

for public review at that time. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Completion of the final EIS is anticipated in February 2001.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of this early stage of public participation and of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's positions and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the court if not raised until after the completion of the final EIS. *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 comment period so substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

In the Final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period, which pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS.

Responsible Official: The responsible official is Martha Kettle, Forest Supervisor for the White River National Forest. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215 or part 251.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

Martha J. Kettle,

Forest Supervisor,

White River National Forest.

[FR Doc. 99-32833 Filed 12-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Western Washington Cascades Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Washington Cascades PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on January 19, 2000, at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters, 21905 64th Avenue West, in Mountlake Terrace, WA. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until about 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered focus around orientation and education regarding the Finney Adoptive Management Area (AMA) and include: (1) Issues and opportunities, (2) agency needs, (3) Chinook Salmon and Bull Trout recovery, (4) monitoring processes, and (5) demographics. The meeting will also include a segment of time set aside to discuss other relevant issues such as recent court rulings, the status of the new planning regulations, the status of the national roads policy processes, and the status of the roadless area issue.

The Provincial Advisory Committee provides advice regarding ecosystem management for federal lands within the Western Washington Cascades Province, as well as advice and recommendations to promote better integration of forest management activities among federal and non-federal entities. The Advisory Committee is a key element of implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Penny Sundblad, Province Liaison, USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District, 2105 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284 (360-856-5700, Extension 321).

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. appendix)

Dated: December 14, 1999.

Terry DeGrow,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-32832 Filed 12-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Province Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on January 6, 2000 at the Bureau of Land Management, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Province Advisory Committee (PAC) mission and improving PAC

effectiveness; (2) Water Quality Management Planning update; and (3) Public Comment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Roger Evenson, Province Advisory Committee Coordinator, USDA, Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest, 2900 NW Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470, phone (541) 957-3344.

Dated: December 14, 1999.

Don Ostby,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 99-32831 Filed 12-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed, County of Hawaii, HI

AGENCY: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of record of decision.

SUMMARY: Kenneth M. Kaneshiro, Responsible Federal Official for projects administered under the provisions of Public Law 83-566 in the State of Hawaii, is hereby providing notification that a record of decision to proceed with the installation of the Lower Hamakua Ditch watershed project, signed November 1, 1999, is available.

The record of decision documents the intent to implement Alternative 3—Repair and Restoration of the Lower Hamakua Ditch. The project will provide a stable, adequate, and affordable supply of agricultural water to farmers and other agricultural producers in the Lower Hamakua Ditch service area. The improvements will provide structural repair and reduce water losses along the Lower Hamakua Ditch. Twenty-two of the 24 wooden flumes will be replaced with corrugated metal pipe or inverted pipe siphons. Metal I-beams will replace the rotting timber supports. In the open ditch sections, sediment will be removed and the concrete lining will be repaired. The diversion structures at Kawaiinui, Alakahi, and Koiawe streams will be repaired and modified to prevent structural failure, reduce maintenance requirements, and restore 30 percent of base streamflow to Waipio Valley streams. A 1-MG reservoir will be installed at the Honokaia lateral. The 10-MG Paauilo Reservoir will be lined. Approximately ten lateral distribution systems will be repaired or installed. Hakalaoa Falls will be restored through