

entirety. 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. Comments and FS responses will be addressed and contained in the Final EIS.

#### **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 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.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21.

Dated: March 11, 2008.

**Larry R. Velarde,**

*Acting District Ranger.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

## **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 April 4, 2008, at the Aspen Room, Lake Tahoe Community College, One 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 April 4, 2008, beginning at 1 p.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Aspen Room, Lake Tahoe Community College, One College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** 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) Final recommendation for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 9 Capital projects; and, (2) Public Hearing. 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.

Dated: March 13, 2008.

**Gina Thompson,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Forest Service**

#### **New Mexico Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New Mexico Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel will meet in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The purpose of the meeting is to provide recommendations to the Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region, on which forest restoration grant proposals submitted in response to the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Request For Proposals best meet the objectives of the Community Forest Restoration Act (Title VI, Pub. L. No. 106-393).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held April 21-25, 2008, beginning at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 21 and ending at approximately 4 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107, Tel. 505-884-2511. Written comments should be sent to Walter Dunn, at the Cooperative and International Forestry Staff, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to [wdunn@fs.fed.us](mailto:wdunn@fs.fed.us), or via facsimile to Walter Dunn at (505) 842-3165.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Cooperative and International Forestry Staff, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, or during the Panel meeting at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107, Tel. 505-884-2511.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Walter Dunn, Designated Federal Official, at (505) 842-3425, or Melissa Zaksek, at (505) 842-3289, Cooperative and International Forestry Staff, USDA