

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

Provincial Advisory Committees

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to renew Federal Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, intends to renew the Provincial Advisory Committees (PACs) for the 12 provinces in California, Oregon, and Washington. This renewal is in response to the continued need for the PACs to provide advice on coordinating the implementation of the Record of Decision of April 13, 1994, for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. The PACs also provide advice and recommendations to promote integration and coordination of forest management activities between Federal and non-Federal entities.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the April 13, 1994, Record of Decision can be obtained electronically at <http://www.reo.gov/library/reports/newsandga.pdf>. Paper copies can be obtained from the Office of Strategic Planning, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Geraldine Bower, Planning Specialist, Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff, Forest Service, USDA (202) 205-1022.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, intends to renew the Provincial Advisory Committees (PACs), which will advise the Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC). The purpose of the PIEC is to facilitate the

coordinated implementation of the Record of Decision (ROD) of April 13, 1994, for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. The PIEC consists of representatives of some or all of the following Federal agencies: Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Ecosystem management at the province level requires improved coordination among governmental entities responsible for land management decisions and the public those agencies serve. Each PAC will provide advice and recommendations regarding implementation to promote integration and coordination of forest management activities between Federal and non-Federal entities. Each PAC will provide advice regarding implementation of a comprehensive ecosystem management strategy for Federal land within a province (provinces are defined in the ROD at E19).

The chair of each PAC will alternate annually between representatives of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. When the Bureau of Land Management is not represented on the PIEC, the Forest Service representative will serve as chair. The chair, or a designated agency employee, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer under sections 10(e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.). Any vacancies on the committee will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

A meeting notice will be published in the **Federal Register** within 15 to 45 days before a scheduled meeting date. All meetings are generally open to the public and may include a "public forum" that may offer 5-10 minutes for participants to present comments to the advisory committee. Alternates may choose not to be active during this session on the agenda. The chair of the given committee ultimately makes the decision whether to offer time on the agenda for the public to speak to the general body.

Renewal of the PACs does not require an amendment of Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service planning documents because the renewal does not affect the standards and guidelines or land allocations. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will provide further notice, as needed, for additional actions or adjustments when implementing interagency coordination, public involvement, and other aspects of the ROD.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the advisory committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the PACs have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Departments, membership will, to the extent practicable, include individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Dated: March 18, 2003.

Clyde Thompson,

Associate Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-7159 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-010N]

International Meat and Poultry Food Safety Conference

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), will hold an international food safety conference on March 27, 2003. The purpose of the conference is to share perspectives on various food safety issues, discuss strategies to improve food safety worldwide and serve as a forum for fostering relationships to promote food safety.

DATES: The conference is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The conference will be held at the Pan American Health Organization, 525 23rd Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037. A tentative agenda will be available in the FSIS

Docket Room and on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>. The official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Stuck at (202) 720-3473. Pre-registration for this meeting is suggested but not required. To register for the meeting, please contact Sheila Johnson at (202) 690-6498, fax: (202) 690-6500, or email: Sheila.johnson@fsis.usda.gov. You may also register on-site. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Mary Harris, by March 21, 2003, at (202) 690-6497.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The International Meat and Poultry Food Safety Conference will be an open forum to provide information on challenges faced by the international food safety community and varying approaches to the control of such challenges. Increased international trade in food products presents unique challenges in ensuring food safety. Meeting consumer expectations is a challenge facing food manufacturers and food regulators alike.

Public Meeting

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service will sponsor the International Meat and Poultry Food Safety Conference. This conference will allow experts and stakeholders to engage in an interactive sharing and learning experience, and to gain information and ideas to support the common goal of enhancing global food safety. The conference will be divided into three main sections: regional perspectives, scientific perspectives, and assistance and outreach. Examples of topics include a global perspective on multi-drug resistant pathogens, experiences with assisting small plants in meeting food safety requirements, and biosecurity. Speakers from various countries and international organizations are being invited.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice; FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is

communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on: March 21, 2003.

William C. Smith,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-7336 Filed 3-24-03; 12:26 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

West Fork Blacks Fork Allotment Management Plan; Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Summit County, UT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Wasatch-Cache National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to authorize continued livestock grazing on the West Fork Blacks Fork allotment encompassing approximately 15,028 acres of National Forest System lands in the West Fork Blacks Fork Watershed in Summit County, Utah. The analysis area is located in portions of the following townships: T2NR11E, T1NR11E, T1NR12E, Salt Lake Meridian, and T5NR7W, Uinta Meridian.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before April 18, 2003. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in June 2003 and the final

environmental impact statement is expected in September 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to District Ranger, Evanston Ranger District, P.O. Box 1880, Evanston, Wyoming 82930. E-mail address is lljohnson01@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, mail correspondence to or contact Stephen Ryberg, District Ranger, at the Evanston District, 1565 Hwy 150, Suite A, Evanston Wyoming 82930. The telephone number is 307-789-1394.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing within the West Fork Blacks Fork Allotment to achieve the desired future conditions identified in the Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan. The action is needed because some areas (alpine benches) within the allotment do not meet ground cover standards. There is scientific debate about why these areas do not have adequate ground cover and how they should be managed. The allotment management plan developed from this analysis will emphasize management for healthy riparian, upland, and alpine ecosystems. Most of this allotment was incorporated into the High Uintas Wilderness under the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. This Act incorporated Section 108 of the Colorado Wilderness Act which included House Committee Report Language stating: " * * * there shall be no curtailment of grazing permits or privileges in an area simply because it is designated as wilderness". If approved, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest would authorize grazing through term grazing permits for up to 10 years. The EIS will be designed to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and implementing regulations (43 CFR 2310.1). A number of laws provide direction for grazing on public lands, including the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act (1960), the Wilderness Act (1964), the Utah Wilderness Act (1984), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (1974), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976), and the National Forest Management Act (1976). The Wasatch-Cache National Forest LRMP also contains provisions to implement this direction.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to authorize continued grazing on National Forest Systems lands on the West Fork Blacks Fork sheep allotment within the