

Comment Requested

This notice of intent continues the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. On May 21, 2001, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 66, No. 98, pgs 27934–27936) soliciting public involvement in the development of issues necessary to complete an analysis of the environmental impacts of reducing roads in the Duck Creek-Swains area of the Cedar City Ranger District on the Dixie National Forest. We solicited comments on that notice for 45 days and received 184 comments. We will consider all the comments that we received in response to our May 21, 2001 notice during the preparation of the EIS that is the subject of this notice. Therefore, if you submitted comments in response to the March 2001 notice, you do not need to resubmit those comments in order for the information provided in them to be considered during the development of the EIS.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement 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 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 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 on the proposed action, comments on the 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 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.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21.

Dated: May 23, 2002.

Mary Wagner,

Forest Service, Dixie National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02–16709 Filed 7–2–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on July 17 and 18, 2002, in Humboldt County, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues relating to implementing the Northwest Forest Plan.

DATES: A business meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 17, 2002, at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Six Rivers National Forest, in Eureka, CA. A field tour of the Headwaters Forest Reserve will be held on July 18, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The July 17 business meeting will be held at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Drive, Eureka, CA. The July 18 field tour will begin at the Bureau of Land Management office, 1695 Heindon Rd., in Arcata, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phebe Brown, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA, 95988, (530) 934–3316; e-mail pybrown@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Presentation on Salmon Recovery Plan; (2) Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) update; (3) Bureau of Land Management presentation on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Headwaters Forest Reserve; (4) Update on planning for a Province fire ecology fuels treatment workshop; (5) Aquatic Conservation Subcommittee report; (6) Presentation on working with county Fire Safe Councils; (7) Northwest Forest Plan Implementation Monitoring scheduling; (8) Options for vegetation management; and (9) 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: June 16, 2002.

James Fenwood,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council**

AGENCY: Forest Service USDA Forest Service

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Monday, July 15, 2002. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00 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) (Pub. 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,