

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.

[FR Doc. E6-1397 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 at the Chelan County Fire District #1 Sunnyslope Fire Station, 206 Easy Street, Wenatchee, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. During this meeting we will become acquainted with the collaborative learning process. Members will recommend how collaborative learning might be used to develop a land allocation option for public consideration during the preparation of a revised forest plan for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. All Eastern Washington Cascades and Yakima Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-664-9200.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

Paul Hart,

Designated Federal Official, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

[FR Doc. 06-953 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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 own. 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.

[FR Doc. 06-954 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

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

Report, (6) Chairman's Perspective, (7) General Discussion, (8) County Update, (9) Next Agenda, (10) Lassen Approved Projects Report.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 9, 2006 from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. 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) 968-5329; 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 may 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 February 6, 2006 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

Janet Flanagan,

Acting Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 06-958 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, Kamiah, ID, USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests' North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Friday, February 24th, 2006, in Lewiston, Idaho for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on February 24th, 2006, will be held at the Idaho State

Fish and Game Office, 3316 16th Street, Lewiston, Idaho, beginning at 10 a.m. (PST). Agenda topics will include discussion of potential projects. A public forum will begin at 2:30 p.m. (PST).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ihor Mereszczak, Staff Officer and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 935-2513.

Dated: January 25, 2006.

Ihor Mereszczak,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-976 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decisions (ROD) for Williamson River Delta Restoration Project

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Williamson River Delta Restoration Project.

SUMMARY: This notice presents the Record of Decision (ROD) regarding the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implementation of the Williamson River Delta Restoration Project to allow NRCS to restore habitat diversity for endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers. NRCS prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Williamson River Delta Restoration Project and published it on the Oregon NRCS Web site. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the FEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 2005 and all agencies and individuals who expressed interest in the project. Printed and CD-ROM versions of the FEIS were made available and delivered to all those who requested. This Decision Notice summarizes the environmental, social and economic impacts of the Williamson River Delta Restoration Project alternatives identified in the FEIS that were considered in making this decision, and explains why NRCS selected the Preferred Alternative. The Williamson River Delta Restoration Project FEIS and this ROD may be accessed via the Internet on the Oregon NRCS Web site at: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/features/klamath.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Conroy, Basin Team Leader, 2316

South 6th St., Suite C, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601; 541-883-6924 ext. 115; 541-882-9044 (FAX).

DATES: Implementation of the project will begin no earlier than 30 days after the date of publication.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

Danny Burgett,

Acting State Conservationist, Portland, Oregon.

Record of Decision

I. The Decision

Preferred Alternative—As a Means of Accomplishing the Williamson River Delta Restoration Project

The Williamson River Delta Restoration Project (Project) will restore habitat considered essential for the recovery of two federally endangered fish species—the Lost River and shortnose suckers (suckers)—native to Upper Klamath Lake and the Williamson River. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) completed a detailed analysis of the Project alternatives. This included a thorough evaluation of the resource areas affected by the Project and a comprehensive review of public comments submitted based on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Preferred Alternative was selected as the most effective means to meet the purpose and need of the Project, which in summary is to restore and maintain the diversity of habitats that are essential to the endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers while, at the same time, minimizing disturbance and adverse impacts to natural and cultural resources. The need for the proposed action is to increase habitat for suckers. Suckers historically used the wetland habitats on the delta but these areas were eliminated when levees were constructed around the delta and the wetlands converted to agricultural uses.

The preferred alternative included mitigation and monitoring and enforcement actions as part of the decision.

Mitigation: Adverse impacts associated with the Preferred Alternative will be minimized to the extent practical, and techniques to mitigate these impacts will be implemented as described herein and in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDA 2005).

Erosion control best management practices (BMPs) will be utilized to minimize adverse impacts to water quality potentially occurring as a result of construction activities. BMPs may include seasoning exposed areas (allowing vegetation to establish),