project will focus on moving ecosystems toward their desired conditions through management activities that would maintain or improve the diversity of ponderosa pine, woody draw and grassland vegetative communities. The project was selected for Stewardship Contracting. The Forest Service is the lead agency for the preparation of this document.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by February 29, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Elizabeth A. McFarland, District Ranger, Ashland Ranger District, P.O. Box 168, Ashland, Montana 59003. Or send electronic mail comments to rhecker/rl_custer@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald E. Hecker, Project Coordinator, (406) 784–2344 or rhecker/rl_custer@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Threemile Stewardship Project is one of nine stewardship “end” result contract demonstration projects in the northern Region of the Forest Service that is authorized under Section 347 of the 1999 Appropriations Bill.

The focus of this project is moving ecosystems toward their desired condition through management activities that would maintain or improve the diversity of the ponderosa pine, woody draw and grassland vegetative communities. This project is designed to achieve vegetation management of these plant communities through the use of partnerships and collaboration as defined through Stewardship Contracting (Section 347, 1999 Appropriations Bill).

The objective of this project is the performance of services to achieve land

management goals on the National Forest System lands that meet local and rural community needs (improve conditions on the land while providing for local jobs). Land management goals may include, but are not limited to:

- Commercial and non-commercial cutting or removal of trees to promote healthy forest stands, woody draws, and grasslands and/or to reduce fire hazard;
- Prescribed burning to improve the composition, structure, condition and health of forests stands, woody draws and grasslands;
- Road maintenance and reclamation of un-needed roads;
- Control of noxious weeds; and
- Restoration and maintenance of wildlife habitat.

The Stewardship proposal would look at the over-all needs of the 32,200 acres within the project area, which is located between Ten Mile Creek and US Highway 212 on the southeast portion of the Ashland Ranger District. The focus is “outcomes” and not “outputs”. The value of forest products removed would be used as an offset against the cost of services received (exchange of goods for services on a value for value basis). An example might be trading saw logs for treatment of noxious weeds or road rehabilitation.

Along with the issuance of a project-scoping letter, later this month, an information meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2000, at the Ashland Ranger District, to provide the public with additional information about the project and process. Written or oral responses will be accepted until February 29, 2000.

The Responsible Official for this EIS for decision is Nancy T. Curriden, Forest Supervisor, 1310 Main Street, P.O. Box 50760, Billings, Montana 49105.

The comment period on the draft environment impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

A Draft EIS is scheduled for release to the public for comment in August 2000, and the Final EIS is scheduled for completion in December 2000.

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 or 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. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these courts 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 environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement 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.

Dated: January 7, 2000.

Nancy T. Curriden,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-798 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Loon Mountain Ski Area Improvements and Expansion

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of a supplement to a final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On August 4, 1998, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplement to the Loon Mountain Ski Area South Mountain Expansion Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the White Mountain National Forest was published in the **Federal Register**

(Volume 63, Number 149) pages 41541-41543. This notice is being withdrawn because the Forest service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) rather than a supplement to the FEIS to disclose the environmental effects of Loon Mountain Recreation Corporation's proposal to develop and expand recreational facilities at Loon Mountain Ski Resort. This decision is based on changes to the original purpose and need for the Proposed Action since the FEIS was prepared. The Forest Service NOI to prepare a supplemental is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Strand, Project Coordinator, US Forest Service, 99 Ranger Road, Rochester, Vermont, 05767; TTY phone (802) 767-4261; voice phone (802) 767-4261 ext. 522; FAX (802) 767-4777; or E-mail, jstrand/r9_gmfl@fs.fed.us.

Dated: December 17, 1999.

Donna Hepp,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-837 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Passenger Vessel 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) has established an advisory committee to assist it in developing a proposed rule on accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered passenger vessels covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document gives notice of the dates, times, and location of the next meeting of the Passenger Vessel Access Advisory Committee (committee).

DATES: The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for February 9 through 11, 2000, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the 3rd floor training room at 1331 F Street, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Beatty, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-5434

extension 119 (Voice); (202) 272-5449 (TTY). E-mail address: pvaac@access-board.gov. This document is available in alternate formats (cassette tape, Braille, large print, or computer disk) upon request. This document is also available on the Board's Internet Site at <http://www.access-board.gov/notices/pvaacmtg.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) established a Passenger Vessel Access Advisory Committee (committee) to assist the Board in developing proposed accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered passenger vessels covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. 63 FR 43136 (August 12, 1998). The committee is composed of owners and operators of various passenger vessels; persons who design passenger vessels; organizations representing individuals with disabilities; and other individuals affected by the Board's guidelines.

The committee will meet on the dates and at the location announced in this notice. The meeting is open to the public. The facility is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require sign language interpreters or real-time captioning systems should contact Paul Beatty by February 1, 2000.

Lawrence W. Roffee,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 00-851 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket Number 000103001-0001-01]

RIN 0607-XX51

Annual Retail Trade Survey

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Determination.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census Bureau) is conducting the Annual Retail Trade Survey. The U.S. Census Bureau has determined that it needs to collect data covering annual sales, e-commerce sales, percent of e-commerce sales to customers located outside the United States, year-end inventories, purchases, accounts receivables, and, for select industries, merchandise line sales, and percent of sales by class of customer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Scheleur or Dorothy Engleking,