

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

Agricultural Research Service

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: January 5–6, 2006, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on January 5 and 8 am to 4 pm on January 6. Written requests to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Room 107A, USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Members of the public should enter the building through the Jefferson Drive entrance. Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to the contact person at USDA, Office of the Deputy Secretary, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, Telephone (202) 720–3817; Fax (202) 690–4265; E-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The eleventh meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for January 5–6, 2006. The AC21 consists of 19 members representing the biotechnology industry, international plant genetics research,

farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, and academic researchers. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative serve as “ex officio” members.

At this meeting, the Committee will aim to complete major work on a paper examining the impacts of agricultural biotechnology on American agriculture and USDA over the next 5 to 10 years, through review and revision of the current draft Chair’s text for the paper, and prepare for future work of the committee.

Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/agencies/biotech/ac21.html>. On January 5, 2006, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Harmon at (202) 720–4074, by fax at (202) 720–3191 or by e-mail at dharmon@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Bernice Slutsky,

Special Assistant for Biotechnology.

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BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta-Trinity National Forest; California; Gemmill Thin

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Shasta-Trinity National Forest proposes to thin trees and reduce

existing fuels on approximately 1,700 acres of National Forest System lands in the Gemmill Thin project. The project is in T.29 and 30 N., R.10 and 11 W., Mt. Diablo Meridian, immediately north and east of the community of Wildwood, California and south of Chanchelulla Wilderness and Roadless areas. Treatments will consist of thinning harvest to remove competing understory trees, road restoration, and removal of small trees and shrubs to protect and enhance an area designated by the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) as Late Successional Reserve (LSR). The project falls within a 4,800 acre analysis area which includes all or portions of Hall City Creek, Wilson Creek and Chanchelulla Creek. These creeks and many of their tributaries are also identified within the LRMP as Riparian Reserves (RR).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received no later than 30 days after the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in January 2006 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in April 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Gemmill Thin Comments, South Fork Management Unit, P.O. Box 159, Hayfork, CA 96041.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Carrothers, Gemmill Thin IDT Lead, South Fork Management Unit, P.O. Box 159, Hayfork at (530) 628–5227 or visit the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity/projects>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The Gemmill Thin project responds to two problems within the Upper Hayfork Creek fifth field watershed and Chanchelulla late successional reserve (LSR). 1) There is less late successional old growth (LSOG) habitat than desired; 2) The risk of losing existing and developing LSOG habitat to wildfire is increasing. Thinning the forest will improve the growing conditions for the remaining trees by making more sunlight, water and other nutrients available for use. Tree health and growth in the treated sounds would improve; LSOG habitat would develop at a faster rate. Ladder fuels, the small conifers, shrubs and hardwoods in the understory, provide a