

0–9 age class woodland habitat, (11) improve existing river access and parking facilities for canoeists, (12) relocate an existing river access site and access road for public safety and watershed concerns, (13) close a range allotment to future cattle grazing for soil and water resource protection, (14) connect several miles of existing unconnected non-motorized trails, (15) enhance habitat for upland game wildlife species on approximately 50 acres by planting food plots, (16) construct approximately 10 miles of temporary roads (which will be closed after use) to facilitate wildlife habitat improvement and the removal of wood products, (17) close approximately 1 mile of existing system road, and (18) rehab approximately 2 miles of old road corridor for watershed protection.

The overall objective is to move Management Area 3.4–18 toward the desired future condition outlined in the Mark Twain Forest Plan.

The scope of this analysis is limited to activities related to the purpose and need and measures necessary to mitigate the effects these activities may have on the environment. The decision will include if, when, how, and where to schedule: wildlife habitat improvement activities, watershed, glade, and savanna improvement activities, temporary road construction and closure, forest habitat treatments, prescribed burning, recreation site improvement and access management, resource protection measures, monitoring, and other follow-up activities.

A project in the same vicinity was originally presented to the public for review and comment (scoping) in April of 1997 (Project Name: MA 3.4–18) prior to undertaking preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). In 1999 after modification to the MA 3.4–18 project boundary, the project was presented to the public again (Project Name: Crossroads Projects). Since September 1999, additional changes have been made to the proposal and today the decision has been made to prepare an EIS. Many years of experience implementing similar types of activities in the same vicinity have shown us that the effects are not significant. We therefore do not feel that an EIS is required. However, due to the increase in appeals and litigation over the last few years and for wise fiscal efficiency, we have decided to try a new public participation approach for this particular project and prepare an EIS. This Notice of Intent serves as notice of the intent to prepare an EIS for the Crossroads Project. The comments received as a result of the public

participation for the analysis will be brought forward for the EIS.

Preliminary comments made by the public and agencies were considered in the development of the tentative or preliminary issues. These are as follows: effects on Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) species and Management Indicator Species (MIS); concern over new road construction, and road closures; concern over motorized recreational access; direct, indirect and cumulative effects; current and designated old growth; forest health, in relation to the current vegetative patterns, structures, and species composition; and, effects of restoration activities to the overall watershed.

Public participation will continue to be an important part of the project, commencing with the EIS initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which starts with publication of this notice and continues for the next 30 days. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, the Osage Tribe, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to: identify potential issues; identify additional alternatives to the proposed action; and, identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).

While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS, which is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in August 2000. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comments received will be analyzed and considered in preparation of a final EIS, which we expect to file in October 2000. A Record of Decision will be issued not less than 30 days after publication of a Notice of Availability of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important at this early stage to give reviews notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the draft EIS must structure

their participation in the environmental review of the proposal in such a way 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, 513 (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 of the draft EIS in order that substantive comments and objections and available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningful 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 should be as specific as possible. 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 responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Randy Moore, Forest Supervisor, Mark Twain National Forest.

Dated: June 15, 2000.

John C. Bisbee,

District Ranger, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, Mark Twain National Forest, 108 South Sam Houston Boulevard, Houston, Missouri 65483.

[FR Doc. 00–16452 Filed 6–28–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Availability of Proposed Changes to Conservation Practice standards in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide of the NRCS in South Dakota for Review and Comment

SUMMARY: It is the intention of the NRCS in South Dakota to issue revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG for the practice "Animal Trails and Walkways."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received within 30 days from the publication date in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning the proposed conservation practice standard changes should be addressed to: Dean Fisher, State Conservationist, NRCS, 200 Fourth Street SW, Huron, South Dakota 57350. A copy of this standard will be made available upon written request.

Dated: June 13, 2000.

Dean Fisher,

State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Huron, South Dakota 57350.

[FR Doc. 00-16408 Filed 6-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-U

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, July 21, 2000, at the Rhode Island State House, Providence, Rhode Island 02601. The Committee will release its report, *The Impact of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 on Legal Immigrants in Rhode Island*. Updated information will be provided by invited civil rights advocates who participated in the original factfinding meeting. The Committee will also plan for future projects.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Olga Noguera, 401-464-1876, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, June 23, 2000.

Lisa M. Kelly,

Special Assistant to the Staff Director, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 00-16427 Filed 6-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No. 000623192-0192-01]

RIN 0640-ZA07

Solicitation of Applications for the Minority Business Capital Access Policy Institute

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) published a document in the **Federal Register** of June 8, 2000, (65 FR 36411), concerning solicitation of competitive applications from organizations seeking to establish a Minority Business Capital Access Policy Institute (MBCAPI). This document extends the closing date of the award to no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 24, 2000.

DATES: The closing date for receipt of applications has been extended until July 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must submit one signed original plus two (2) copies of the application. Completed application packages must be submitted to: Office of Financial Access, Room 5600, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jason Everett at (202) 482-1940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** issue of June 8, 2000, in FR Doc. 65-111, on page 36412, in the first column (second paragraph), change the date from July 10, 2000 to July 24, 2000. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Glenn Clark,

Financial Management Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.

Juanita E. Berry,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.

[FR Doc. 00-16444 Filed 6-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[I.D. 091799D]

Notice of Additional Public Involvement Opportunities/Re-opening of Comment Period for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to Allow Incidental Take of Multiple Species by Nonindustrial Private Landowners in Lewis County, WA

AGENCIES: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice to re-open public comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice advises other agencies and the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (collectively, the Services) are re-opening the initial 30-day public comment period and will hold three additional scoping workshops to assist in gathering information for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS pertains to the proposed issuance of Incidental Take Permits by NMFS and USFWS, and Enhancement of Survival Permits by USFWS (collectively, Permits) to nonindustrial forest landowners for forest-management activities conducted in Lewis County, WA. The proposed Permits would authorize take of federally listed species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), and certain other unlisted species should they be listed in the future. As required by the Act, a Conservation Plan is being prepared in voluntary cooperation with interested Lewis County parties. Since the Permits are likely to involve multiple landowners, the Conservation Plan will be developed as a programmatic Plan, titled the Family Forest Conservation Project (Plan). The USFWS will also use additional landowner agreements available under Section 10 of the Act, such as Enhancement of Survival Permits for Safe Harbor Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances, as appropriate. This notice supplements the notice of intent published in the September 23, 1999, **Federal Register**.