

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tobacco Root Vegetation Management Plan, Madison Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Madison County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposed action to designate wildlife security blocks and treat 18,167 acres of vegetation. The project area is located in the southern Tobacco Root Mountains northwest of Ennis, Montana.

Designation of the wildlife security blocks would require an amendment to the Beaverhead National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). This amendment would identify 29 wildlife security blocks ranging in size from 220 to over 10,000 acres. These areas lie at least a quarter mile from a road or trail open to motorized use during the general hunting season. Guidelines limiting timber harvest and road construction in these security blocks would replace existing Forest Plan wildlife standards.

Over the next 10 years, the proposal would maintain open, park-like stands of Douglas-fir on 3,613 acres by thinning these stands using Stewardship Contracts, paying contractors or Forest Service employees to complete the work, or through commercial timber harvest and underburning. Primarily, posts and poles would be harvested on another 671 acres of stagnated lodgepole pine stands. An additional 1,423 acres of old harvest units would be thinned. These activities would require the construction of about 25 miles of temporary roads which would be obliterated after project completion. Aspen stands would be invigorated by

cutting competing trees and burning to stimulate new growth from the aspen roots. To reestablish grasslands, an additional 12,460 acres would be treated using prescribed fire.

DATE: Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing no later than March 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The responsible official is Deborah L.R. Austin, Forest Supervisor, 420 Barrett St., Dillon, MT 59725. Send written comments to Deborah L.R. Austin, Forest Supervisor, c/o Mark Petroni, District Ranger, 5 Forest Service Road, Ennis, Montana 59729.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jan Bowey, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Madison Ranger District, P.O. Box 428, Sheridan, MT 59749, or phone: (406) 842-5432.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participation is important to this analysis. Part of the goal of public involvement is to identify additional issues and to refine the general, tentative issues. A scoping notice describing the project was mailed to those who requested information on activities on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Three public field trips have been held to review the proposed activities. Additional public meetings are not planned. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been involved in the development of this proposal and will be consulted through the analysis and decision making process. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted concerning effects to threatened and endangered species. Montana Department of Environmental Quality will be consulted concerning effects to Water Quality Limited Stream Segments.

Preliminary issues identified by Forest Service specialists include effects to vegetation, wildlife habitat, and the undeveloped character of inventoried roadless areas. No timber harvest or road construction is proposed in an inventoried roadless area. While proposed management activities affect over 18,000 acres, the proposal analyzes all reasonably foreseeable activities in the next ten years over the entire 114,000 acre southern Tobacco Root Mountains. Potential alternatives include management activities without temporary road construction and management activities that focus on commodity production, rather than ecosystem restoration.

People may visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. Two periods are specifically designated for comments on the analysis: (1) During the scoping process and (2) during the draft EIS period.

During the scoping process, the Forest Service is seeking additional information and comments from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organization who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. The agency invites written comments and suggestions on this action, particularly in terms of identification of issues and alternative development.

The draft EIS should be available for review in March, 1999. The final EIS is scheduled for completion in June, 1999.

The 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 it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. 3NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but 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 those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so 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 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Supervisor is the responsible official who will make the decision. She will decide on this proposal after considering comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision.

Dated: February 11, 1999.

Deborah L.R. Austin,
Forest Supervisor, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.
[FR Doc. 99-4223 Filed 2-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Membership of the USCCR Performance Review Board

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of Membership of the USCCR Performance Review Board.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the appointment of the Performance Review Board (PRB) of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Publication of PRB membership is required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4).

The PRB provides fair and impartial review of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' Senior Executive Service performance appraisals and makes recommendations regarding performance ratings and performance awards to the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for the FY 1998 rating year.

CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ms. M. Catherine Gates, Director of Human Resources, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 9th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20425, (202) 376-8364.

Members

Gloria Gutierrez

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General Counsel, Merit System Protection Board

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Acting General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-4205 Filed 2-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

DC 20233, telephone 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the March 16 combined meeting, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m., will include discussions on (1) Census 2000 plans; (2) Dress Rehearsal Evaluations; and (3) the Advisory Committee.

The four committees will meet separately and concurrently in the morning and in the afternoon. The Joint Committee meeting will break for the concurrent meetings. The following are items that will be included in the March 16 agenda for the four committees.

The agenda for the CAC on the African American Population will include: (1) the review of Committee recommendations and responses; (2) an update on advertising for Census 2000; (3) an update on census information centers; (4) models in excellence update; (5) update on Poster Review meeting; and (6) review topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the CAC on the American Indian and Alaska Native Populations will include: (1) The review of Committee recommendations and responses; (2) an update on statistical estimation issues; (3) an update on advertising for Census 2000; (4) an update on Poster Review meeting; and (5) a review of topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the CAC on the Asian and Pacific Islander Populations will include: (1) Review of Committee recommendations and responses; (2) an update on Hawaiian homelands; (3) an update on advertising for Census 2000; (4) Language Program; (5) the census information centers updated; and (6) a review of topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the CAC on the Hispanic Population will include: (1) A review of Committee recommendations and responses; (2) an update on constituency building; (3) Language Program; (4) diversity in the work force; (5) an update on advertising for Census 2000; (6) the census information centers updated; and (7) a review of topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the March 17 combined meeting, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:45 p.m., includes: (1) Discussion on the Office of Management and Budget Tabulation Guidelines for Race and Ethnic Data; (2) discussion on Advertising Campaign and Partnership Activities; (3) public comment; (4) Advisory Committee discussion; and (5) Committee recommendations.

On March 17, the four committees will meet separately and concurrently in