

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 65, No. 107

Friday, June 2, 2000

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-00-05]

Nominations for Members of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, as amended, requires the establishment of a National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB is a 15 member board that advises the Secretary on all aspects of the National Organic Program, and has responsibility for development of a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting nominations to fill five upcoming vacancies on the NOSB. The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint nominees to serve 5-year terms of office scheduled to commence in January 2001. USDA encourages eligible minorities, women, and persons with disabilities to apply.

DATES: Written nominations, with resumes, must be postmarked on or before August 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Mr. Keith Jones, Program Manager, National Organic Program, USDA—AMS—TMP—NOP, Room 2510—So., Ag Stop 0268, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090—6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Keith Jones, Telephone: (202) 720—3252; Fax: (202) 690—3924; e-mail: keith.jones@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OFPA of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*), requires the Secretary to establish an organic certification program for producers and handlers of agricultural products that have been produced using organic methods. In

developing this program, the Secretary is required to establish a NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the National Organic program.

The current NOSB has made recommendations to the Secretary regarding the establishment of the initial organic program. It is anticipated that the NOSB will continue to make recommendations on various matters including recommendations on substances it believes should be permitted to be used or prohibited for use in organic production and handling.

The NOSB is required to be composed of various individuals including owners or operators of an organic production organization, persons who represent public interest or consumer interest groups, and an individual who is a certifying agent. Nominations are sought for two positions for organic producer and two positions for consumer/public interest representatives. Additionally, nominations are being sought for the certifying agent position who will represent State and private certifiers. Individuals desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at this time must be either an owner or operator of an organic production operation, a person who represents public or consumer interest groups, or a State or private organic certifying agent. Selection criteria will include such factors as: demonstrated experience and interest in organics; diverse commodity and geographic representation; support of consumer and public interest organizations; demonstrated experience with environmental matters; and other factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

After applications have been reviewed, individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and supplied with biographical forms. The biographical information must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of its receipt to expedite the clearance process that is required by the Secretary.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the NOSB in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the recommendations for the NOSB have taken into account the needs of the

diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The information collection requirements concerning the nomination process have been previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 0505—0001.

Dated: May 26, 2000.

Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 00—13784 Filed 6—1—00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410—02—P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Management Direction for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes and Monarch Wilderness; Inyo, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare a Revised Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the USDA, Forest Service will prepare a revised draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to establish management direction for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes and Monarch Wilderness areas. The Sierra and Inyo National Forests administer the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses; the Sierra National Forest administers the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness; and the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests administer the Monarch Wilderness. These Wildernesses are located in Fresno, Inyo, Madera, and Mono, California. The decision to revise the draft EIS was based on the high level of interest and concern apparent from the public comments to the original draft. The proposed action has been more clearly defined, otherwise it remains unchanged from that described in the original NOI published in the August 12, 1992 issue of the **Federal Register** (57 FR 36061).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding the proposed action and revised EIS to Mary Beth Hennessy, Wilderness Specialist, Inyo

National Forest (760) 873-2400; or Teri Drivas, Recreation & Lands Officer, Sierra National Forest, (559) 297-0706.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests propose to amend their respective Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) to incorporate new management direction for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, and Monarch Wilderness areas. The National Environmental Policy Act will guide the planning process with implementation scheduled for summer, 2001. The revised draft EIS address three topics associated with overall forest level management direction for the three wildernesses: (1) Visitor Use; (2) Commercial Services and; (3) Recreational Packstock Management.

The analysis will consider a range of alternatives including no-action, which is the current management direction contained in each national forest's LRMP. The new management direction will be programmatic and would provide direction for the implementation of wilderness area decisions for the next 10 to 15 years. The management changes reflect Forest Service directives, changing social values, agency emphasis on ecosystem sustainability, new information, and research findings.

The draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is expected to be available for public review by July 2000. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 90 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is expected to be completed March 2001.

The Forest Service believes, it is important to give reviewers notice 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 GN versus NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage maybe waived or dismissed by the court if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. *City of Angoon versus Hodel*, 803 F.2d. 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. versus Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in the proposed action participate by the close of the 90-day comment period so that substantive

comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully be considered and responded to in the final EIS. To be most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternatives discussed. 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 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 proposal. Forest Supervisors of the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests are the Responsible Officials. As Responsible Officials they will decide whether to implement the proposal or a different alternative. The Responsible Officials will document the decision and the reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision (ROD). The decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 217).

Jeffery E. Bailey,

Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest.

Alan M. Quan,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest.

Arthur L. Gaffery,

Forest Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest.

[FR Doc. 00-13797 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on June 21, 2000, at the Vahalla Building, Tallac Historic Site, Highway 89, South Lake Tahoe, CA. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held June 21, 2000, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Vahalla, Tallac Historic Site, Highway 89, South Lake Tahoe, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maribeth Gustafson or Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committees. Items to be covered on the agenda include: [1] Budget Subcommittee Report; [2] HUD Update; [3] Summer Event Update; [4] Washoe Cultural Center; [5] Public Comment; and [6] Field Trip to Review Federal Projects. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Issues may be brought to the attention of the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: May 26, 2000.

Maribeth Gustafson,

Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-13872 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Action of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The first Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Salem, Oregon on Saturday, June 24, 2000. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m., and will conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Anderson Room A at the Salem Public Library; 585 Liberty St. SE; Salem, Oregon; (503) 588-6071.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (P.L. 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council. The