

Bradford Ranger District, HC1 Box 88, Bradford, PA 16701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The analysis of the Duck-Sheriff project is conducted under the guidance of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Preliminary issues were developed based on past public involvement on other projects, known concerns of other agencies, interdisciplinary team identification of Forest Service concerns, and identified opportunities in the project area. The following issues will be carried forward in the project analysis. They will be modified as additional issues are identified during scoping: (1) Road management and new access; (2) deer densities and investments to restore desirable understory vegetation; (3) vegetation treatments along the North Country Trail; (4) uneven-aged timber management; and (5) old-growth forest and contiguous canopy.

Preliminary alternatives were developed to display management opportunities in response to the known issues. Management actions within the alternatives respond to the issues in different ways by varying the size and intensity of the treatments and projects proposed. The amount of even and uneven-aged management, wildlife, recreation development, road management, watershed rehabilitation and other activities differ within the alternatives. The combinations of proposed activities are likely to be adjusted after all comments are reviewed.

Comments considered beyond the scope of this project which will *not* be evaluated. This includes whether or not commercial timber harvest should occur on National Forest System lands; the validity of the science of silviculture and forest management; and whether or not to allow the use of herbicides on the Allegheny National Forest on a programmatic level.

Commenting

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. In a recent legal opinion, the Forest Service's Office of General Council (OGC) has determined that names and addresses of people who respond to a Forest Service solicitation are not protected by the Privacy Act and can be released to the public. The Forest Service routinely gives notice of and requests comments on proposed land and resource management actions accompanied by

environmental documents, as well as on proposed rules and policies. Comments received in response to such solicitations, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for such inspection, upon request. 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. The opinion states that such confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and to be available for public review by May 15, 1999. At that time the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a notice of availability of the document in the Federal Register. A public comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

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 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. 519 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised 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 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.

After the comment period ends on the Draft EIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by September 15, 1999. The decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215.

Dated: January 27, 1999.

John R. Schultz,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 99-2377 Filed 2-1-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Douglas-Fir Beetle Project; Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone Counties, Idaho and Pend Oreille County, Washington; Colville National Forest, Pend Oreille County, Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revision of notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service published in the **Federal Register**/Vol. 63, No. 221/, Tuesday, November 17, 1998, pages 63830 to 63833 two notices of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the potential environmental effects of proposed activities in forest stands infested with Douglas-fir beetles. This revision changes the designation of the responsible officials. Also the two EIS projects, Pend Oreille Priest Beetle (63830-63831) and Coeur d'Alene Beetle (63831-63833), published in the **Federal Register**, November 17, 1998 have been consolidated into one EIS designated, Douglas-fir Beetle Project. No other changes to the two published notices of intent are being made with this revision.

We are the responsible officials for this environmental impact statement and will decide which projects will be implemented. Addresses are: Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83817-8363 and Colville National

Forest, 765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114.

Dated: January 6, 1999.

David J. Wright,

Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Dated: January 6, 1999.

Robert L. Vaught,

Forest Supervisor, Colville National Forest.

[FR Doc. 99-2387 Filed 2-1-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sawtooth Ridge Trail and Improvement Project, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, Okanogan and Chelan Counties, Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On December 29, 1997, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Sawtooth Ridge Trail and Improvement Project in the Sawtooth non-wilderness backcountry of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 67616). The Forest Service will not be conducting this environmental analysis for this proposed action; therefore, the NOI is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this cancellation to Jim Archambeault, Project Coordinator, Methow Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 188, Twisp, Washington 98856, phone 509-997-9738.

Dated: January 20, 1999.

Sam Gehr,

Forest Supervisor, Okanogan National Forest.

Dated: January 25, 1999.

Sonny O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Wenatchee National Forest.

[FR Doc. 99-2378 Filed 2-1-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Committee of Scientists Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Committee of Scientists is changing the date of a public teleconference call previously scheduled for February 4, 1999 (64 FR 3063, January 20, 1999). This telephone conference call will take place instead on Tuesday, February 9, beginning at noon (12:00 p.m.) and ending at 3:00 p.m. (eastern standard time). The purpose of the telephone conference call is for the Committee of Scientists to continue discussion of its report and recommendations to the Secretary of

Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service concerning improvements to the National Forest System land and resource management planning process. The public is invited to attend the teleconference call and may be provided an opportunity to comment on the Committee of Scientists' deliberations during the teleconference call, only at the request of the Committee.

DATES: The teleconference call will be held on Tuesday, February 9, from noon (12:00 p.m.) to 3:00 p.m. (eastern standard time).

ADDRESSES: The teleconference call will be held at the USDA Forest Service headquarters, Sidney R. Yates Federal Building, 201 14th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., in the Chief's Conference Room on February 9. The teleconference call can be accessed at all Regional Offices of the Forest Service, which are listed in the table under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

Written comments on improving land and resource management planning may be sent to the Committee of Scientists, P.O. Box 2140, Corvallis, OR 97339, or via the Internet at www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information concerning the teleconference, contact Bob Cunningham, Designated Federal Official to the Committee of Scientists, by telephone (202) 205-1523.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public may attend the teleconference at the following field locations:

USDA FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL OFFICE LOCATIONS

Region 1, Northern Region	Federal Building, 200 E Broadway	Missoula, MT.
Region 2, Rocky Mountain Region	740 Simms St	Golden, CO.
Region 3, Southwestern Region	Federal Building, 517 Gold Ave., SW	Albuquerque, NM.
Region 4, Intermountain Region	Federal Building, 324 25th St	Ogden, UT.
Region 5, Pacific Southwest Region	630 Sansome St	San Francisco, CA.
Region 6, Pacific Northwest Region	333 SW 1st Ave	Portland, OR.
Region 8, Southern Region	1720 Peachtree Rd. NW	Atlanta, GA.
Region 9, Eastern Region	310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Room 500	Milwaukee, WI.
Region 10, Alaska Region (office will open early)	Federal Office Building, 709 W. 9th St	Juneau, AK.

The Committee of Scientists was chartered to provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service on improvements that can be made to the National Forest System land and resource management planning process (62 FR 43691; August 15, 1997). Notice of the names of the appointed Committee members was published December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65795).

Dated: January 27, 1999.

Gloria Manning,

Acting Deputy Chief for National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 99-2386 Filed 2-1-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Meeting

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The reestablished Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality will meet for the first time to discuss the relationship between agricultural