

on both developed and dispersed recreation; effects on air resources; effects on water resources, including wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas, culinary and municipal water systems, and groundwater; effects on visual resources; effects of leasing stipulations and mitigation measures on oil and gas exploration and development activity; effects on soils and geologic hazards; effects on cultural and traditional heritage resources; effects on transportation; effects on upland vegetation; effects on riparian vegetation; effects on inventoried roadless areas; effects on other mineral resource extraction activities; and effects on noxious weeds and invasive species.

#### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

#### Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45-days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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 draft environmental impact statements 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 environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statement 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.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

**Dan S. Dallas,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

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Dated: January 27, 2006.

**Paul Hart,**

*Designated Federal Official, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### Forest Service

#### Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Oregon Coast and Willamette Province Advisory Committee will meet in Corvallis, OR, February 22, 2006. The theme of the meeting is Introduction/Overview and Business Planning. The agenda includes: NW Forest Plan, BLM RMP Presentation, and Public Comment.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held February 22, 2006, beginning at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the LaSells Stewart Center, 100 LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joni Quarnstrom, Public Affairs Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, 541-750-7075, or write to Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor, P.O. Box 1148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Council Discussion is limited to Forest Service/BLM staff and Council Members. Lunch will be on your won. A public input session will be at 11:30 for fifteen minutes. The meeting is expected to adjourn around 4 p.m.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

**Mary Zuschlag,**

*Supervisory Wildlife Biologist.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### Forest Service

#### Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Red Bluff, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Go Over Applications Received, (5) Hammer Loop Phase I