Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Public Meeting, Davy Crockett National Forest Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–393) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Davy Crockett National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC meeting will be held on July 29, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC meeting will be held at the Davy Crockett Ranger Station located on State Highway 7, approximately one-quarter mile west of FM 227 in Houston County, Texas. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and adjourn at approximately 9 p.m. A public comment period will be at 8:45 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Raoul Gagne, District Ranger, Davy Crockett National Forest, Rt. 1, Box 55 FS, Kennard, Texas 75847: Telephone: 936–655–2299 or e-mail at: *rgagne@fs.fed.us.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC proposes projects and funding to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 203 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. The purpose of the July 29, 2004, meeting is to discuss the operational requirements of the RAC, including a process to solicit and evaluate project proposals. These meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the RAC. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Dated: June 29, 2004.

Raoul W. Gagne,

Designated Federal Officer, Davy Crockett National Forest RAC.

[FR Doc. 04–15221 Filed 7–2–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596–AB73

National Environmental Policy Act Documentation Needed for Certain Special Use Authorizations

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of final directive.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is revising procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for certain actions, which can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. These final implementing procedures will be issued in an amendment to Forest Service Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30, sections 31.12 and 31.2. This amendment creates two new categorical exclusions for the amendment to or replacement of special use authorizations involving administrative changes when no changes are proposed in the authorized facilities and no increase in the scope or intensity of authorized activities is proposed. The intent of these categorical exclusions is to facilitate employees' consistent interpretation and application of CEQ regulations and related agency policy.

The Forest Service is also making technical changes to the Zero Code Chapter and Chapters 10, 30, and 40 of FSH 1909.15. These technical changes do not substantively change the agency's NEPA procedures. The amendments incorporate into parent text of the agency policy and procedures previously set forth in interim directives to Chapter 30; reformat the Handbook; and make minor editorial changes throughout the Handbook. The amendment to Chapter 30 revises incorrect section codes 31.1a and 31.1b to 31.11 and 31.12 respectively. Accordingly, references to section 31.1b in the proposal to revise the agency's NEPA procedures (66 FR 48412) now relate to section 31.12.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These amendments Nos. 19090.15–2004–1 through 4 are effective July 6, 2004.

ADDRESSES: These new categorical exclusions are available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web/Internet at *http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives.* Single paper copies of these categorical exclusions are also available by contacting Dave Sire, Forest Service, USDA, Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff (Mail Stop 1104), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1104.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Sire, Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff, 202–205–2935 or Melissa Hearst, Lands Staff, 202–205–1196.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of the Categorical Exclusions for Certain Special Use Authorizations

A special use is defined in 36 CFR Part 251, Subpart B as ''All uses of National Forest System lands, improvements, and resources, except those provided for in regulations governing the disposal of timber (part 223) and minerals (part 228) and the grazing of livestock (part 222) * * *'' The Forest Service controls the occupancy and use of National Forest System lands, improvements, and resources through issuance of special use authorizations, such as permits, leases, or easements.

It is important to note that ski areas and organizational camps are the two types of special uses of National Forest System lands that are not addressed by the new final categorical exclusions. Ski area permits are addressed by an existing categorical exclusion (FSH 1909.15 sec. 31.12 para. 9). The ministerial issuance or amendment of an organizational camp special use authorization is not subject to the