

analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft and final EIS. The scoping process will include:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Identifying alternatives to the proposed action.
4. Exploring additional alternatives that will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of this project and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

Estimated Dates for Filing:

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in July 2001. At that time EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in September 2001. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and to applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

Reviewer's Obligations

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 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 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 so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

To be most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternatives discussed. 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.

Responsible Official

The District Ranger of the Three Rivers Ranger District, Michael L. Balboni, is the Responsible Official. As Responsible Official, he will decide if the proposed project will be implemented and will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision.

Dated: May 6, 2002.

Cami Winslow,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-11829 Filed 5-10-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Virginia Forest Management Project Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Virginia Area. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to manage approximately 101,000 acres of federal land. The proposed action would provide approximately 35 to 45 million board feet of timber to local and regional timber markets; final harvest approximately 5,000 acres of 60+ year-old aspen and jack pine experiencing substantial mortality from blowdown, decay and old age; reduce fuel loading on approximately 2,500 acres of mature red and white pine communities that are converting to balsam fir and brush through prescribed under-burning and other treatments to remove ladder fuels;

hand release approximately 2,000 acres of regenerated red pine, white pine and black spruce communities from competing vegetation, and provide access to non-federally owned lands within the project boundaries. A road analysis will be done in conjunction with the Virginia project, to develop a mutual transportation plan. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed, including a no-action alternative. The proposed project is located on the Laurentian Ranger District, Aurora, MN, Superior National Forest. In addition, the Laurentian Ranger District may create temporary openings greater than 40 acres under 36 CFR 219.27 (d)(ii).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by June 20, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to: Laurentian Ranger District, Superior National Forest, ATTN: Virginia EIS, 318 Forestry Road, Aurora, MN 55705.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allan Bier, District Ranger, or Barbara Stordahl, Team Leader, Laurentian Ranger District, Superior National Forest, 318 Forestry Road, Aurora, MN 55705, or at (218) 229-8800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participation will be an integral component of the study process, and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments and assistance from federal, State and local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested or affected by the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues, (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth and (3) elimination of insignificant issues, or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written comments will be solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list and local newspaper. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by June 20, 2002. Issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project and the relationship of the project to age class distribution, species composition, reforestation, fuel reduction treatment, temporary roads, rare resources, and others.

Based on the results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives, including a no-action alternative, will be developed for the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is

projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May 2003. The Final EIS is anticipated in November 2003.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be a minimum of 45 days from the date that the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, that it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft EIS's 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]). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the Draft EIS stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2nd 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, so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when they can be meaningfully considered and responded to in the Final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping, and on the Draft EIS, should be as specific as possible and refer to specific pages or chapters. Comments may address the adequacy of the Draft EIS, or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed. In addressing these points, reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act in 40 CFR 1503.3. 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. 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. Requesters should be aware that, under 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. If 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 seven days.

Permits/Authorizations

The proposed action may create temporary openings greater than 40 acres. A 60-day public notice and review by the Regional Forester would be needed for such action.

Easement or permission to cross non-federal property may be needed to access some treatment units to implement Forest Service activities.

Responsible Official

James W. Sanders, Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest, is the responsible official. In making the decision, the responsible official will consider the comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The responsible official will state the rationale for the chose alternative in the Record of Decision.

James W. Sanders,
Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest.
[FR Doc. 02-11828 Filed 5-10-02; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Forest Counties Payments Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: In notice document 02-11111 beginning on page 30353 in the issue of Monday, May 6, 2002, make the following correction:

On page 30353 in the second column, in the **SUMMARY** section, the date of the Rapid City, South Dakota, meeting of the Forest Counties Payments Committee was previously listed as occurring on April 20, 2002. This should be changed to read May 17, 2002.

Dated: May 7, 2002.

Maitland Sharpe,
Acting Deputy Chief, Programs and Legislation.
[FR Doc. 02-11809 Filed 5-10-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold its fourth meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 9, 2002, and will begin at 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room E, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, P.O. Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Reports from subcommittee's and possible approval (2) approval of revision of short form, (3) project presentations with possible preliminary selection (4) public comment. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: April 11, 2002.

James F. Giachino,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 02-11920 Filed 5-9-02; 8:45 am]

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COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Florida 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 planning meeting with briefing of the Florida Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1 p.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2002, at the Adam's Mark Hotels & Resorts, 225 Coast Line Drive East, Jacksonville, Florida 32202. The purpose of the planning meeting with briefing is to: (1) Plan future activities, and (2) be briefed on immigration and Title VI allegations of discrimination in Jacksonville.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Bobby