

day opportunity for the public to comment on the new scientific information, the identified weaknesses in current management direction, and possible changes that could be made in management direction to rectify those weaknesses by mid-October, 1998; and (4) by October 31, 1998, issue a Notice of Intent, which will amend this Notice, to fully articulate the Agency's proposed action to change management direction in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide and the Forest Plans for the ten National Forests in the Sierra Nevada. Publication of the Notice of Intent will initiate a 60-day public comment period wherein the public will be asked to provide any additional information they feel the Forest Service may still not have at that time, and to submit any issues regarding potential effects of the proposed action. More specific information regarding the proposal, decision-making process, and schedule for completion will be included in the Notice of Intent.

ADDRESS: Send written comments to Dick Andrews, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Ecosystem Planning, Room 859A, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dick Andrews, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Ecosystem Planning, (415) 705-2557.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This announcement is being published by the Forest Service in an effort to ensure an open and inclusive public process is employed in gathering information that may be used to formulate a proposed action and articulate the purpose and need for amending the management direction specified in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide and the Forest Plans for the Eldorado, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sequoia, Sierra, Stanislaus, and Tahoe National Forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

In preparation for this planning process, the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station is reviewing recently developed scientific information relevant to the Sierra Nevada. A report summarizing this work is currently in draft and may be viewed at the Research Station's internet website, www.psw.fs.fed.us/sierra/. By mid-July additional information about the planning process and opportunities for public involvement will be available through the Pacific Southwest Region's internet website, www.r5.fs.fed.us/.

Date: July 6, 1998.

G. Lynn Sprague,

Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, May 16, 1998, in Toppenish, Washington, at the Yakama Indian Nation Cultural Center (Highway 97 and Buster Road) in the 14 Tribes Room. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on (1) Water Quality Issues, (2) Tribal Hunting and Wildlife Concerns, (3) Huckleberry and other Special Forest Product concerns, (4) Timber Management by the Yakama Nation during the listing of the Spotted Owl, and (5) Public Open Forum. All Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The "open forum" provides opportunity for the public to bring issues, concerns, and discussion topics to the Advisory Committee. The "open forum" is scheduled as part of agenda item (5) for this meeting. Interested speakers will need to register prior to the open forum period. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Linda Turner, Public Affairs Specialist, at (360) 891-5195, or write Forest Headquarters Office, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, 10600 NE. 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682.

Dated: July 2, 1998.

Larry I. Seekins,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to seek extension of the approval of an existing information collection authorized under Office of Management and Budget number 0596-0120. Several Forest Service information collection forms are approved under this authorization number: SIP 36, Assignment of Payment; SIP 211, Power of Attorney; SIP 211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife; and SIP 502, Payment Limitation Review. Non-industrial private forest owners complete these forms to participate in the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before September 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Stewardship Coordinator, Cooperative Forestry Staff, mail stop 1123, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Stein, Cooperative Forestry Staff, at (202) 205-0837.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service is seeking extension of the approval of an existing information collection authorized under Office of Management and Budget number 0596-0120. Several Forest Service information collection forms are approved under this authorization number: SIP 36, Assignment of Payment; SIP 211, Power of Attorney; SIP 211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife; and SIP 502, Payment Limitation Review. An additional form, AD-245, SIP Request for Cost-Shares, formerly named SIP 245, SIP Request for Cost-Shares, also must be completed by non-industrial private forest owners. A separate request for extension of approval of form AD-245 is being processed by the Farm Service Agency departmental request for extensions of information collections authorized under Office of Management and Budget approval number 0560-0082. The Forest Service and the Farm Service Agency cooperatively administer the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program.

Non-industrial private forest owners complete these forms to participate in the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program. The collected information identifies 1) the Stewardship Incentive Program assignment of payment, 2) Internal Revenue Service income