

occur to incorporate research data. New models may be used.

*Preliminary Issues:* The following preliminary issues were identified:

1. Economic and social effects on local communities (counties and municipalities) and dependent industries. This includes, but is not limited to, the effects on recreation users, primary and secondary timber producers and grazing permittees.

2. Effects on forest health and the ability of the Forest to manage insect and disease outbreaks.

3. Effects on the Forest's ability to reduce fire risks within the Forest boundary and prevent catastrophic wildfire.

*Decision to be Made:* The Rocky Mountain Regional Forester will decide whether or not to make changes to Forest plan management direction, and if so, in what manner. The environmental effects of proposed changes will be documented in an EIS.

*Responsible Official:* The responsible official for approving the Forest Plan amendment is the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, USDA Forest Service, 11177 West 8th Avenue, P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, Colorado 80225 (express delivery address: 740 Simms St., Golden, CO 80401-4720). The decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. The Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest, is delegated the responsibility for preparing the amendment.

*Public Involvement:* Federal, state and local agencies, Native American tribes, individuals and organizations are invited to submit comments relevant to this Phase II amendment of the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The Forest is working with the States of South Dakota and Wyoming to finalize agreements that will formalize cooperating agency status, which both States requested. Both States will share their status with their respective contiguous county commissions and conservation districts. The Forest will consult with Native American tribes on a government-to-government basis.

Issue identification has begun, using the October 12, 1999 Appeal Decision, a recent court settlement agreement, and other internal and external discussions with interested parties as a starting point. Public involvement efforts will continue throughout the amendment process, in accordance with direction in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Public involvement in the Forest Plan amendment process will be sought by:

(1) Sending newsletters and requests for

comment to agencies, organizations and individuals, (2) holding open houses in local communities and (3) other formal and informal methods of involving the public. Dates, locations, and times for the open houses will be announced in local news media and in Forest newsletters. Written comments should be sent to: Black Hills National Forest, Phase II Amendment, USDA-FS-CAT, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807.

Comments that will be most effective are those that: (a) Identify necessary modifications to the existing Forest Plan direction; (b) are helpful in developing or evaluating alternatives; (c) provide additional information to improve or modify our analysis; or (d) identify factual corrections.

*Estimated Dates for Release and Review of the EIS:* The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by November 2003. At that time EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period of the Draft EIS will be 90 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, and Forest Plan amendment are scheduled to be completed by September 2004.

*The Reviewers Obligation to Comment:* Comments received from the initial scoping efforts, including this publication, will be used in the preparation of the draft environmental impact statement. The following paragraphs pertain to the future release of the draft environmental impact statement.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 90 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 draft environmental impact 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 contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental

impact statement 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 90-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can adequately consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments 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 environmental impact statement 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.

Dated: November 21, 2001.

**John C. Twiss,**

*Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 01-29548 Filed 11-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Reports and Guidance Documents; Availability etc.

Withdrawal of the Pacific Northwest Regional Guide and transfer of some decisions therein to the following National Forests' Land and Resource Management Plans: Colville National Forest, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Okanogan National Forest, Olympic National Forest, Wenatchee National Forest, Deschutes National Forest, Fremont National Forest, Malheur National Forest, Mt. Hood National Forest, Ochoco National Forest, Rogue River National Forest, Siskiyou National Forest, Siuslaw National Forest, Umatilla National Forest, Umpqua National Forest, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Willamette National Forest, and Winema National Forest.

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The intended effect of this action is to comply with 36 CFR Part 219 section 219.35(e) which directs that within 1 year of November 9, 2000, the

Regional Forester must withdraw the Regional Guide. When a Regional Guide is withdrawn, the Regional Forester must identify the decisions in the Regional Guide that are to be transferred to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system (36 CFR 200.4) or to one or more plans and give notice in the **Federal Register** of these actions.

**DATES:** This action will be effective the date of this **Federal Register** notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alan J. Horton, Policy Planner, Pacific Northwest Region, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208. Phone: (503) 233-2690.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action withdraws the Pacific Northwest Regional Guide and transfers some decisions therein to the Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) for the National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region. Specifically, this action transfers from the Regional Guide to LRMPs the management standards and guidelines for maximum harvest size limits (a requirement of the National Forest Management Act) and the management standards and guidelines for harvest utilization. Management standards and guidelines for maximum harvest size limits are titled "Size and Dispersal of Openings and State of Vegetation" in the Regional Guide, page 3-7. Management standards and guidelines for harvest utilization are entitled "Standard and Guideline 4-2" and "Table 3-6, Utilization Standards" under "Management Intensity and Utilization Standards" in the Regional Guide, page 3-9. The following Regional Guide decisions are hereby transferred to the LRMPs in the Pacific Northwest Region:

**Size and Dispersal of Openings and State of Vegetation**

*Standard and Guideline 2-1*

Forest openings created by the application of even-aged harvest cutting methods shall be limited to a maximum size of 60 acres in the Douglas-fir type of the coastal Douglas-fir zone and to a maximum size of 40 acres for all other forest types in the Pacific Northwest Region. Exceptions are permitted for

natural catastrophic events (such as fires, windstorms, or insect and disease attacks) or on an individual basis after a 60-day public notice period and review by the Regional Forester. In addition, the limits may be exceeded by as much as 50 percent without necessitating review by the Regional Forester or 60 days public notice when exceeding the limit will produce a more desirable combination of net public benefits and when any one of the following four criteria is met.

1. When a larger created opening will enable the use of an economically feasible logging system that will lessen the disturbance to soil, water, fish, riparian resources, or residual vegetation. Such lessening is to be achieved by reducing landing or road construction away from unstable soil, or by reducing soil and vegetation disturbance caused by dragging logs.
2. When created openings cannot be centered around groups of trees infected with dwarf mistletoe or root rot and therefore need to be expanded to include these trees in order to avoid infection of susceptible adjacent conifers.
3. When visual quality objectives require openings to be shaped and blended to fit the landform.
4. When larger openings are needed to achieve regeneration objectives in harvest areas being cut by the shelterwood method and where destruction of the newly created stand would occur as a result of delayed removal of shelter trees. This exception applies only to existing shelterwood units and to shelterwood units under contract prior to approval of the Forest Plan.

*Standard and Guideline 2-2*

Created openings will be separated by blocks of land that generally are not classed as created openings and that contain one or more logical harvest units. These areas shall be large enough and contain a stand structure appropriate to meet resource requirements of the Forest Plan. Resource requirements may include wildlife habitat, watershed, landscape management, and others. Contiguous

harvest units (concerning or otherwise touching) are not precluded, but must be considered as a single opening which must be created within requirements for size, exception procedures, and justification.

The total area of created openings contiguous to 30-acre or larger natural openings should normally not exceed one-third the size of the natural openings (regardless of size) unless adequate vegetation along the edge can be developed or retained in sufficient density to protect wildlife and visual management objectives. The determination of adequate vegetation will be made by an appropriate interdisciplinary team.

*Standard and Guideline 2-3*

A harvested area of commercial forest land will no longer be considered a created opening for silvicultural purposes when stocking surveys, carried out in accordance with Regional instructions, indicate prescribed tree stocking that is at least 4½ feet high and free to grow. When other resource management considerations (such as wildlife habitat, watershed needs, or visual requirements) prevail, a created opening will no longer be considered an opening when the vegetation in it meets a particular management objective stated in the Forest Plan. For example, the objectives for a specified big-game winter range might require trees to be 20 feet tall before the adjacent stand may be harvested. In other instances, entry may be made sooner to meet specific resource or management requirements.

*Standard and Guideline 4-2*

Separate utilization standards are to be used in determining harvest levels for the first decade and future decades to the planning horizon. The standards displayed in the following table shall apply to all Forests, except where individual market areas or specific products present opportunities for standards specifying utilization of a higher proportion of the tree resource. In these Forests, planning will not be limited to the stated Regional utilization standards.

TABLE 3-6.—UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Type Tree	Minimum d.b.h. <sup>1</sup> (Inches)	Minimum Top d.i.b. <sup>2</sup> (Inches)
First Decade		
Existing Mature Trees, Except Lodgepole Pine (first and future decades) .....	9	6
Existing Commercial Thinning Size Trees and Lodgepole Pine .....	7	4

TABLE 3-6.—UTILIZATION STANDARDS—Continued

Type Tree	Minimum d.b.h. <sup>1</sup> (Inches)	Minimum Top d.i.b. <sup>2</sup> (Inches)
Future Decades		
All Species, Except Surviving Stands of First Decade Existing Mature .....	7	4

<sup>1</sup> d.b.h.—diameter at breast height<sup>2</sup> d.i.b.—diameter inside bark

Dated: November 21, 2001.

**Nancy Graybeal,***Deputy Regional Forester.*

[FR Doc. 01-29549 Filed 11-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M****U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS****Hearing on Education Accountability****AGENCY:** Commission on Civil Rights.**ACTION:** Notice of hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994, section 3, Pub. L. 103-419, 108 Stat. 4338, as amended, and 45 CFR section 702.3, that a public documents production hearing before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will take place on Friday, January 11, 2002, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the Monroe Room, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20009. The purpose of the hearing is to collect information within the jurisdiction of the Commission, under 45 CFR section 702.2, related particularly to state efforts to institute standards-based education systems, and the review of educational accountability methods and associated statistics and consequences.

The Commission is authorized to hold hearings and to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and the attendance of witnesses pursuant to 45 CFR section 701.2(c). The Commission is an independent bipartisan, factfinding agency authorized to study, collect, and disseminate information, and to appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government, and to study and collect information with respect to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

Hearing impaired persons who will attend the hearing and require the services of a sign language interpreter, should contact Betty Edmiston, Administrative Services and

Clearinghouse Division at (202) 376-8105 (TDD (202) 376-8116), at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Les Jin, Staff Director (202) 376-7700.

Dated: November 20, 2001.

**Michael L. Foreman,***Acting Deputy General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 01-29508 Filed 11-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6335-01-M****DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Institute of Standards and Technology****Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Thursday, December 13, 2001. The Board of Overseers is composed of eleven members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, assembled to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the conduct of the Baldrige Award. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and review information received from the National Institute of Standards and Technology with the members of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The agenda will include: Report from the Judges' Panel; Status of the Baldrige Program; presentations on Baldrige Program Partnerships, Workforce Excellence Network, Baldrige Not-For-Profit Eligibility Category, Baldrige Regional Conferences, Issue Sheets, 2002 Hoshin—Increase Number of Baldrige Applicants; and Recommendations to the NIST Director.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene December 13, 2001, at 8:30 a.m. and

adjourn at 3:30 p.m. on December 13, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Bldg., Tenth Floor Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

Dated: November 19, 2001.

**Karen H. Brown,***Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 01-29561 Filed 11-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-CN-M****COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS****Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Bangladesh**

November 21, 2001.

**AGENCY:** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing limits.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel website at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**