

36 CFR Part 215. 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 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.

*Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review:* The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review September 2003. 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**. The final EIS is scheduled to be available December 2003.

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 a draft EIS 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 EIS stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS, 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 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 of 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the Acker Fire Salvage. The Responsible Official is James A. Caplan, Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the Acker Fire Salvage decision in the Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to review under Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: June 10, 2003.

**James A. Caplan,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 03-15849 Filed 6-23-03; 8:45 am]

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## 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, July 24, 2003 and August 21, 2003. The purpose of these meetings 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 meetings will be held July 24, 2003 and August 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings 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](mailto: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 meetings are 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 July 23 and August 20, respectively, will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions.

Dated: June 17, 2003.

**Thomas Puchlerz,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yreka, California, June 30, 2003. The meeting will include routine business and discussion, review, and recommendation of submitted project proposals.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held June 30, 2003, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Yreka High School Library, Preece Way, Yreka, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Don Hall, RAC Coordinator, Klamath National Forest, (530) 841-4468 or electronically at [donaldhall@fs.fed.us](mailto:donaldhall@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Public comment opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: June 17, 2003.

**Margaret J. Boland,**

*Designated Federal Official.*

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