

include different levels of activity and may include different prescriptions.

- Timber sale value.
- Potential reduction of big game "security cover" within harvest units may result in a need for a nonsignificant site specific Forest plan amendment for elk effective cover standards.
- Loss of future potential Lynx denning habitat by removal of heavy fuels.
- Potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds from logging and log hauling.
- Potential soil disturbance.
- Residual fuel loads exceeding desired thresholds within treatment units.
- Potential for introduction of sediment to streams impacting fish species.
- Loss of habitat for snag dependent and cavity nesting species.

#### Comment Requested

This amended notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the draft environmental impact statement, including the identification of the range of alternatives to be considered. While public participation is strictly optional at this stage, the Forest Service believes that it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the subsequent environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft 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 draft environmental impact statement 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 also may address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. In addressing these points, reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations which implement the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3.

Dated: September 23, 2003.

**Thomas K. Reilly,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Forest Service

##### Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yakutat, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting is continue business of the Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee. The committee was formed to carry out the requirements of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000. The agenda for this meeting is to review submitted project proposals and consider recommending projects for funding. Project proposals are due by October 1, 2003 to be considered at this meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held October 24, 2003 from 6-9 p.m. and will continue on October 25, 2003 from 9-12 a.m., if necessary.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Kwaan Conference Room, 712 Ocean Cape Drive, Yakutat, Alaska. Send written comments to Tricia O'Connor, c/o Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 327, Yakutat, AK 99689, (907) 784-3359 or electronically to [poconnor@fs.fed.us](mailto:poconnor@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tricia O'Connor, District Ranger and Designated Federal Official, Yakutat Ranger District, (907) 784-3359.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members. However, persons who wish to bring resource projects or other Resource Advisory Committee matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements

with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by October 17, 2003 will have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions.

Dated: September 26, 2003.

**Patricia M. O'Connor,**

*District Ranger, Yakutat Ranger District, Tongass National Forest.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Natural Resources Conservation Service

##### Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Tennessee Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Tennessee, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Tennessee NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV, for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Tennessee that changes must be made in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, specifically in practice standard Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344) to account for improved technology. This practice standard can be used in systems that treat highly erodible cropland.

**DATES:** Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with the date of this publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquire in writing to James W. Ford, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 675 U.S. Courthouse, 801 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203, telephone number (615) 277-2531. Copies of the practice standard will be made available upon written request.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS state technical guides used to perform highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Tennessee will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Tennessee regarding