

parties. The proposal was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions for Spring 2003, Summer 2003, Fall 2003 and Winter 2004. Using the comments from the public, agencies, coalitions and Native Americans, the interdisciplinary team developed the list of issues to address which, subsequently, generated alternative three.

Comments

The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from other agencies, organizations, Native Americans, and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action. This input will be used to prepare the EIS. Comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process; however, comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered a matter of public record on this Proposed Action and will be available for public inspection. Anonymous comments will be considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 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. If the request for anonymity is denied, the agency will notify the person and resubmission is possible.

The draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by March 2004. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the 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 have been raised at the EIS stage but are not expressed until after the EIS is completed 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 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identification and consideration of issues and concerns on the Proposed Action, comments on the EIS should be specific, and refer to exact page numbers or chapters of the EIS. Comments may also be complimentary and address adequacies and merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed. Reviewers may wish to consult the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations on procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 when addressing these points.

The Forest Service is the lead agency and the responsible official is the Forest Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest. He will decide which, if any, of the alternatives will be implemented. His decision and rationale for the West Maury's Fuels and Vegetation Management Project will be documented in the Record of Decision, which will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: January 6, 2004.

Larry Timchak,

Forest Supervisor.

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p.m. Time will be set aside for public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva, at (530) 233-8700; or Public Affairs Officer Nancy Gardner at (530) 233-8713.

Stanley G. Sylva,

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, January 26, 2004. The meeting will include routine business, a discussion of larger scale projects, and the review and recommendation for implementation of submitted project proposals.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 26, 2004, from 4 p.m. until 8 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.

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: January 8, 2004.

Margaret J. Boland,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 04-1006 Filed 1-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Modoc County RAC Meetings

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of Modoc County RAC meetings.

SUMMARY:

Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393), the Modoc National Forest's Modoc County Resource Advisory Committee will meet Monday, February 2, 2004 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Alturas, California. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda topics for the meeting include approval of the January 5, 2003 minutes. The meeting will be held at Modoc National Forest Office, Conference Room, 800 West 12th St., Alturas, California on Monday, January 3, 2004 from 6 to 8

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Washington Province Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, at the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters, located in Vancouver,