

reviewers notice 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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be revised 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 environmental impact 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.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be

granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 15 days.

Dated: October 9, 1997.

Jack A. Blackwell,

Deputy Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Use of Certified Forage To Prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds on National Forest System Lands in Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: adoption of final policy.

SUMMARY: The Regional Forester for the Northern Region of the Forest Service has adopted a final policy which prohibits the use of hay, grain, straw, cubes or pelletized feed on National Forest System lands in Montana unless it is certified as free of noxious weeds or noxious weed seeds. This requirement will affect such users as recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers operating under Forest Service grazing permits, outfitters and guides operating under Forest Service permits, and contractors who use straw or hay for reseeding or erosion control purposes on National Forest System-administered lands in Montana. This proposal has been developed in coordination with the State of Montana and Bureau of Land Management Montana State Office, which is publishing a similar decision in a separate notice in this same part of today's **Federal Register**. The intended effect is to coordinate prevention of the spread of undesirable weeds on federal lands in Montana.

DATES: Effective immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Olivarez, Forest and Rangeland Staff, Northern Region, Forest Service, (406) 329-3621.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50, the Regional Forester is issuing orders to close or restrict uses on National Forest System lands. As adopted, this requirement to close National Forest System lands to users who do not use a certified weed-free forage or similar products results in a

standard closure order applicable to all National Forest System lands in Montana. The Northern Regional Forester has been implementing a similar policy on a forest-by-forest basis in Montana since 1989. The Montana State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is adopting a similar standard requirement for all public lands under its jurisdiction. The BLM decision appears in a separate notice in this part of today's **Federal Register**.

Response to Public Comments

There was one written comment received. It was in support of this policy implementation via a closure order.

The text of the Special Closure Order shall be published in newspapers across the State of Montana, as well as direct notification by mail of interested and effected groups and individuals.

Dated: October 9, 1997.

Hal Salwasser,

Regional Forester.

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U.S. ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will hold its 49th Meeting in Arlington, VA on November 3 and 4, 1997. On Monday, November 3, the Commission will conduct an invitation only program review. This review will concentrate on three topics:

- (1) Global Change in the Arctic.
- (2) Arctic Native Environmental Health Issues.
- (3) Petroleum Exploitation in the Arctic.

On Tuesday, November 4 the Commission will hold a Business Session. Agenda items include:

- (1) Call to order and approval of the Agenda.
- (2) Approval of the minutes of the 48th Meeting.
- (3) Reports of Congressional Liaisons.
- (4) Agency Reports.

Any person planning to attend the Tuesday meeting who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters must inform the Commission in advance of those needs.

Contact Person for More Information: Dr. Garrett W. Brass, Executive Director,