

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether to implement the proposed action as described above, to meet the purpose and need for action through some other combination of activities, or take no action at this time.

Scoping Process

This revised notice of intent is not a solicitation for public comment. The comment period for this analysis closed January 8, 2001 and no additional comments will be considered until the draft environmental impact statement is available for public review. The scoping process was used to identify potential issues related to the proposed action, significant issues to be analyzed in depth, alternatives to the proposed action, and potential environmental effects of the proposed action and its alternatives.

Preliminary Issues

Three preliminary issues have been identified: (1) Disturbances by human presence and noise on the trails and roads may adversely impact wildlife species, (2) sounds of motorized vehicles on the trails and roads may have a negative impact on adjacent landowners, and (3) opportunities for recreation may be affected by the trail and road mileage available as well as by the uses allowed on each route.

Comment Requested

This Revised Notice of Intent is not a solicitation for public comment. The comment period for this analysis closed January 8, 2001 and no additional comments will be considered until the draft environmental impact statement is made available for public review.

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, 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: December 20, 2002.

Glenn Gottschall,

Acting Forest Supervisor—Stanislaus National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-32808 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Ketchikan, Alaska, January 22, 2003. The purpose of the meeting is to provide orientation to Advisory Committee members, and to discuss potential projects under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 22, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center Learning Center (back entrance), 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, Alaska. Send written comments to Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee, c/o District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan, AK 99901, or electronically to jingersoll@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Ingersoll, District Ranger, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, (907) 228-4100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by January 21 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions.

Dated: December 16, 2002.

Larry Meshew,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-32824 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tuolumne County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tuolumne County Resource Advisory Committee will meet on January 27, 2003 at the City of Sonora Fire Department, in Sonora, California. The purpose of the meeting is to receive project proponent updates on status of Round 1 funded projects, and review remaining unapproved round 1 and 2 project submittals to determine future status.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 27, 2003, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the City of Sonora Fire Department located at 201 South Shepherd Street, in Sonora, California (CA 95370).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Kaunert, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370 (209) 532-3671; E-mail pkaunert@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Round

1 project status update reports; (2) Replacement member update; (3) Review remaining Round 1 and 2 project proposal to determine future status; (4) Review and vote on one new project submittal; (5) Determine due date for Round 3 project proposals; (6) Determine purpose and dates of future meetings. This meeting is open to the public.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Patrick D. Kaunert,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-32842 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-ED-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee (RAC); Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on Friday, February 7, 2003. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 3 p.m., with possibility of continuing until 4 p.m. The meeting will be held via telephone conference call. People are welcome to attend the call in person at the Umpqua National Forest Headquarters at 2900 NW Stewart Parkway in Roseburg or the Rogue River National Forest Headquarters at 333 W. 8th Street in Medford. The agenda includes: (1) Roll call to determine quorum, (2) Redirecting \$204,000 to reforestation work resulting from fires in 2002, and (3) Public Forum. The Public Forum is scheduled to begin at 2:45 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged and may be submitted prior to the February 7th meeting by sending them to Designate Federal Official Jim Caplan at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Jim Caplan; Umpqua National Forest; PO Box 1008, Roseburg, Oregon 97470; (541) 957-3203.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Paul Matter,

Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-32960 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 28, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Program Development & Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-0736. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR Part 1755, Telecommunications Standards and Specifications.

OMB Control Number: 0572-New.
Type of Request: New collection.
Abstract: Manufacturers wishing to sell their products to RUS borrowers, request RUS consideration for acceptance of their products and submit data demonstrating their products' compliance with RUS specifications. Compliance with RUS specifications and standards is demonstrated to a large extent via presentation of laboratory tests results and other informational data upon which the determination of acceptability can be made. RUS evaluates this data to determine that the quality of the products is acceptable and that their use will not jeopardize loan security. In the telecommunications program, because of the complex and highly technical nature of equipment, services and system architectures, RUS also requires a manufacturer to demonstrate successful product use in a working telecommunications system.

RUS Bulletin 345-2, establishes Agency policy that materials and equipment purchased by RUS telecommunications borrowers or accepted as contractor-furnished material, must conform to RUS standards and specifications where they have been established and, if included in RUS IP 344-2, "List of Materials Acceptable for Use on Telecommunications Systems of RUS

Borrowers" (List of Materials), must be selected from that list or must have received technical acceptance from RUS.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 hour per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit and non-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,580 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Dawn Wolfgang, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service at (202) 720-0812. Comments are invited on (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumption used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques on other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Curtis M. Anderson,

Deputy Administrator as Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 02-32825 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).