

District Ranger Decisions

Appalachian Ranger District: The Asheville Citizen-Times published daily in Asheville, NC

Cheoah Ranger District: Graham Star, published weekly (Thursday) in Robbinsville, NC

Croatan Ranger District: The Sun Journal, published weekly (Sunday through Friday) in New Bern, NC

Grandfather Ranger District: McDowell News, published daily in Marion, NC

Highlands Ranger District: The Highlander, published weekly (mid May-mid Nov Tues & Fri; mid Nov-mid May Tues only) in Highlands, NC

Pisgah Ranger District: The Asheville Citizen-Times published daily in Asheville, NC

Tusquitee Ranger District: Cherokee Scout, published weekly (Wednesday) in Murphy, NC

Uwharrie Ranger District: Montgomery Herald, published weekly (Wednesday) in Troy, NC

Wayah Ranger District: The Franklin Press, published by-weekly (Wednesday and Friday) in Franklin, NC

Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas, Oklahoma

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

District Ranger Decisions

Caddo Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock AR

Cold Springs Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Fourche Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Jessieville Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Mena Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Oden Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Poteau Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Winona Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Womble Ranger District: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Choctaw Ranger District: Tulsa World, published daily in Tulsa, OK

Kiamichi Ranger District: Tulsa World, published daily in Tulsa, OK

Tiark Ranger District: Tulsa World, published daily in Tulsa, OK

Ozark-St. Francis National Forest: Arkansas

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Courier, published daily (Tuesday through Sunday) in Russellville, AR

District Ranger Decisions

Sylamore Ranger District: Stone County Leader, published weekly (Tuesday) in Mountain View, AR

Buffalo Ranger District: Newton County Times, published weekly in Jasper, AR

Bayou Ranger District: The Courier, published daily (Tuesday through Sunday) in Russellville, AR

Pleasant Hill Ranger District: Johnson County Graphic, published weekly (Wednesday) in Clarksville, AR

Boston Mountain Ranger District: Southwest Times Record, published daily in Fort Smith, AR

Magazine Ranger District: Southwest Times Record, published daily in Fort Smith, AR

St. Francis Ranger District: The Daily World, published daily (Sunday through Friday) in Helena, AR

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, Texas

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Lufkin Daily News, published daily in Lufkin, TX

District Ranger Decisions

Angelina National Forest: The Lufkin Daily News, published daily in Lufkin, TX

Davy Crockett National Forest: The Lufkin Daily News, published daily in Lufkin, TX

Sabine National Forest: The Lufkin Daily News, published daily in Lufkin, TX

Sam Houston National Forest: The Courier, published daily in Conroe, TX

Caddo & LBJ National Grasslands: Denton Record-Chronicle, published daily in Denton, TX

Dated: May 12, 2000.

David G. Holland,

Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources.

[FR Doc. 00-12491 Filed 5-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Booger Placer Claim, Suction Dredging Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of dredging on the Booger placer claim on Little Elk Creek. The claimant has proposed using one eight-inch suction dredge to remove possible gold deposits from the gravel and at bedrock in the stream channel of Little Elk Creek. The operation is proposed for five years, to operate when water and weather conditions allow. The Booger placer claim is located in Section 33, T30N, R8E, BPM.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before June 19, 2000, to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions on the proposed action or requests for a map of the proposed action or to be placed on the project mailing list to Kevin Martin, District Ranger, Red River Ranger District, P.O. Box 416, Elk City, Idaho 83525.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jo Ellis, District Geologist, Red River Ranger District, P.O. Box 416, Elk City, Idaho 83525, phone (208) 842-2245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is proposed pursuant to the 1872 Mining Law, the Organic Administration Act of 1897 and Forest Service mining regulations, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 228, Subpart A. The United States mining laws at 30 U.S.C. 21-54 Confer a statutory right to enter upon the public land to search for and remove certain minerals. The Forest Service has the responsibility to make sure that the activities are conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts to National Forest System lands, 36 CFR, Part 228, Subpart A.

The proposal involves processing streambed gravel to bedrock over the entire 4,020 foot length of the claim. Deeps of the gravel are between three and six feet deep. The stream channel, between high water marks, varies from six to ten feet in width. This work would take place over five years of more whenever water and weather conditions allow operations.

The process involves utilizing high-pressure water pumps driven by gasoline-powered motors, which create suction in a flexible intake pipe. A mixture of streambed sediment and water is vacuumed into the intake pipe and passed over a sluice box mounted on a floating barge. Dense particles (including gold) are trapped in the sluice box. The remainder of the entrained material is discharged into the stream as tailings or spoils. A hole is created in the gravel so bedrock is exposed. Cracks in the bedrock are then cleared with the suction. Cable attached to a winch move large boulders or rootwads.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives to the proposed action. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which the Plan of Operations would not be approved. Additional alternatives will examine varying intensity and duration of the proposed activities, including restrictions on the size of equipment and length of seasonal operation, as well as respond to the issues and other resource values.

Public participation is an important part of the project, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which starts with publication of this notice and continues for the next 30 days. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, the Nez Perce Tribe, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to:

1. Identify potential issues;
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth;
3. Eliminate minor issues or those that have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, such as the Nez Perce National Forest Plan EIS;
4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action;
5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).

While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS, which is expected to be

filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in July 2000. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comments received will be analyzed and considered in preparation of a final EIS, which is expected to be filed in October 2000. A Record of Decision will be issued not less than 30 days after publication of a Notice of Availability of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important at this early stage to give reviewers notice 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 in such a way 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, 513 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period in order that substantive comments and objections are 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 should be as specific as possible. 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.

Kevin Martin is the responsible official for this environmental impact statement.

Dated: May 5, 2000.

Kevin Martin,

District Ranger, Red River Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest.

[FR Doc. 00-12476 Filed 5-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Illinois Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Illinois Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2000, at the 55 West Monroe Street, Suite 525, Chicago, Illinois 60603. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss civil rights issues of interest and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson James E. Scales, 618-453-1045, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, May 12, 2000.

Lisa M. Kelly,

Special Assistant to the Staff Director, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 00-12501 Filed 5-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Wisconsin Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Wisconsin Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 12:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2000, at the Milwaukee Hilton, 509 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss civil rights issues and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Geraldine McFadden, 414-444-1952, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign