

meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the Final EIS.

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. 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. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality might be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agencies 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 7 days. Permits required for implementation including the following:

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Approvals of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act,
 - Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
2. Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (402) Permit;
 - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
 - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
4. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification)

Responsible Official: Thomas Puchlerz, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, response, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the

decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: March 20, 2000.

Thomas Puchlerz,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-8054 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kosciusko Island Timber Sale Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Tongass National Forest Timber Sale Program. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has selected harvest units, designed roads, and planned for future stand management activities. The proposed action is to harvest about 17 MMBF of old growth and second growth timber on Kosciusko Island and to improve wildlife habitat conditions with commercial thinning of second growth stands. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed and include a no-action alternative. The project is located on the Tongass National Forest on the western peninsula of Kosciusko Island south of Shipley Bay within townships 67 and 68 south (T67S, T68S), and ranges 75, 76, and 77 east (R75S, R76E, and R77E), Copper River Meridian, on the Thorne Bay Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. **DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by May 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to District Ranger; Thorne Bay Ranger District; Tongass National Forest; Attn: Kosciusko Island Timber Sale EIS; P.O. Box 19001; Thorne Bay, AK 99919.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to: Stan McCoy, Thorne Bay Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 19001, Thorne Bay, AK 99919, telephone (907) 828-3243, or E-mail address: samccoy@fs.fed.us

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: (1) *Public Participation:* Public participation will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis.

The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Native, Federal, State, local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Public scoping meetings are scheduled in Alaska at Edna Bay, Klawock, Naukati, and Thorne Bay. Meeting dates are tentatively scheduled for April, 2000 and will be published in the Ketchikan Daily news and the Island News newspapers distributed in southeast Alaska. Confirmed meeting dates will also be available from the District Ranger on the Thorne Bay Ranger District by calling (907) 828-3304. Written scoping comments are being solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by May 31, 2000.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives including a "no action" alternative will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The Draft EIS filing date with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is scheduled for January 2001. Public comment on the Draft EIS will be solicited for a minimum of 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), are planned during this 45-day comment period, if needed. The Final EIS is anticipated by October 2001.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and 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.

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of Draft EIS 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 concerns. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2nd 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure that subsistence 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.

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. 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. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality might be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agencies 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 7 days.

Permits required for implementation include the following:

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 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification)

Responsible Official: Thomas Puchlerz, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, response, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: March 20, 2000.

Thomas Puchlerz,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-8055 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on April 13 and 14, 2000, at the Miner's Inn Convention Center, 122 E. Miner, Yreka, California. The meeting on Thursday, April 13, will start at 1 p.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. The meeting will reconvene on Friday, April 14 at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at 12 p.m. Agenda items for the meeting include: (1) Discussion of the Megram Fire rehabilitation; (2) A presentation of the development of Fire Management Strategies; and (3) Public Member Co-Chair for PAC. All Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, 11263 N. Hwy 3, Fort Jones, California 96032; telephone 530-468-1281 (voice), TDD 530-468-2783.

Dated: March 24, 2000.

Margaret J. Boland,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-8124 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on April 27, 2000, at the Siuslaw National Forest, 4077 S.W. Research Way, Corvallis, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Watershed planning for Tillamook and Five Rivers EIS; (2) Joint meeting with the Willamette PAC in July; (3) Survey results for topics for future meetings; (4) Rechartering; and (5) Public comment period.

Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joni Quarnstrom, Public Affairs Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, (541-750-7075) or write to the Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest, P.O. Box 1148, Corvallis, Oregon 97339.

Dated: March 23, 2000.

Gloria D. Brown,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-8056 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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 April 12, 2000 in Medford, Oregon at the Medford Bureau of Land Management Office at 3040 Biddle Road. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Cascade/Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area; (2) Public Comment; (3) Province Advisory Committee Recharter; and (4) Current issues as perceived by Advisory Committee members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Roger Evenson, Province Advisory Committee Coordinator, USDA, Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest, 2900