

Signed at Washington, D.C. on December 18, 1995.

Christopher E. Goldthwait,  
General Sales Manager, Foreign Agricultural  
Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit  
Corporation.

[FR Doc. 95-31226 Filed 12-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

## Forest Service

### Western Washington Cascades Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Cascades PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on January 23, 1996 at the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters, 21905 64th Avenue West, in Mountlake Terrace, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until about 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Discussion with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the process and standards for developing Habitat Conservation Plans; (2) review and discussion of the Snoqualmie Pass Adaptive Management Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement with members of the AMA team; (3) overview of the Wild Salmonid Policy recently released by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; (4) update on issues related to Section 2001 of Public Law 103-327 (Rescission Bill); (5) report by the River Basin Study Group; (6) Access and Travel Management subcommittee report; (7) other topics as appropriate; and (8) open public forum. All Western Washington Cascades Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chris Hansen-Murray, Province Liaison, USDA, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 21905 64th Avenue West, Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043, 206-744-3276.

Dated: December 18, 1995.

Daniel T. Harkenrider,  
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-31244 Filed 12-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## Title to Forest Lieu Selection Lands

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the Agency's Nationally Significant lands

List which identifies lands to be retained by the United States as part of the national Forest System; and the Final List Of Lands Quitclaimed By The United States in compliance with steps three and four of a 5-step procedure imposed by the Act of July 2, 1993. Following publication of this notice the Agency will file in the appropriate county office a disclaimer of interest for the parcels on the Final List Of Lands Quitclaimed By The United States.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This notice is effective December 26, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** J. Kenneth Myers, Lands Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090, (202) 205-1248.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Certain provisions of the Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 473-475; the Organic Administration Act), which provided for the management of the forest reserves of the United States, included a provision known as "forest lieu selection." Under that provision, persons who had patented public land, or a claimant to such land, which fell within a proclaimed forest reserve boundary in the western United States, were authorized to convey or relinquish their land or claim to such land ("base land") to the United States and to select an equal acreage of vacant public land open to settlement ("in-lieu land"). The forest reserves were renamed as national forests in 1905.

In 1905, Congress repealed the forest lieu selection authorization, but protected previously made contracts and claims. This protection preserved the rights of those persons who had relinquished their inholdings by providing a deed to the United States, but who had not yet realized or exercised their selection rights under the forest lieu selection provision of the Organic Administration Act. In legislation enacted in 1922 and 1930, Congress provided further opportunity to resolve remaining claims by authorizing reconveyance of the base lands back to the former owners or their heirs or assigns. Consequently, most of the claims for in-lieu land were resolved.

However, Congress became concerned about allegations of abuse of the provisions of the 1930 Act, which by the 1950's was leading to reconveyance of valuable national forest and national park lands. In 1960, legislation was enacted to provide for compensation to people who had not received appropriate relief under the prior acts.

Section 4 of the 1960 Act repealed the 1930 Act and sought to close all unresolved claims under the 1897 Act. The legislation provided that any base lands for which payment was made, or any base lands for which payment might have been made but for which no demand was made, would become a part of appropriate national forest, national park, or other Federal area. However, no payments were made under the 1960 Act, continuing the unresolved title status of some of the base lands.

Thus, most of these base lands with questionable title have continued to be considered part of the national forests, although some have been continuously occupied by private parties since before 1960. Other base lands have been the subject of court decisions, raising further questions about the United States' claim of title.

In the mid-1980's, the Forest Service, pursuant to a request from Congress, compiled a list of grantors and base lands relinquished to the United States under the 1897 Act provision for which selection or other rights were not realized or exercised. This list was submitted to the 98th Congress and was used by it and subsequent Congresses for deliberations on legislation eventually enacted as the Act of July 2, 1993.

The 1993 Act was enacted to finally resolve the title status of the remaining base lands, using a 5-step procedure to either retain or quitclaim all right, title, and interest in and to the base lands. The first step in the 5-step procedure, which required the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Forest Service, to compile and publish an initial list of base lands in the Federal Register, was completed by the Agency on December 30, 1993 (58 FR 69321). Copies of relevant portions of the December 30, 1993, Federal Register were distributed to interested parties and appropriate federal, state, and county offices. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, also published an initial list of base lands located on public lands administered by that Agency on December 30, 1993.

Step two, which provided a 180-day comment period ending July 2, 1994, allowed persons to submit information on parcels not included in the Initial List but believed to meet the conditions set forth in the Act for review and possible addition to the Initial List. Numerous comments were submitted by individuals or their representatives informing the Agency of their claim or interest in parcels already included on the Initial List and requesting the