

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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting to go on a field trip. The meeting is being held 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 meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The field trip will start on June 24, 2008, 6 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The field trip will meet at the Bitterroot National Forest, 1801 N. First Street, Hamilton, Montana in the back parking lot to team up for the car pool. Send written comments to Daniel C. Ritter, District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870, by facsimile (406) 777-7423, or electronically to [dritter@fs.fed.us](mailto:dritter@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel G. Ritter, Stevensville District Ranger and Designated Federal Officer, Phone: (406) 777-5461.

Dated: June 12, 2008.

**Barry Paulson,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Nebraska National Forest, Nebraska & South Dakota; Black-Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) Management on the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Second revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** This project would amend current management direction in the Nebraska National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) management on the Nebraska National Forest and associated units (NNF). The proposed LRMP amendment is to meet various multiple use objectives by: (1) Specifying the desired range of acres of prairie dog colonies that would be provided on the Nebraska National Forest and associated units; and (2) allowing the use of rodenticides if the acreage exceeds the desired range and for multiple use objectives. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to supplement the 2002 LRMP environmental impact statement (EIS) for this project was published September 29, 2006 (71 FR 57460-57462). On February 28, 2007 (72 FR 8962) a revised NOI was published indicating that the Agency would not be preparing a supplement to the 2002 LRMP EIS but would be preparing a separate environmental impact statement for black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) management on the Nebraska National Forest and associated units. This EIS would tier to 2002 LRMP. More than six months have elapsed since the projected FEIS date in that original NOI. Also, the responsible official has changed to Jane Darnell, Forest Supervisor (no change in title). This revised NOI is being issued to update the project schedule and responsible official.

**DATES:** The Notice of Availability of the draft environmental impact statement was published in the **Federal Register** on June 8, 2007 (72 FR 31822). The final environmental impact statement is expected in July, 2008. No further formal public comment opportunities will be offered on this project.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike McNeill, Team Leader, USDA Forest Service, at 1801 Hwy 18 Truck Bypass PO Box 732, Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747, or call (605) 745-4107.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose and Need for Action:* We conducted an interdisciplinary review of new information and changed circumstances from the original LRMP FEIS including prolonged drought conditions, changes in prairie dog numbers and distribution, and related concerns about resulting vegetation and soil conditions. The environmental impact statement will disclose the environmental effects of the proposed action while still providing: (1) Sufficient habitat to support a self-sustaining population of black-footed ferrets that contributes to the overall recovery of the species; and (2) sufficient habitat to maintain a well-distributed population of black-tailed prairie dogs and other associated species across the national grasslands.

*Proposed Action:* The proposed action is to amend current management direction in the LRMP to meet various multiple use objectives by: (1) Specifying the desired range of acres of prairie dog colonies that will be provided on the NNF; and (2) allowing use of rodenticide if the acreage exceeds the desired range and for multiple use objectives. This includes amending Chapter 1, Section H, Standard #1 which identifies a limited use of rodenticides.

*Issues:* Key issues include effects on black-tailed prairie dogs; effects on recovery of the endangered black-footed ferret; effects on other wildlife species associated with prairie dogs; effects on livestock grazing permittees; effects on vegetation cover, topsoil, and undesirable plant species; and costs and effectiveness of management strategies.

#### Responsible Official

The Responsible Official is Jane D. Darnell, Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service, 125 North Main Street, Chadron, Nebraska 69337.

#### Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Service will decide whether or not to amend current management direction in the LRMP to meet various multiple use objectives by: (1) specifying the desired range of acres of prairie dog colonies that will be