

Preliminary issues that have been identified include: (1) Placement of a truck scale at this location could unnecessarily subject nearby property owners and the High Desert Museum to an increased risk of fire. (2) The proposed site could introduce hazardous traffic weaving movements and speed differentials, and could promote traffic congestion. (3) The truck scale could be contrary to Forest Plan Visual Quality Objectives under the current land allocation (scenic views) and could be an eyesore.

Public scoping will include a 30 day comment period in response to a scoping letter mailed to interested people and posted on the Deschutes National Forest website ([www.fs.fed.us/r6/dechutes](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/dechutes)), and open house, and additional public meetings as needed.

The public is invited to offer suggestions and comments in writing. Comments received in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available to 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 part 215.

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 draft EIS is expected to be completed in September, 2000. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a 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 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 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 statement. 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 final EIS is scheduled to be completed by January, 2001. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding the South Bend Weigh and Safety Station.

The Forest Service is the lead agency. Sally Collins, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official. The Responsible Official will determine which alternative best meets the purpose and need for this project and addresses the key issues raised about this project. The decision and rationale will be documented in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: January 6, 2000.

**Rebecca Heath,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council will meet in Chattanooga, Tennessee, February 24-26, 2000. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss emerging issues in urban and community forestry.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held February 24-26, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Chattanooga Choo Choo, 1400 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Individuals who wish to speak at the meeting or to propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Suzanne M. del Villar, Executive Assistant, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, 20628 Diane Drive, Sonoma, CA 95370.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne M. del Villar, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (209) 536-9201.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. A tour of local projects will be held on February 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Persons who wish to bring urban and community forestry matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided, and individuals who have made written requests by February 18 will have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members.

Dated: January 7, 2000.

**Robin L. Thompson,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.*

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## 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.