

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest System lands will be considered.

Public participation is important. Comments from the public will be used to:

- Identify, and/or confirm key issues and other potential issues.
- Eliminate minor issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental analysis, such as the Ochoco LRMP.
- Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
- Identify, and/or confirm potential environmental effects of the proposed action and other alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).
- Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in May 1998. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. At the same time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EISs 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering these issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS 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.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in August 1998. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decisions on this proposal. Thomas Schmidt, Forest Supervisor, is the responsible official. As responsible official he will document the selected alternative for the Mill Project Timber Sales EIS and his rationale in a Record of Decision.

The decision for the Mill Project Timber Sales will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Thomas A. Schmidt,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program; Correction

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) corrects a notice published December 23, 1997 (62 FR 67234). This action is taken to publish the State Office, its address, telephone number, and contact person which were inadvertently omitted. Accordingly, the notice published December 23, 1997 (62 FR 67234), is corrected as follows:

On page 67234 in the third column the area code for the Puerto Rico State Office should read 787.

On page 67235 in the first column the following State should be added:

Rural Development State Offices With 60-Day Deadlines

Mississippi State Office, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-4325, Mike Ladner.

Since this State was omitted and the delay due to that omission, the deadline for submission of applications for new construction will be 5 p.m. local time, 60 days from publication, of this correction, in the **Federal Register**.

On page 67236, in the first column the deadline should be changed to read March 9, 1998.

Dated: March 5, 1998.

Jan E. Shadburn,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 98-6300 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Evaluation of Coastal Zone Management Program and National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

ACTION: Notice of intent to evaluate.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) announces its intent to evaluate the performance of the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Ohio.

This evaluation will be conducted pursuant to section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended. The CZMA requires a continuing review of the performance of states with respect to estuarine research reserve program implementation. Evaluation of Estuarine Research Reserve Programs requires findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives, adhered to its final management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA. The evaluations will include a site visit, consideration of public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, State, and local agencies and members of the public. Public meetings are held as part of the site visits.

Notice is hereby given of the date of the site visit for the listed evaluation, and the date, local time, and location of public meeting during the site visit.

Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Ohio site visit will