

www.fs.fed.us/rl/clearwater/cei/ceihome.htm.

Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing within 30 days from publication of this notice. Send written comments to Douglas Gober, District Ranger, 12370 B Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

DATE: The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in November 1999. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by March 2000.

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 Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National

Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

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. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217.

Deciding Official

The responsible official for decisions regarding this analysis is James Caswell, Clearwater National Forest Supervisor. His address is 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544. He will decide whether or not to select an action or mix of actions to improve the ecological condition of the analysis area and best meet the habitat needs of elk and other wildlife species.

Point of Contact: Further information about this project can be obtained by contacting George Harbaugh, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at the above address or by calling (208) 476-4541.

Dated: September 28, 1999.

Deanna M. Riebe,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-26464 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Mt. Ashland Ski Area, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of a supplement to a final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On January 19, 1999, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement for the Mt. Ashland Ski Area on the Ashland Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 2873). This notice is being withdrawn because a NOI that specifically reflects the expansion proposal for Mt. Ashland Ski Area will be published. The Forest Service NOI to prepare a supplemental is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Duffy or Steve Johnson, Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National

Forest, 645 Washington Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520, telephone 541-858-2402; email address is sjohnson/r6pnw.rogueriver@fs.fed.us.

Dated: September 30, 1999.

Robert W. Shull,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-26480 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Mt. Ashland Ski Area Expansion, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed action to expand the Mt. Ashland Ski Area (MASA). The project area is located approximately 7 miles south of Ashland, Oregon, within the Siskiyou Mountains in Southern Oregon. The proposed expansion would include construction of a new chairlift and associated ski runs; a surface lift providing novice skiers access to proposed runs; additional parking areas; maintenance access roads; and necessary supporting infrastructure—sewer, water, and power lines. All proposed expansion projects are within the existing Special Use Permit area boundary. Proposed action would be implemented by MAA after Forest Service authorization is granted. Full implementation is expected to take 2-3 years. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process on the proposed expansion so interested and affected members of the public may participate and contribute in the final decision.

DATES: Additional comments concerning the scope of this analysis should be received by October 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit additional written comments to Linda Duffy, District Ranger, Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, 645 Washington Street, Ashland, Oregon, 97520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Duffy or Steve Johnson, Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, 645 Washington Street, Ashland, Oregon, 97520, Telephone (541) 482-3333; FAX (541) 858-2402; email address is sjohnson/r6pnw__rogueriver@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This site specific EIS will focus on a project proposal for expansion within the existing Master Plan. The environmental analysis will consider and include new information or changed circumstances since the programmatic decision on the "Master Plan" was made in 1991, including an action partially contained within an area previously inventoried as roadless. A Forest Plan Amendment will be needed to adjust the management allocation boundary from the 1990 Rogue River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The MAA expansion proposed action includes: construction of a new top drive, quad chairlift and associated ski runs within the western portion of the Special Use Permit area; approximately 8 acres of surface lift corridors and staging areas, providing novice skiers access to the proposed runs; a new skier services building; 2 additional work road segments; additional power, water lines and storage tanks, sewer lines; and increase parking lot by 200 spaces. The legal location description for all actions is T. 40 S., R. 1 E., in sections 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 22, W.M., Jackson County, Oregon.

Currently the variety of ski runs offered at MASA does not reflect the predominate demand of skiers and snowboarders, and projected future trends. Intermediate and low intermediate skiing terrain is currently inadequate, particularly to skiing groups and families with varying ski abilities and skills. The primary purpose and need associated with this proposed expansion is to make available additional novice and intermediate skiing terrain. MASA's capacity to host special programs and competitions is currently limited by available terrain and the concurrent need to accommodate the general skiing public. In addition, the current skier service facilities are not in line with the number of users and in some cases are inadequate, for example, sanitation, food service, and vehicle parking.

Preliminary issues include: water quality within a domestic supply watershed; protection of wetland habitats and rare plant and animal species; aesthetics and social considerations; and the economic feasibility associated with the operation and expansion of a commercial ski area. Alternatives being considered include opportunities to avoid or reduce impacts to wetland areas and alternative locations for ski runs, parking and other proposed ski area facilities.

Comments received on the draft EIS will be considered in the preparation of the final EIS. The draft EIS is now

expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in November 1999. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. At the end of the comment period on the draft EIS, comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final EIS. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by March 2000.

Comments received in response to this notice, 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. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), 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. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EISs 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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage, but that are not raised until completion of the final EIS, may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City 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 important that 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on 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 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).

The Forest Service is the Lead Agency for this EIS. The Forest Supervisor is the Responsible Official. The Responsible Official will consider the comments, responses to the comments, environmental consequences discussed in the final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The Responsible Official will document the Mt. Ashland Ski Area Expansion decision and the rationale for the decision in a ROD. The Forest Service decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: September 30, 1999.

Robert W. Shull,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-26481 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on October 27 and 28, 1999, at the Brook Trails Fire Department Meeting Room in Willits, California. The meeting will be held from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. on October 27, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon on October 28. The Brook Trails Fire Department is located at 24860 Birch St. in Willits. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Update on Survey and Manage requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan (to include status of the lawsuit, preliminary injunctions and the Supplemental Environmental Impact Analysis); (2) Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) Update (to