

Release and Review of the EIS

The Draft EIS (DEIS) is proposed to be filed with the Environmental protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public comment in the spring of 2001. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability for the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 90 days from the date the EPA 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 the DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions; *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*. 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Also environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but are not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) 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 three-month 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 FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed actions, comments on the DEIS 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 DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statements. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulation 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 DEIS, comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the Final EIS (FEIS). The FEIS is proposed to be completed in the fall of 2002. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and

policies in making decisions regarding these revisions. The responsible official will document the decisions and reasons for the decisions in a Record of Decision for the revised Plans. The decisions will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

Tom L. Thompson,

Acting Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region.

[FR Doc. 99-26174 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-ES-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 a meeting on October 29, 1999, at the City of South Lake Tahoe Chamber Office, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998 (64 FR 2876), 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 October 29, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the City of South Lake Tahoe Chamber Office, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Gee or Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committees. Items to be covered on the agenda include: (1) Subcommittee Reports; (2) Strategic Planning; (3) Federal Partners, Barriers & Challenges; (4) Washoe Tribal Access; (5) Consensus Discussion; and (6) Open Public. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or

after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: September 30, 1999.

Edmund Gee,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-26134 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the New York State Advisory Committee**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the New York State Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 2:00 p.m. and adjourn at 7:00 p.m. on October 27, 1999, at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo, Franklin Room, 2 Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, New York 14202. The Committee will release its report, Equal Housing Opportunities in New York: An Evaluation of Section 8 Housing Programs in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. The Committee will also discuss plans for a new project.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Lita Taracido, 212-645-8999, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, September 30, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 99-26185 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-F

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9 a.m. and