

preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Considering additional alternatives based on themes which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
4. Identifying potential environmental effects of this project and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available to the public for review by April 1999. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. 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**. It is important that those interested in the management of the Umatilla National Forest participate at that time.

The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by June, 1999. In the Final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses 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 a decision regarding the proposal.

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 EIS's must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the 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. 1335, 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 and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns or 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 EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft EIS or 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 Forest Service is the lead agency. Thomas Reilly, District Ranger, is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official, he will decide which, if any, of the proposed projects will be implemented. He will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: December 30, 1998.

**Thomas K. Reilly,**

*District Ranger.*

[FR Doc. 99-1072 Filed 1-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

---

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC); Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on January 27 and 28, 1999, at the Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor's Office in Eureka, CA. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located at 1330 Bayshore Way in Eureka. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) update; (2) Presentation on Survey and Manage requirements; (3) Presentation on the Blands Timber Sale on the Mendocino National Forest; (4) Subcommittee roles and direction; (5) Presentation on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Russian River watershed project planning; (6) Subcommittee reports and recommendations (Coho, PAC/SCERT); (6) Presentation on lawsuit of 13 plaintiffs vs. the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management concerning the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan; (7) Joint 3 PAC meeting follow-up on priority action items identified at the May 28-29, 1998, PAC meeting; (8) Presentation on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license issued to the Pacific Gas and Electric

Company (PG&E) for the operation of the Potter Valley hydroelectric project; (9) Presentation and recommended comments to the REO Draft exemption criteria for certain salvage projects conducted with the Late Successional Reserves; (10) Selection of dates and locations for 1999 meetings; and (11) Open public comment. All California Coast Provincial 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, (530) 934-3316 or Phebe Brown, Province Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA 95988, (530) 934-3316.

Dated: January 8, 1999.

**Daniel K. Chisholm,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99-1041 Filed 1-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

---

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold their first meeting on January 28, 1999, in South Lake Tahoe, California. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held January 28, 1999, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Super 8 Motel, 3600 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Juan Palma or Sherry Hazelhurst, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Agriculture established the Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary and other partners of the Federal Interagency