

District and Verde Ranger District are published in:—“*Prescott Courier*”, Prescott, Arizona.

#### *Tonto National Forest*

Notices for Availability for Comments, Decisions and Objections by Forest Supervisor are published in:—“*East Valley Tribune*” and “*Scottsdale Tribune*”, Mesa, Arizona.

Cave Creek Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Scottsdale Tribune*”, in Mesa, Arizona.

Globe Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Arizona Silver Belt*”, Globe, Arizona.

Mesa Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*East Valley Tribune*”, Mesa, Arizona.

Payson Ranger District and Pleasant Valley Ranger District and Tonto Basin Ranger District Notice are published in:—“*Payson Roundup*”, Payson, Arizona.

#### **New Mexico National Forests**

##### *Carson National Forest*

Notices of Availability for Comments, Decisions and Objections by Forest Supervisor and Camino Real Ranger District and Tres Piedras Ranger District and Questa Ranger District are published in:—“*The Taos News*”, Taos, New Mexico. Canjilon Ranger District and El Rito Ranger District Notices are published in —“*Rio Grande Sun*”, Espanola, New Mexico.

Jicarilla Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Farmington Daily Times*”, Farmington, New Mexico.

##### *Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands*

Notices for Availability for Comments, Decisions and Objections by Forest Supervisor affecting lands in New Mexico, except the National Grasslands are published in:—“*Albuquerque Journal*”, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Forest Supervisor Notices affecting National Grasslands in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas are published by grassland and location as follows: Kiowa National Grassland in Colfax, Harding, Mora and Union Counties, New Mexico published in:—“*Union County Leader*”, Clayton, New Mexico. Rita Blanca National Grassland in Cimarron County, Oklahoma published in:—“*Boise City News*”, Boise City, Oklahoma. Rita Blanca National Grassland in Dallam County, Texas published in:—“*The Dalhart Texan*”, Dalhart, Texas. Black Kettle National Grassland, in Roger Mills County, Oklahoma published in:—“*Cheyenne Star*”, Cheyenne, Oklahoma.

Black Kettle National Grassland, in Hemphill County, Texas published in:—“*The Canadian Record*”, Canadian, Texas. McClellan Creek National Grassland published in:—“*The Pampa News*”, Pampa, Texas.

Mt. Taylor Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Cibola County Beacon*”, Grants, New Mexico.

Magdalena Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Defensor—Chieftain*”, Socorro, New Mexico.

Mountainair Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Mountainview Telegraph*”, Tijeras, New Mexico.

Sandia Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Albuquerque Journal*”, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Kiowa National Grassland Notices are published in:—“*Union County Leader*”, Clayton, New Mexico.

Rita Blanca National Grassland Notices in Cimarron County, Oklahoma are published in:—“*Boise City News*”, Boise City, Oklahoma while Rita Blanca National Grassland Notices in Dallam County, Texas are published in:—“*Dalhart Texan*”, Dalhart, Texas.

Black Kettle National Grassland Notices in Roger Mills County, Oklahoma are published in:—“*Cheyenne Star*”, Cheyenne, Oklahoma, while Black Kettle National Grassland Notices in Hemphill County, Texas are published in:—“*The Canadian Record*”, Canadian, Texas.

McClellan Creek National Grassland Notices are published in:—“*The Pampa News*”, Pampa, Texas.

##### *Gila National Forest*

Notices for Availability for Comments, Decisions and Objections by Forest Supervisor and Quemado Ranger District and Reserve Ranger District and Glenwood Ranger District and Silver City Ranger District and Wilderness Ranger District are published in:—“*Silver City Daily Press*”, Silver City, New Mexico.

Black Range Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*The Herald*”, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

##### *Lincoln National Forest*

Notices for Availability for Comments, Decisions and Objections by Forest Supervisor and Sacramento Ranger District are published in:—“*Alamogordo Daily News*”, Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Guadalupe Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Carlsbad Current Argus*”, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Smokey Bear Ranger District Notices are published in:—“*Ruidoso News*”, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

##### *Santa Fe National Forest*

Notices for Availability for Comments, Decisions, and Objections by Forest Supervisor and Coyote Ranger District and Cuba Ranger District and Espanola Ranger District and Jemez Ranger District and Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District are published in:—“*Albuquerque Journal*”, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dated: April 6, 2005.

**Abel Camarena,**

*Deputy Regional Forester, Southwestern Region.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Forest Service**

#### **Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests Resource Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Redmond, Oregon. The purpose of the meeting is to receive natural resource projects that will be reviewed and recommended, discuss the Committee’s project guidelines and decisionmaking priorities, review bylaws, elect a Chair and discuss reports related to the work of the Committee under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held May 10, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Office of the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, 2363 SW., Glacier Place, Redmond, Oregon 97756. Send written comments to Dan Rife, acting as Designated Federal Official for Larry Timchak, for the Deschutes and Ochoco Resource Advisory Committee, c/o Forest Service, USDA, Ochoco National Forest, 3160 NE., 3rd St., Prineville, OR 97754 or electronically to [drife@fs.fed.us](mailto:drife@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dan Rife, Acting as Designated Federal Official for Larry Timchak, Ochoco National Forest, 541–383–5534.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Title II matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. A public

input session will be provided and individuals who made written requests by May 4 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at the session.

Dated: April 14, 2005.

**Dan Rife,**

*Acting Designated Federal Official.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### West Tarkio Watershed, Page and Montgomery Counties, IA and Atchison County, MO

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture gives notice that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared for West Tarkio Watershed, Page and Montgomery Counties, Iowa and Atchison County, Missouri.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Van Klaveren, State Conservationist, or David Beck, Planning Leader, 210 Walnut Street, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, IA 50309-2180.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project may cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Richard Van Klaveren, NRCS State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement (EIS) is needed for this project.

This project involves the development of a plan to manage, protect, and enhance water and land resources in the West Tarkio Watershed. The watershed project area is 106,000 acres; 71,000 acres in Page and Montgomery Counties in southwest Iowa and 35,000 acres in Atchison County, Missouri. The upper end of the watershed is four miles northeast of Red Oak, Iowa. The City of Tarkio, Missouri, is at the downstream boundary of the project area.

The original sponsors include the three county governments, three county soil and water conservation districts, the city of Tarkio, Missouri, as well as the cities of Clarinda and Shenandoah, Iowa. The sponsors have formed the West Tarkio Watershed Steering Committee to serve as an advisory body for the project. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the sponsoring groups plus four local watershed residents.

The sponsors' original objectives are regional water supply including the Cities of Clarinda and Shenandoah, flood damage reduction for the City of Tarkio and agricultural land, water based recreation, grade stabilization of West Tarkio Creek and its tributaries, upland gully and erosion control, and water quality protection.

The NRCS planning assistance is being provided under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566. The NRCS has completed studies to determine the extent of natural resource problems and needs in accordance with the sponsors' objectives.

Study results indicate that the sponsor objective of flood damage reduction for the City of Tarkio and agricultural land is not economically feasible. Land voiding and depreciation rates are not high enough to justify grade stabilization dams to control gullies and stream channel erosion. Other federal and state programs can be used to satisfy landowner requests for upland gully and erosion control.

The NRCS studies indicate that the sponsors' objectives of water supply, water based recreation, and water quality protection are likely to be economically feasible. Additional study for these project purposes will be completed.

The original sponsors reconsidered their interest in the project considering the change in project purposes. Remaining sponsors are the Cities of Clarinda and Shenandoah, Iowa, the Page County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Atchison County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Four study sites on the main channel of West Tarkio Creek, all located in Page County Iowa, were initially identified for possible multiple-purpose reservoir sites. One study site was dropped from further consideration after it was determined not to meet the water supply objective and that it would have more effect on public roads than other alternatives.

Studies indicated each remaining study site could be developed as a multi-purpose water impoundment to

provide water based recreation and water supply. Six preliminary alternatives for multiple-purpose reservoirs were developed, two alternatives at each study site. The permanent pool sizes of the six preliminary alternatives ranged from 1100 acres to 1800 acres.

Groundwater was investigated as a water supply source as a result of public comment. NRCS consulted with groundwater experts from the Iowa Geological Survey Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey Bureau. Generalized sources of groundwater were identified in the area. There was no sponsor support for an alternative plan featuring groundwater because it could not meet the water-based recreation project purpose. In addition, one sponsor had been previously advised that long term, they should seek a surface water supply source to replace their current well fields.

Preliminary alternatives that do not meet the sponsors' objectives will be removed from further study and consideration. Each alternative plan that is carried through detailed planning will be compared against a no action plan as a basis to determine effects. The sponsors will select an alternative plan based on the effects, economic evaluation, and the extent that it meets their objectives. The project will include one multi-purpose reservoir with the purposes of water supply and water-based recreation. Best management practices may be included in the planned project in order to further protect the new surface water supply.

Two open house informational meetings were held in Shenandoah, Iowa on August 19, 2003, to initiate the planning process and obtain public input. State and federal agencies, private organizations, and local individuals were invited to a scoping meeting on February 17, 2004. The public input received from these meetings and at meetings of the West Tarkio Steering Committee will be considered as a draft Environmental Impact Statement is developed. The periodic Steering Committee meetings as well as individual member sponsor meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for citizen input.

Preliminary issues: Among the issues that the NRCS plans to consider in the scope of the EIS analysis are:

—Environmental, economic, and social impacts of the alternatives. Major categories are listed below.

Soil erosion	Prime farmland
Flooding	Agricultural/other rural land