

# 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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### National Drought Policy Commission

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Commission meeting and public hearing and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Drought Policy Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-199) and Departmental Regulation No. 1042-131 established the National Drought Policy Commission (Commission). The Farm Service Agency (FSA) was identified to provide support to the Commission. The Commission shall conduct a thorough study and submit a report to the President and Congress on national drought policy. This notice seeks comments on issues that the Commission should address and recommendations that the Commission should consider as part of its report. The first meeting of the Commission will be held July 22, 1999, and the first public hearing will be held July 23, 1999. All meetings are open to the public; however, seating is limited and available on a first-come basis.

**DATES:** The Commission will meet on July 22, 1999, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Williamsburg Room, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th and Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC. All times noted are Eastern Daylight Time. The first part of the meeting will be devoted to the organization of the Commission. The remainder of the meeting will be dedicated to informational presentations and committee business.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on July 23, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Jefferson Auditorium, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Commission must contact the Executive Director, Leona Dittus, in writing (by

letter, fax or internet) no later than 12 noon, July 16, 1999, in order to be included on the agenda. Presenters will be approved on a first-come basis. The request should identify the name and affiliation of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. Thirty-five copies of any written presentation material shall be given to the Executive Director by all presenters no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Commission and the interested public. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes. Those wishing to testify, but who are unable to notify the Commission office by July 16, 1999, will be able to sign up as a presenter the day of the hearing (July 23) between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. These presenters will testify on a first-come, first-served basis and comments will be limited based on the time available and the number of presenters. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting, or may be mailed or faxed to the Commission office. Comments must be received by September 17, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and statements should be sent to Leona Dittus, Executive Director, National Drought Policy Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 6701-S, STOP 0501, Washington, DC 20250-0501.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leona Dittus, Executive Director, National Drought Policy Commission, at the address above or telephone (202) 720-3168; FAX (202) 720-4293; internet Leona\_Dittus@WDC.FSA.USDA.GOV.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Commission is to provide advice and recommendations to the President and Congress on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy, designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. Tasks for the Commission include developing recommendations that will (a) better integrate Federal laws and programs with ongoing State, local, and tribal programs (b) improve public awareness of the need for drought mitigation, prevention, and response and (c) determine whether all Federal drought preparation and response programs should be consolidated under one existing Federal agency, and, if so, identify the agency. The Commission will be chaired by the Secretary of

Agriculture or his designee, and a Vice Chair shall be selected from among the members who are not Federal officers or employees. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair will act in his stead. Administrative staff support essential to the execution of the Commission's responsibilities shall be provided by USDA, FSA.

Commission members specifically cited in Public Law 105-199 include the Secretaries of Agriculture, Interior, Army, and Commerce, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; two persons nominated by the National Governors' Association, a person nominated by the National Association of Counties, and a person nominated by the Conference of Mayors. Those four members are to be appointed by the President. Six additional Commission members have been appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army. The six at-large members represent groups acutely affected by drought emergencies, such as the agricultural production community, the credit community, rural and urban water associations, Native Americans, and fishing and environmental interests.

If special accommodations are required, please contact Leona Dittus, at the address specified above, by COB July 16, 1999.

Signed at Washington, DC on July 1, 1999.

**Parks Shackelford,**

*Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 99-17216 Filed 7-6-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notice, Comment and Appeal of Decisions for Pacific Northwest Region, Oregon and Washington

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On June 2, 1998, the Forest Service published a listing of the newspapers that would be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Pacific Northwest Region to publish legal notice of all