

assist in identifying issues, determine how to best manage the resources, and to focus the analysis. Comments received to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decisions under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217. 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.

A draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and made available for public review by February 2005. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be available June 2005.

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 EIS.

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.

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. The Forest Service is the lead agency and the responsible official is the Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest. The responsible official will decide where, and whether or not to salvage timber, reduce fuels, and reforest the area. The responsible official will also decide how to mitigate impacts of these actions and will determine when and how monitoring of effects will take place. The B&B Fire Recovery decision and the reasons for the decision will be documented in the record of decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: July 26, 2004.

Michael C. Johnson,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee (DPAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on August 18-20, 2004. The first two days will be a field trip to the Barlow Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest to monitor and discuss implementation of watershed improvement projects. The last day will be a business meeting starting at 8 a.m. at the Barlow Ranger District Office, 780 NE Court in Dufor, Oregon 97021. Agenda items will

include a Recreation Strategy update and/or Update on NWFP social monitoring module, Upper Deschutes RMP/Davis Fire Recovery update, B and B fire update, and an open public forum from 11:30 till noon. All Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Mickle, Province Liaison, Deschutes NF, Crescent Road, P.O. Box 208, Crescent, OR 97754, phone (541) 433-3216.

Dated: July 26, 2004.

Leslie A.C. Weldon,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Staff Briefing for the Board of Directors.

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m., Monday, August 9, 2004.

PLACE: Conference Room 104-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 12th & Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Annual retirement of class A stock.
2. Annual class C stock dividend rate.
3. Status of loan loss reserve for FY 2004.
4. Privatization discussion.
5. Administrative and other issues.

ACTION: Board of Directors Meeting.

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2004.

PLACE: Conference Room 104-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 12th & Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters have been placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting:

1. Call to order.
2. Action on Minutes of the May 14, 2004, board meeting.
3. Secretary's Report on loans approved.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Status report on the allowance for loan loss reserve for FY 2004.
6. Consideration of resolution to retire class A stock in FY 2004.
7. Consideration of resolution to set annual class C stock dividend rate.
8. Privatization discussion.