

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