

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

Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Willows, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) approval of minutes, (3) public comment, (4) project proposals/possible action, (5) Web site update, (6) general discussion, (7) next agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 28, 2005, from 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, P.O. Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-1815; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

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 matters to the attention of the Committee any file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by November 25, 2005 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: November 9, 2005.

James F. Giachino,
Designated Federal Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Finding of No Significant Impact for Silt Salinity Control Project, Garfield County, CO

Introduction

The plan/environmental assessment was developed under the authority of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936. Funding for implementation is expected to be provided under the Federal Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127, as amended; Food Security Act of 1985, Subtitle D, Title XII, 16 U.S.C. 3830 et seq. An environmental evaluation was undertaken in conjunction with the development of the watershed plan. This evaluation was conducted in consultation with local, State and Federal agencies as well as with interested organizations and individuals. Copies of the Plan/Environmental may be obtained by contacting Allen Green, Colorado State Conservationist at the following address. Data developed during the environmental evaluation is available for public review at the following location as well: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 655 Parfet St., Lakewood, Colorado 80215-5517.

Background

The Silt unit was not identified by name in Title II of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, but was identified by USDA as an area which should be studied for possible salinity control.

The combined environmental assessment has three major components: (1) To determine the contribution of salt loading from the irrigated farmland; (2) to determine the opportunity for USDA to reduce salt loading through improvements in irrigation delivery and application systems; (3) to determine environmental effects of the proposed action.

Approximately 7,430 acres can be irrigated in the Silt Unit by five irrigation ditches. One of the aspects of the environmental evaluation involved inventorying and analyzing current irrigation systems and management practices. Data was analyzed on the five irrigation ditch systems. Each of the systems was analyzed to determine what types of improvements are needed. The remaining ditches were not studied because they are small or no longer in use.

The Wasatch Formation, a claystone shale marine formation with a very high salt content, underlies much of the valley and is the principal source of salt contributed to the Colorado River. Lenses of crystalline salt often are exposed during excavation into shale. Because of the arid climate, salts have not been leached naturally and applying excess irrigation water to the soil greatly accelerates the leaching process.

The Silt Unit contributes approximately 24,700 tons of salt annually to the Colorado River based on the 17-year USGS record of volume and concentration of outflow, minus volume and concentration of inflow. The 17-year record spans a good representation of dry and wet years. Approximately 14,030 tons come from irrigation practices, and is in the middle of the range of values used for the seven salinity project areas e.g. Grand Valley, Colorado; Lower Gunnison, Colorado; Mancos Valley, Colorado; McElmo Creek, Colorado; Uinta Basin, Utah; Price-San Rafael, Utah; and Big Sandy River, Wyoming. The remaining 10,670 tons represents salt produced from natural sources. Salt loading estimates include approximately 4,160 tons from ditch seepage and approximately 9,870 tons from on-farm deep percolation of irrigation water.

The proposed alternative plan contains structural and management improvements to irrigation systems which will in turn reduce salt loading to the Colorado River by 3,990 tons.

Consultation-Public Participation

The Bookcliff Conservation District led the public participation process, which included several Public meetings. Public involvement primarily consisted of meetings; however, local newspapers were used to publicize the project. Several State and Federal agencies were consulted during project plan development.