

developed (current facility expansion). The legal location description for all actions being considered is T. 40 S., R. 1 E., in sections 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 22, W.M., Jackson County, Oregon.

Comments received on the draft EIS will be considered in the preparation of the final EIS. The draft EIS is now expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in July 2002. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45-days from the date EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. At the end of the comment period on the draft EIS, comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final EIS. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by fall 2002.

Comments received in response to this notice, 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 who 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 submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

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 draft EISs 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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage, but that are not raised until completion of the final EIS, may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City 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 important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so 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 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 Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, is the Lead Agency for this EIS. The Forest Supervisors of the Rogue River and Klamath National Forests are the Responsible Officials. The Responsible Officials will consider the comments, responses to the comments, environmental consequences discussed in the final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The Responsible Officials will document the Mt. Ashland Ski Area Expansion decision and the rationale for the decision in a Record of Decision (ROD). The Forest Service decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: March 25, 2002.

Thomas K. Reilly,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Little Wood River Irrigation District, Gravity Pressurized Irrigation Delivery System, Blaine County, ID

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is being prepared for a federally assisted proposed project by the Little Wood River Irrigation District, Blaine County, Idaho.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until about 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Background for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, (2) Organization and future program of work for the South Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Resource Advisory Committee.

All South Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Resource Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

The South Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Resource Advisory Committee advises King and Pierce Counties on projects, reviews project proposals, and makes recommendations to the Forest Supervisor for projects to be funded by Title II dollars. The South Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Resource Advisory Committee was established to carry out the requirements of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Penny Sundblad, Management Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 810 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284 (360-856-5700, Extension 321).

Dated: March 26, 2002.

Ron DeHart,

Acting Designated Federal Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

South Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet Thursday, April 25, 2002, at the Washington State University Puyallup Research and Extension Center, 7612 E. Pioneer Way, Puyallup, WA 98371-4998.