

540 plots accessed by helicopter and 373 plots accessed by day hiking. Inventory protocol includes completing 10 percent of the plots each year. This means that approximately 91 plots will be inventoried each year. Of these 91 plots, about 54 plots will be accessed by helicopter. Each inventory plot accessed by helicopter will require two landings. In any given year, these 54 plots will spread out across 7.8 million acres in 19 wilderness areas on the Tongass National Forest and one wilderness study area on the Chugach National Forest.

DATES: To be most useful, comments should be received within 30 days of this notice. A draft EIS is planned to be available for comment in April 2006, with a final EIS anticipated by September 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to the USDA Forest Service, Alaska Regional Office, Ecosystem Planning Staff, ATTN: Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Helicopters in Wilderness EIS, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99802-1628. Comments may also be sent via facsimile to (907) 586-7852 or via E-mail to: Comments-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Post, IDT Leader, Alaska Regional Office, Ecosystem Planning Staff, (907) 586-8796.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The proposed project encompasses 19 wilderness areas on the Tongass National Forest and the Nellie Juan—College Fiord wilderness study area (WSA) on the Chugach National Forest. The Chugach National Forest Plan states that the WSA is to be managed to maintain and protect the existing (1984) wilderness character. A Minimum Requirement Decision Guide (MRDG) was completed in 2005. Based on the analysis in the MRDG, the Regional Forester determined that helicopters were the minimum tool needed to accomplish the inventory on some of the plots.

Public Participation

Public participation has been an integral component of the study process and will continue to be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service has already begun a consultation process with Tribal Governments and will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. Issues identified so

far for analysis in the EIS include: The use and noise from helicopters accessing plots could compromise the area's wilderness character and visitor experience; the noise from helicopters accessing plots could impact wildlife; accessing all the sites on foot would expose the employees to potential injury while traveling in the steep, wet terrain with heavy packs.

Based on results of scoping to date, six alternatives have been identified that range from no helicopter access to helicopter access for all the inventory plots. All comments received are being considered in the analysis including comments received prior to this notice. No formal meetings are planned at this time.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date of 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). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage 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 of 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 environmental impact 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 in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within seven days.

Responsible Official: Dennis E. Bschor, Regional Forester, Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska, is the responsible official.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

Beth Giron Pendleton,

Acting Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 06-1002 Filed 2-2-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on March 2, 2006, at the U.S. Forest Service Office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998 (64 FR 2876), is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 2, 2006, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Forest Service Office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Marceron or Arla Hains, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 543-2773.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Items to be covered on the agenda include: (1) Tahoe Working Group Report; (2) Update on Erosion Control Grants; and, (3) Public Comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend at the above address. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Terri Marceron,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Meeting of the Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board will hold a meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

The meeting agenda includes the following:

- (1) Welcome/Introductions/Agenda.
- (2) Appreciative Inquiry Session about LBL/Environmental Education.
- (3) Land and Resource Management Plan.
- (4) LBL Updates.
- (5) Board Discussion of Comments Received.

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments are invited and may be mailed to: William P. Lisowsky, Area Supervisor, Land Between the Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211. Written comments

must be received at Land Between the Lakes by February 20, 2006, in order for copies to be provided to the members at the meeting. Board members will review written comments received, and at their request, oral clarification may be requested at a future meeting.

DATE: The meeting will be held on February 28, 2006, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., CST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Stewart County Public Library, Dover, TN, and will be open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Byers, Advisory Board Liaison, Land Between the Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211, 270-924-2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Dated: January 20, 2006.

William P. Lisowsky,
Area Supervisor, Land Between the Lakes.

[FR Doc. E6-1469 Filed 2-2-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Revision

Manti-La Sal National Forest in Utah, Juab, Emery, Carbon, Sanpete, Grand, San Juan and Sevier counties in Utah, and Mesa and Montrose counties in Colorado.

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Adjustment to **Federal Register** Notice Vol. 67, No. 86, p. 22397, May 3, 2002, and Vol. 69, No. 205, p. 62244, October 25, 2004, and transition to the 2005 Planning Rule at 36 CFR 219 (FR, Vol. 70, No. 3. / January 5, 2005, 1023).

SUMMARY: The Manti-La Sal National Forest (Forest) will exercise its option to adjust the land management plan revision process from compliance with the 1982 planning regulations, to conform to new planning regulations adopted in January 2005. This adjustment will have the following effects:

1. The 2005 Planning Rule redefines forest plans to be more strategic and flexible to better facilitate adaptive management and public collaboration.
2. The 2005 Planning Rule focuses more on the goals of ecological, social, and economic sustainability and less on prescriptive means of producing goods and services.

3. The Responsible Official who will approve the final plan will be the Forest Supervisor instead of the Regional Forester.

4. The Forest will establish an Environmental Management System (EMS) (per ISO 14001:2004(E)) prior to approval of the revised forest plan.

5. The emphasis of public involvement will be a collaborative effort between the public and the Forest Service to incorporate the most desirable management options into a single broadly supported management direction package that will become the forest plan.

6. Administrative review will change from a post-decision appeals process to a pre-decision objection process.

7. Because the Forest will not be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for revision of the forest plan, interim management strategies will be developed for the fourteen river segments identified as eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) System. The suitability of these river segments for inclusion in the WSR System will be addressed in an appropriate environmental document after the revised forest plan is approved.

8. Because an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for this revision, oil and gas leasing decisions will not be made. Instead, the revised forest plan will include general guidelines for mineral operations, including oil and gas, which will be considered as appropriate for areas currently available for leasing to protect resource values while providing appropriate access for exploration and development activities. Decisions regarding areas administratively available for lease and lease stipulations will be addressed in a separate environmental document(s) prepared either concurrently with the revision process or following approval of the revised forest plan.

Public Involvement: Public participation and collaboration (including more than 34 public meetings) has been ongoing. Current information and details of public participation opportunities are posted on the Forest Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects>. Contact Linda Crawley at (435) 636-3558, or e-mail lcrawley@fs.fed.us to be added to the forest plan revision mailing list.

ADDRESSES: Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 W. Price River Dr., Price, UT 84501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marlene DePietro, Planning and Recreation Group Leader, Manti-La Sal