

# 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.

## AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

### Board of Directors Meeting; Sunshine Act Meeting

**TIME:** 12:00 noon—3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** ADF Headquarters.

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 1, 1996.

**STATUS:** Open.

#### Agenda

12:00 noon—Lunch

12:30—Chairman's Report

12:45 p.m.—President's Report

1:30 p.m.—Other

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Ms. Janis McCollim, Executive Assistant to the President, who can be reached at (202) 673-3916.

William R. Ford,

*President.*

[FR Doc. 96-10530 Filed 4-24-96; 12:57 pm]

**BILLING CODE** 6116-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Waterville Valley Ski Area Ltd. Snowmaking Ponds

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement for Waterville Valley Ski Area Ltd.'s proposal to construct snowmaking impoundments on the Pemigewasset Ranger District, White Mountain National Forest, Grafton County, New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has been asked to participate as a cooperating agency. The U.S. Corps of Engineers the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior and the Town of Waterville Valley have been asked to

provide assistance. The agency invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. In addition, the agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by June 10, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis to Donna Hepp, Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest, 719 Main St., Laconia, New Hampshire 03246.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions about the proposed action and environmental impact statement to Fred Kacprzynski, Waterville Valley Snowmaking Impoundments Coordinator, White Mountain National Forest, 719 Main Street, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246, phone: 603-528-8721.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Skiing is an important component of the recreational opportunities offered by the National Forests. The enabling authorities of the USDA-Forest Service are contained in many laws enacted by Congress and the regulations and administrative directives that implement these laws. The major laws include, the Organic Administrative Act of 1897, the Weeks Act of 1911, the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986. Ski area operations are consistent with the recreation objectives of the National Forests.

It is the policy of the Forest Service to meet downhill skiing demand on National Forest Lands by partnering with the private sector. The National Recreation Strategy (USDA-Forest Service 1988a) details the Forest Service role in increasing outdoor recreation on National Forests through partnerships such as those with the ski industry.

The intent of ski areas as noted in the White Mountain National Forest plan is to, "Broaden the range of recreation opportunities by recognizing the potential for year-round recreation

facilities at alpine ski areas managed by the private sector." In addition, the Forest Plan states that, "The Forest will not consider developing any completely new alpine ski areas." Indicating a direction to emphasize the continued operation of current ski areas. Skiing on the White Mountain National Forest accounted for about 17 percent of the total recreational use on the Forest, and uses about 3,500 acres or 0.4 percent of the Forest, and use about 3,500 acres or 0.4 percent of the Forest. Waterville Valley Ski Area is an integral part of the Forest partnership in providing these recreation opportunities.

Snowmaking is essential to a quality downhill skiing experience, and as such, important in maintaining the economic viability of the area and the partnership. Waterville Valley currently withdraws water directly from the Mad River, which has historically been an extremely unreliable source of water. The intent of Waterville Valley Ski Area is to provide enough water to fully cover the existing trail system three times during the winter, while increasing the minimum flow of the Mad River from the currently permitted minimum flow of 0.50 csm to the calculated February Median Flow (FMF) of 0.75 csm. Utilizing the current system (without snowmaking impoundments), with a direct withdrawal at 0.75 csm, Waterville Valley could only provide full coverage 9 percent of the time. The goal of the ski area is to provide coverage 95 percent the time.

As a result, Waterville Valley Ski Area Ltd. has proposed to construct water storage impoundments to augment water withdrawal from the Mad River in order to provide a reliable and sufficient source of water to meet this goal. Their proposal is a combination of four to five sites with a total capacity of 130 million gallons in concert with the 100 million gallons available directly from the Mad River. Impoundment locations are near the existing Ski Area permit, they are in Management Areas 2.1 and/or 3.1. Proposed locations have been reviewed by the proponent based on screening factors including, operating costs, land availability, pond volume and environmental impact.

Tentative issues which have been identified include, (1) changing water withdrawal limits from the current approved .50 csm to the FMF of .75 csm., (2) visual, (3) safety of the dams,