

be found either in older mature forest of conifer or mixed conifer/deciduous types, or in regenerating stands (greater than 20 years since disturbance).

Denning habitat must be located within daily travel distance of foraging habitat.

Lynx Diurnal Security Habitat—In lynx habitat, areas that provide secure winter daytime bedding sites for lynx in highly disturbed landscapes, e.g., large developed winter recreational sites or areas of concentrated winter recreational use. It is presumed that lynx may be able to adapt to the presence of regular and concentrated human use during winter, so long as other critical habitat needs are being met, and security habitat blocks are present and adequately distributed in such disturbed landscapes. Security habitat will provide lynx the ability to retreat from human disturbance during winter daytime hours, emerging at dusk to hunt when most human activity ceases. Security habitats will generally be sites that naturally discourage winter human activity because of extensive forest floor structure, or stand conditions that otherwise make human access difficult, and should be protected to the degree necessary. Security habitats are likely to be most effective if they are sufficiently large to provide effective visual and acoustic insulation from winter activity and to easily allow movement away from infrequent human intrusion. These winter habitats must be distributed such that they are in proximity to foraging habitat.

Lynx Foraging Habitat—Habitat that supports primary prey (snowshoe hare) and/or important alternate prey (especially red squirrels) that are available to lynx. The highest quality snowshoe hare habitats are those that support a high density of young trees or shrubs (greater than 4,500 stems or branches per acre), tall enough to protrude above the snow. These conditions may occur in early successional stands following some type of disturbance, or in older forests with a substantial understory of shrubs and young conifer trees. Coarse wood debris, especially in early successional stages (created by harvest regeneration units and large fires), provides important cover for snowshoe hares and other prey. Red squirrel densities tend to be highest in mature cone-bearing forests with substantial quantities of coarse woody debris.

Lynx Habitat—Lynx occur in mesic coniferous forest that have cold, snowy winters and provide a prey base of snowshoe hare. Lynx records occur predominantly in lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and aspen vegetation cover types on

subalpine fir habitat types in the western United States. Cool, moist Douglas-fir, grand fir, or western larch forest, where they are interspersed with subalpine forest, also provide habitat for lynx.

Primary Lynx Habitat—Habitat that must be present to support foraging, denning, and rearing of young (in the western U.S. primary habitat is lodgepole pine or subalpine fir habitat types).

Secondary Lynx Habitat—Other vegetation types, when intermingled with or immediately adjacent to primary habitat, that contribute to lynx annual needs (cool/moist Douglas-fir habitat types adjacent to primary habitat).

Unsuitable Habitat Condition—An area that is capable of producing lynx foraging or denning habitat, but which currently does not have the necessary vegetation composition, structure, and/or density to support lynx and snowshoe hare populations during all seasons. For example, during the winter, vegetation must provide dense cover that extends above (greater than 6 feet) the average snow depth. Timber harvest, salvage harvest, commercial thinning, and prescribed fire may or may not result in unsuitable habitat conditions.

Snowshoe Hare Habitat—See foraging habitat.

[FR Doc. 00-7549 Filed 3-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-81-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

SUMMARY: The Deschutes PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on April 12-13, 2000 at the Hood River Hotel at 102 Oak Avenue, Hood River, Oregon. The first day will be a field trip starting at 10:00 a.m. to visit restoration projects in the northern part of the Province. The second day will be a business meeting that will begin at 8:30 a.m. and finish at 3:30 p.m. Agenda items will include Wilderness Issues on the Mt. Hood, Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project Briefing and Comment Process, Working Group/Subcommittee Updates, Info Sharing Around the Province and a Public Forum from 3:00 p.m. till 3:30 p.m. All Deschutes Province Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mollie Chaudet, Province Liaison, USDA, Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District,

1230 N.E. 3rd, Bend, OR, 97701, Phone (541) 383-4769.

Dated: March 21, 2000.

Sally Collins,

Deschutes National Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-7548 Filed 3-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oregon

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed change in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Oregon for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Oregon to issue a revision to Conservation Practice Standard 580, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, in Section IV of the State Technical Guide in Oregon. This practice may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received until April 27, 2000. Once the review and comment period is over and the standard is finalized, it will be placed in the individual Field Office Technical Guide in each field office.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to Bob Graham, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1300, Portland, Oregon 97204. Copies of this standard will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to dave.dishman@or.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Graham, 503-414-3200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Oregon will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Oregon regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of changes