

organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

To facilitate public participation several measures are being taken. Information about the project proposal is being mailed to all who are on the current list to receive scoping information from the Redbird Ranger District. Public notices are being published four consecutive times in the newspapers of Perry, Leslie and Owsley Counties, Kentucky and once each in the Manchester Enterprise, Manchester, Kentucky and the Herald Leader, Lexington, Kentucky. Public notices are also being placed at post offices in the vicinity of the exchange tracts.

Additionally, the public may visit Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision.

Comments submitted during the scoping process should be in writing. They should be specific to the action being proposed and should describe as clearly and completely as possible any issues the commenter has with the proposal. This input will be used in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The scoping process includes:

- (a) Identifying potential issues.
- (b) Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
- (c) Eliminating nonsignificant issues or those previously covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
- (d) Exploring additional alternatives.
- (e) Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues identified for the proposed exchange are as follows:

- (a) If exchanged, it is likely that Tract 107Ab will be strip mined, using the controversial method known as "mountain top removal".
- (b) Consolidation through the purchase of land is preferred to exchange by some people. National Forest lands should not be given up once acquired.

Preliminary Alternatives

(a) No Action: The exchange would not take place.

(b) Proposed Action: The Daniel Boone National Forest would exchange Tract 107Ab (52.15 acres), located on Langdon Branch in Leslie County, Kentucky, and Tract 745 (39.96 acres), located on Spicer Fork in Perry County, Kentucky for a 98.17 acre tract located on the Rock House Branch of Buffalo Creek in Owsley County, Kentucky, which is owned by Leslie Resources, Inc.

(c) An alternative to purchase was discussed. The proponents declined, being interested only in the exchange. The alternative will not be considered further.

Estimated Dates for DEIS and FEIS

The DEIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and to be available for public comment by July 2001. At that time, the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of DEIS 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 Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objectives that could be raised at the DEIS stage but that are not raised until after the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritage, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334 (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 so that substantive 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 FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if the comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS 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 provision of the National Environmental Policy Act of 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, the comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the FEIS.

The FEIS is scheduled to be completed in September 2001. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision regarding this proposed action.

The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR part 215.

Dated: March 5, 2001.

Benjamin T. Worthington,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-6383 Filed 3-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lower Silver Watershed, Santa Clara County, CA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Part 1500), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service regulations (7 CFR Part 650), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for Supplemental Watershed Agreement No. 2 for the Lower Silver Creek Watershed, Santa Clara County, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey R. Vonk, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 430 G Street, Davis, California, 95616-4164, telephone (530) 792-5603.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the modifications to the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Jeffrey R. Vonk, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is flood prevention. The planned project includes the floodproofing of two structures and channel work to increase

flow capacity along 4.64 miles of channel.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are no file and may be reviewed by contacting J.R. Flores, Acting Director, Watershed Planning Services.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials.

Dated: March 9, 2001.

Jeffrey R. Vonk,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 01-6465 Filed 3-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia Field Office Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide specifically in practice standards: #332, Contour Buffer Strips; #585, Contour Stripcropping; #340, Cover Crop; #647, Early Successional Habitat Development/Management; #382, Fence; #528A, Prescribed Grazing; 329A Residue Management, No-Till/Strip-Till; and #351, Well Decommissioning to account for improved technology. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, woodland, and wildlife land.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before April 16, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1665; Fax number (804) 287-1736. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS web site:

<http://www.va.nrcs.gov/DataTechRefs/Standards&Specs/EDITtds/EditStandards.htm>.

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 Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: February 5, 2001.

L. Willis Miller, Jr.,

Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.

[FR Doc. 01-6292 Filed 3-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: March 29, 2001; 11 a.m.

PLACE: The Doral Hotel, 4400 N.W. 87th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33166.

OPEN MEETING: The members of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting will meet in open session to review and discuss a number of issues pertaining to the Martis including programming contracts, UHF reception, and the status of the aerostat. The purpose of the meeting is to review the effectiveness of the operations of Radio and TV Marti and advise the President and the Broadcasting Board of Governors accordingly.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact Yvonne Soler McKinley at (305) 437-7244.

Dated: March 12, 2001.

Carol Booker,

Legal Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-6518 Filed 3-12-01; 4:50 pm]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: March 20, 2001; 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Cohen Building Room 3321 330 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20237

CLOSED MEETING: The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in closed session to review and discuss a number of issues relating to U.S. Government-funded non-military international broadcasting. They will address internal procedural, budgetary, and personnel issues, as well as sensitive foreign policy issues relating to potential options in the U.S. international broadcasting field. This meeting is closed because if open it likely would either disclose matters that would be properly classified to be kept secret in the interest of foreign policy under the appropriate executive order (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(1)) or would disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. (5 U.S. 552b.(c)(9)(b)) In addition, part of the discussion will relate solely to the internal personnel and organizational issues of the BBG or the International Broadcasting Bureau. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(2) and (6))

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact either Brenda Hardnett or Carol Booker at (202) 401-3736.

Dated: March 12, 2001.

Carol Booker,

Legal Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-6547 Filed 3-13-01; 10:24 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).