

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 214

Friday, November 5, 1999

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

Forest Service

Issue an Easement To Access Private Land in the Taylor Fork Area; Gallatin National Forest, Gallatin County, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of issuing an easement to access private land in the Taylor Fork area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, Pub. L. 94-579, 10/21/76) provided authority for the Forest Service to condition private requests for road access and use upon the private party's grant of reciprocal acquisition of USDA easements from the private landowner for the following facility: Public and administrative trail easement across Section 1 for the Eldridge Creek Trail and the Lincoln Mountain Trail.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before December 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on this proposed activity or a request to be placed on the project mailing list to Gary 'Stan' Benes, District Ranger, Hebgen Lake Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 520, West Yellowstone, Montana, 59758.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cathy Hardin, EIS Team Leader, Phone (406) 646-7369.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Private landowner has requested access across National Forest System land. Section 1323(a) of the Alaskan National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides for a right of access to non-federally owned land. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October, 1976 (FLPMA, Pub. L. 94-579) provides

authority for the Forest Service to issue permits to private landowner. Landowners shall be authorized such access as the authorized officer deems to be adequate to secure them the reasonable use and enjoyment of their land (36 CFR 251.110 (c)). The Gallatin National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan provides guidance for land management activities, including access to private landowners.

The proposed access is located on Forest Service System land in Section 12, T.9S., R.3E., in the Taylor Fork area. Access would require the construction of a bridge across Taylor Fork Creek and approximately 400 feet of road reconstruction, or up to approximately ¼ mile of road construction. The landowner would be responsible for the bridge and road construction meeting Forest Service design. The private landowner will be required to obtain a 310 or 124 permit from Montana State Fish, Wildlife and Parks before any bridge construction.

One of the standards of the Gallatin Forest Plan is that rights-of-way across National Forest System lands will be granted in situations involving a statutory right of access, subject to compliance with applicable rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture. The proposed access is located within Management Area 15, and Management Area 7 when crossing Taylor Fork Creek. Below are the management goals.

Management Area 15: 1. Meet grizzly bear mortality reduction goals as established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. 2. Manage vegetation to provide habitat necessary to recover the grizzly bear. 3. Provide forage for livestock consistent with goal 1. 4. Provide dispersed recreation opportunities consistent with goal 1.

Management Area 7: Manage the riparian resource to protect the soil, water, vegetation, fish, and wildlife dependent upon it.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. The IES will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands will be considered. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis, commencing with

the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7). A scoping document was mailed to interested individuals and groups in January of 1999. The comment period has been extended. The public is welcome to visit Forest Service officials anytime during the analysis and prior to the decision. No public meetings are scheduled at this time. The following issues have been identified so far:

1. Potential effects to westslope cutthroat trout and arctic grayling trout.

2. Potential effects on water quality and stream condition of Taylor Fork Creek.

3. Potential effects to grizzly bear habitat.

4. Potential effects to elk habitat. Including elk calving, cumulative effects of road densities, hiding and thermal cover.

5. Potential effects to recreation.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in February of 2000. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in this project participate at that time. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by May, 2000.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court ruling 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 alters an agency to the reviewers' position and contention. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDS*, 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 court. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 S. 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 30

days scoping comment 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 developing issues and alternatives. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues, comments should be as specific to this proposal as possible. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement.

Dated: October 26, 1999.

Gary L. 'Stan' Benes,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 99-28989 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics Meeting

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Allen, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000. Telephone: 202-720-4333, Fax: 202-720-9013, or e-mail: rallen@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, which consists of 25 members appointed from 7 categories covering a broad range of agricultural disciplines and interests, has scheduled an Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics meeting, November 30-December 1, 1999. The Committee meeting will be held 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30 and 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 1. During this time the Advisory Committee will (1) elect a committee chair; (2) review NASS survey procedures and products; (3) discuss NASS program review; and (4) discuss future agriculture statistics issues.

Dates and Locations:

November 30—8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Advisory Committee General Meeting, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, Room 104A, 12th and Jefferson Davis Drive, SW, Washington, DC.

November 30—1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Advisory Committee General Meeting, DoubleTree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA.

November 30—5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Special Session with a Guest Speaker, DoubleTree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA.

December 1—8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Advisory Committee General Meeting, with an opportunity for public questions and comments at 10 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA.

Note: Meeting location may vary.

Type of Meeting: Open to the public.

Comments: The public may file written comments to the USDA Advisory Committee contact person before or within a reasonable time after the meeting. All statements will become a part of the official records of the USDA Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and will be kept on file for public review in the office of the Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Signed at Washington, DC, November 1, 1999.

Donald M. Bay,

Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 99-29045 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Telephone Bank

Sunshine Act Meeting; Staff Briefing for the Board of Directors

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m., Monday, November 8, 1999.

PLACE: Room 5030, South Building, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Current telecommunications industry issues.
2. Fiscal year 2000 agency budget.
3. Status of PBO planning and general discussion on privatization of the Bank.
4. Options relating to the conversion of B stock to C stock.

5. Current method for allocating patronage refunds to class B stockholders.

6. Administrative issues.

ACTION: Board of Directors Meeting; Correction.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 9, 1999.

PLACE: The Williamsburg Room, Room 104-A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters have been placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting:

1. Call to order.
2. Action on Minutes of the August 6, 1999, board meeting.
3. Report on loans approved in FY 1999.
4. Summary of financial activity for FY 1999.
5. Privatization committee report.
6. Consideration of resolution to convert class B stock to class C stock.
7. Consideration of resolution of appreciation for former Governor Wally Beyer.
8. Establish dates and locations for Year 2000 board meetings.
9. Adjournment.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, (202) 720-9554.

Dated: November 3, 1999.

Christopher A. McLean,

Acting Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 99-29107 Filed 11-3-99; 10:37 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and deletions from Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and to delete commodities previously furnished by such agencies.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: December 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely