

the Environmental Protection Agency in April 1998. The comment period on the draft is 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Agencies and other interested persons or groups are invited to write or speak with Forest Service officials at any time during the planning process until the 45 day comment period on the draft ends. The final environmental impact statement and record of decision is expected to be completed in June 1998.

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 of 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. *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 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 also 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.) Please note that comments you make on the draft environmental impact statement will be regarded as public information.

### Decisions to be Made

Abigail Kimbell, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official and will decide whether or not to authorize timber harvest within the South Babione Project Area. The Responsible Official will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments and the information in the final environmental impact statement, and applicable laws, regulations and policies. The decision and supporting reason will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Dated: August 20, 1997.

**Abigail R. Kimbell**,

*Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### California Coast Province Advisory Committee (PAC)

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The California Coast Province Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on September 17 and 18, 1997, in Garberville and Redway, CA. The PAC will take a field trip on September 17 to observe restoration and fisheries activities in the Garberville area. The field trip will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Best Western Humboldt House, 701 Redwood Drive, Garberville, and conclude there at 4:00 p.m. A discussion of the field trip will be held at the breakfast room of the Best Western Humboldt House from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. that day. A business meeting will be held September 18, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Brass Rail meeting room, 3188 Redwood Drive, Redway, CA. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Presentation on Northwest Forest Plan implementation concerns; (2) Presentation on Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC)/PAC relations; (3) Presentation on the North Coast Geographic Information Cooperative; (4) Presentation on National Marine Fisheries Service steelhead listing announcement and clarification of consultation process/requirements for restoration projects RE: coho and steelhead; (5) Report and recommendations from the Public/Private/Tribal Partnership Opportunities Subcommittee; (6) Report and recommendations from the Monitoring Subcommittee; (7) Report and recommendations from the Work on the Ground Subcommittee to include

the Pacific Southwest Research fuels research proposal; (8) Report and recommendations from the PAC/SCERT coordinating committee; (9) Report and recommendations from Recreation/Tourism Subcommittee; (10) Report and recommendations from the Coho Subcommittee and (11) Open public forum. All California Coast 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 Daniel Chisholm, USDA, Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA 95988, (916) 934-3316 or Phebe Brown, Province Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA, 95988, (916) 934-3316.

Dated: August 21, 1997.

**Arthur Quintana**,

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on September 11 and 12, 1997 at the Park Community Center, Crater Lake National Park, Steel Circle, Crater Lake, Oregon. On September 11, the meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. The meeting on September 12 will resume at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Klamath PAC salvage subcommittee recommendation update; (2) Northwest Forest Plan Implementation; (3) Subcommittee Reports; and (4) public comment periods. All PAC meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, at 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, California 96097; telephone 916-842-6131, (FTS) 700-467-1309.

Dated: August 18, 1997.

**Robert J. Anderson**,

*Planning Staff Officer.*

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