

are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully 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 on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS 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).

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in December 2002. In the final EIS, The Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments 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 this proposal.

John Berry, Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest is the responsible official. As the responsible official he will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: February 19, 2002.

John D. Berry,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-4368 Filed 2-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Airport Forest Health Timber Sale, Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District, El Dorado County, California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice of cancellation of the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest timber, prescribe burn, and improve wildlife habitat on the Pacific Ranger District.

DATES: The draft environmental impact statement was originally scheduled for August 2000 with a 45-day public review and comment period. The

publishing and distribution of this draft EIS is cancelled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Errington, Project Leader, Pacific Ranger Station, 7887 Highway 50, Pollock Pines, California, 95726, Phone (530) 644-2349.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Airport Forest Health Timber Sale was published in the **Federal Register** on June 27, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 124, pp 39594-39596) announcing the intent to prepare and release a draft EIS in August 2000 with a final EIS scheduled for September 2000.

The original notice of intent informed the public of the agency's intention to document the analysis in an EIS. The primary reason for the cancellation is a change in management direction for the project area.

Dated: February 19, 2002.

John Berry,

Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-4369 Filed 2-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Yates Duck Creek Federal Oil Well #1 Environmental Impact Statement: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to drill for and develop conventional oil and gas resources with one (1) well on National Forest System lands in Campbell County, Wyoming. The well would be located on Federal Lease #WYW-141191, issued in 1997, in section 30, T.55N., R.69W., 6th P.M.

The purpose of the project is to determine the potential for oil and gas development, by drilling one exploratory well in the Duck Creek area. The project potentially includes three phases: drilling, development and/or production of oil and/or gas if discovered in producible quantities, and abandonment. The initial phase of the project would include constructing access to the drill site, constructing a well pad, and drilling and testing the well. If results of testing indicate that oil and/or gas are present in producible quantities, production equipment and facilities would be installed.

Development could include the installation of tanks and treatment equipment on the wellsite and a pipeline to transport the product. The project proposal also includes a plan for abandonment of the well. If oil and/or gas are not present in quantities that justify completion and production, the well would be abandoned and the site and access road reclaimed immediately. If the well is put into production, well abandonment and reclamation of the well site and access road would be performed to achieve a pre-project condition after the reservoir is depleted. The proposed well would be located in the Duck Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. If approved as proposed, the decision would permit road construction and reconstruction to occur in the roadless area. The EIS will comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. sections 4321-4370a), the National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1600-1614), and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), and their implementing regulations.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposal and the scope of the analysis will be accepted and considered at any time after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and prior to a decision being made.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Liz Moncrief, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2486 Jackson Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070. Electronic mail may be sent to: emoncrie@fs.fed.us, FAX may be sent to 307-745-2398.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Liz Moncrief, Forest Service Project Leader, 307-745-2456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Yates Petroleum Corporation has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management for a permit to drill and complete one exploration well. Drilling and completion of the well requires construction of access roads, and may include installation of testing and production equipment. As surface management agency, the Forest Service proposes to permit surface operations associated with the development of oil and/or gas resources with the drilling of one (1) well including construction of access roads and production facilities. The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. This EIS will disclose the environmental effects of the proposed oil and gas development.

In 1994, the Forest Service prepared the Thunder Basin Oil and Gas Leasing EIS and issued a Record of Decision

(ROD) for future oil and gas development on NFS lands on the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. This development authorized the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to lease Federal oil and gas resources in the Duck Creek area subject to certain stipulations described in the ROD, and pertinent to the surface use of the NFS lands. Subsequent to this decision, the BLM offered the Federal lease for sale. Yates Petroleum purchased the lease in 1997. Pursuant to 43 CFR 3101.1-2 Surface Use Rights, the lessee has a right to develop the oil and gas resources on that lease area, subject to stipulations attached to the lease and other provisions as described.

The Medicine Bow National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan of 1985, as amended by the April 22, 1994, Record of Decision for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Oil and Gas Leasing on the Thunder Basin National Grassland, provides stipulations for oil and gas leases, and standards and guidelines for oil and gas development on NFS lands. This proposal is consistent with the 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan.

The Thunder Basin National Grassland portion of the 1985 Plan is being revised through the Northern Great Plains Management Plan Revision process. The Final EIS and 2001 Revised Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan are completed. A record of decision is expected to be approved soon. This proposal is consistent with the 2001 Revised Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and the preferred alternative in the Final EIS.

Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will consider the results of the analysis and its findings and then document the final decision in a Record of Decision (ROD). The decision will include a determination of the terms, conditions, and mitigation measures under which the proponent may develop the oil and/or gas resources while also protecting the surface natural resources in the area and providing for public safety.

Responsible Official

Rick Cables, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, 740 Simms St., Golden, Colorado, 80401 is the official responsible for making the Forest Service decision on this action. He will document his decision and rationale in a Record of Decision.

Preliminary Issues

Proposed construction/reconstruction of access roads to the proposed well

location could alter the character of portions of the Creek Inventoried Roadless Area.

Public Involvement

At this time, the Forest Service is seeking information, comments and other assistance from Federal, State and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations who have an interest in, or could be affected by the proposed action. The public is encouraged to take part in this process and to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis, and prior to the decision. While public comments are welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** will be most useful for the identification of issues and the analysis of alternatives. Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to emoncrie@fs.fed.us. Written comments may be mailed to the Medicine Row—Routt National Forest Supervisors Office, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070-6535, attention Liz Moncrief. Please reference the *Yates-Duck Creek O&G Well EIS* on the subject line. The name and mailing address of the commenter should be provided with their comments so that future documents pertaining to this environmental analysis and the decision can be provided to interested parties.

Estimated Dates for Filing

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review during March 2002. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be for a period of not less than 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the NOA in the **Federal Register**. It is important that those interested in the management of this area to comment at that time. The final EIS is expected to be available in July 2002. In the final EIS, the Forest Service will respond to any comments received during the public comment period that pertain to the environmental analysis. Those comments and the Forest Service responses will be disclosed and discussed in the draft EIS, which will be considered when making the final decision about this proposal.

The Public's Obligation To Comment

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers an early 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 during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement stage, but 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). As a result of these previous 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 Final Environmental Impact Statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns related to the proposed action, comments on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft document. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or the merits of the alternatives displayed in the document. Reviewers should refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1503.3 for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act for addressing these points. Please note that any comments that are submitted in relation to this DEIS will be considered as public information.

Release of Names

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this Proposed Action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those whose submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that,

under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submissions and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within ten (10) days.

Dated: February 11, 2002.

M.M. Underwood, Jr.,

Director, Physical Resources, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region.

[FR Doc. 02-4109 Filed 2-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on March 14, 2002 at the Crook County Library, Broughton Room, 200 E. 2nd Street in Prineville, Oregon. A business meeting will begin at 9:00 am and finish at 4:00 pm. Agenda items will include a discussion on PAC recommendations regarding the Northwest Forest Plan, Empowering Counties/Communities, and update on Timber Sales in Central Oregon, Trout Creek update, an update on the local Noxious Weed Program, an update on the Hosmer, Metolius Basin and the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan Subcommittees, Info Sharing and a Public Forum from 3:30 pm till 4:00 pm. All Deschutes Province Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Mickle, Province Liaison, USDA, Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE., 3rd, Bend, OR, 97701, Phone (541) 383-4769.

Dated: February 16, 2002.

Leslie A.C. Weldon,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-4364 Filed 2-22-02; 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.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Monday, March 18, 2002. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the South Room of the Stayton Community Center located on 400 West Virginia Street in Stayton, Oregon.

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 Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA, and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. Tentative agenda items include the following topics:

Discuss Opal Creek SRA Environmental Analysis decision

Transition of the Council membership in accordance with provisions of the Council Charter

Discuss future topics and meeting schedule for the Council

A direct public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to the March 18 meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips; Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District, HC 73 Box 320, Mill City, OR 97360; (503) 854-3366.

Dated: February 15, 2002.

Y. Robert Iwamoto,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-4366 Filed 2-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on March 8, 2002. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., in the Hatfield Marine Sciences Center, Room 9, at 2030 SW Marine Sciences Drive, Newport, OR. Agenda item will include: a review of projects submitted by entities other than the Forest Service; a continuation of the review of Forest Service projects that may be recommended to the Forest Supervisor for funding with Title II dollars; consideration of the draft bylaws for the Siuslaw RAC; and, a public comment period. The meeting is expected to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Stanley, Community Development Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, 541/750-7210 or write to Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest, P.O. Box 1148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Dated: February 19, 2002.

Gloria D. Brown,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-4363 Filed 2-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisory Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday, March 18, 2002. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Spring Valley Elementary School in O'Neals, CA. The purpose of the meeting is to review Committee ground rules and goals, project evaluation and project list timetables, public involvement strategies, and the project application process.