

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 statement. 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 is the lead agency. The responsible official is the Forest Supervisor, for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The responsible official will decide which, if any, of the proposed projects will be implemented and will document the Monument Fire Recovery Project-Whitman Unit decision and rationale for the decision, in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: April 21, 2003.

John C. Schuyler,
Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-10501 Filed 4-28-03; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices.

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: Anaerobic Digester, Ambient Temperature; Anaerobic Digester, Controlled Temperature; Composting Facility; Constructed Wetland; Fish Raceway or Tank; Hedgerow Planting; Irrigation Water Management; Land Clearing; Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land; Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land; Monitoring Well; Mulching; Pasture and Hayland Planting; Residue Management, Mulch Till; Residue Management, No Till/Strip

Till; Residue Management, Ridge Till; Residue Management, Seasonal; Riparian Forest Buffer; Sediment Basin; Spoil Spreading; Stream Habitat Improvement and Management; Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Pruning; Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; Waste Facility Cover; Waste Storage Facility; Waste Treatment Lagoon; Waste Utilization; Wetland Creation; Wetland Enhancement; Wetland Restoration; Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation. These standards are used to convey national guidance in developing Field Office Technical Guide Standards used in the States and the Pacific Basin and Caribbean areas. NRCS State Conservationists and Directors for the Pacific Basin and Caribbean areas who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States/areas will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in resource management systems that treat highly erodible land, or on land determined to be wetland.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Comments will be received on or before May 29, 2003. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in Washington, DC. Please submit individual inquiries and return any comments, in writing, to William Hughey, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890. The telephone number is (202) 720-5023. The standards are also available, and can be downloaded from the Internet, at: http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_stds.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available, for public review and comment, proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. For the next 30 days, NRCS will receive comments on the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of change will be made.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 3, 2003.

Bruce I. Knight,
Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma State Advisory Committees

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a conference call of the Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma State Advisory Committees to the Commission will convene at 10:30 a.m. and adjourn at 12 p.m. on April 24, 2003. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss civil rights in 5 states and plan future activities.

This conference call is available to the public through the following call-in number: 1-800-923-4217, access code 16409924. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls not initiated using the supplied call-in number or over wireless lines and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls using the call-in number over land-line connections. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-977-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and access code.

To ensure that the Commission secures an appropriate number of lines for the public, persons are asked to register by contacting Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414), by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2003.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, April 11, 2003.
Ivy L. Davis,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
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