

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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Research, Education, and Economics

#### Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Meeting

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-127), has scheduled a meeting on November 5-6, 1997, in Washington, D.C. The meeting agenda will focus on two key areas: (1) food and agriculture priorities for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) and its FY 2000 budget, and (2) the Fund for Rural America relevance review of Standard Project Grants and future activities of the Fund. Other agenda items include: Board recommendations on improving public understanding and appreciation of agriculture; an update on the REE Strategic Planning Task Force on agricultural facilities; and an update on the activities of the USDA Civil Rights Action Team. The Advisory Board will also discuss legislative activities related to agricultural research, extension, education, and economics and hear progress reports from Working Groups. A short orientation session will be held for newly appointed Board members on Tuesday, November 4, 1997.

**DATES:** Orientation of New Members: November 4, 1997, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; General Meeting: November 5-6, 1997, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Holiday Inn-National Airport (Crystal City), 1489 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, Grand Ball Room.

**TYPE OF MEETING:** Open to the public.

**COMMENTS:** The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3918 South, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 29 day of September 1997.

**I. Miley Gonzalez,**

*Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

[FR Doc. 97-27004 Filed 10-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-MP-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Nicholson Land Exchange, Boise National Forest, Boise and Elmore Counties, ID

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Boise National Forest will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposed land exchange with Thomas T. and Diana R. Nicholson.

In this exchange, the Boise National Forest would trade parcels totaling approximately 5,890 acres to the Nicholsons in exchange for parcels totaling approximately 573 acres. In order for the exchange to take place, the appraised values of the lands exchanged must be equal. Because of the different character, location, and potential uses of the different parcels, it is possible for

appraised values to be equal even when acreage figures are not. Any or all of the acres proposed for exchange may be exchanged provided the values are equal. In the event the values are not equal, either party may equalize the value by payment in cash, provided the cash equalization does not exceed 25 percent of the appraised value of the Federal lands to be conveyed in the exchange.

**DATES:** Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this Notice should be received by November 14, 1997, to ensure timely consideration. No scoping meetings are planned at this time.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Sharon Paris, Project Coordinator, Boise National Forest, 1249 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to Sharon Paris at (208) 373-4157.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In September 1995, the Boise National Forest completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) titled "Nicholson #3 Land Exchange Project." This EA was distributed to the public as a predecisional EA.

Based on the information in the EA, the Boise National Forest concluded the proposal may have a significant effect on the roadless resource and decided to prepare an EIS. The proposal may result in the reduction of approximately 1,745 acres of the Mount Hienen Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) from the National Forest System. The IRA is currently 12,390 acres. Proposals that may substantially alter the undeveloped character of an IRA require the preparation of an EIS.

The previous scoping and analysis identified that the proposed exchange would result in the reduction of approximately 1,745 acres of the Mount Heinen IRA from the National Forest System. Other potential issues may be identified during the current scoping period.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed.