

Committee meeting when sufficient time is allowed in advance to do so.

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Done at Washington, DC, on March 6, 2009.

Bryce Quick,

Deputy Administrator, FSIS.

[FR Doc. E9-5308 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Galena Project, Malheur National Forest, Grant County, OR

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose environmental effects on a proposed action to improve forest health and reduce the fire hazard within the Vinegar Creek and Little Boulder/Deerhorn Creek subwatersheds. The Galena Project planning area, located approximately 2 miles west of Bates, Oregon, encompasses approximately 38,200 acres of National Forest System Lands administered by the Blue Mountain Ranger District, Malheur National Forest.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by April 13, 2009. The draft environmental impact statement is expected August, 2009 and the final environmental impact statement is expected December, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to the Responsible Official, Doug Gochnour, Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, P.O. Box 909, John Day, Oregon 97845. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur@fs.fed.us or via facsimile to 541-575-3002.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and

considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Wunz, Project Manager, Malheur National Forest, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, P.O. Box 909, John Day, Oregon, telephone 541-575-3167, e-mail ewunz@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need of the Galena project is to improve the forest health and reduce the fire hazard within the Vinegar Creek and Little Boulder/Deerhorn Creek subwatersheds.

Proposed Action

This action includes precommercial thinning on approximately 2,800 acres, commercial harvest on approximately 6,900 acres, and underburning on approximately 24,000 acres. Harvest methods would include ground-based and skyline logging systems. Several roads are to be relocated out of riparian areas, resulting in new road construction in some locations. Other road activities include maintenance and reconstruction of existing roads, opening and re-closing existing closed roads, and building short temporary roads that are to be decommissioned after use. No commercial harvest or road construction is proposed within Appendix C Inventoried Dixie Butte and Vinegar Hill-Indian Rock Roadless Areas. Two Forest Plan amendments would be included that would allow reduction of satisfactory cover on 128 acres in the warm dry forest type and to add additional designated and replacement old growth stands to meet current Forest Plan standards.

Possible Alternatives

Alternatives will include the proposed action, no action, and additional alternatives that respond to issues generated during the scoping process. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process to interested and affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision.

Responsible Official and Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official is Doug Gochnour, Forest Supervisor of the

Malheur National Forest, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR 97845. The Responsible Official will decide if the proposed project will be implemented and will document the decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations. The responsibility for preparing the DEIS and FEIS has been delegated to Brooks Smith, District Ranger, Blue Mountain Ranger District.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues identified include the potential effect of the proposed action on: Soils, water quality and fish habitat, snags and down wood, disturbance to cultural resources, potential for noxious weed expansion, threatened, endangered and sensitive aquatic, terrestrial and plant species, potential loss of economic value of trees damaged by insects or wildfire, and the safety and use of the area by public and land managers.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis, beginning with the scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7). Initial scoping began with the project listed in the 2009 Winter Edition of the Malheur National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions. A Public meeting has been planned for April 8, 2009 to discuss the project. Also, correspondence with tribes, government agencies, organizations, and individuals who have indicated their interest will be conducted.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review.

Dated: March 6, 2009.

Doug Gochnour,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E9-5364 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

National Tree-Marking Paint Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Tree-marking Paint Committee will meet in Chicago, Illinois, on May 12-14, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss activities related to improvements in, concerns about, and the handling and use of tree-marking paint by personnel of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 12-14, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601. Persons who wish to file written comments before or after the meeting must send written comments to Dave Haston, Chairman, National Tree-marking Paint Committee, Forest Service, USDA, San Dimas Technology and Development Center, 444 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas, CA 91773, or electronically to dhaston@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Haston, Sr. Project Leader, San Dimas Technology and Development Center, Forest Service, USDA, (909) 599-1267, extension 294 or dhaston@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Tree-marking Paint Committee comprises representatives from the Forest Service National Headquarters, each of the nine Forest Service regions, the Forest Products Laboratory, the Forest Service San Dimas Technology and Development Center, and the Bureau of Land Management. The General Services Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health are ad hoc members and provide technical advice to the committee.

A field trip will be held on May 12 and is designed to supplement information related to tree-marking paint. This year the National Tree-marking Paint Committee will conduct a security inspection of the paint manufacturer and therefore the field trip is only open to committee members.

The main session of the meeting, which is open to public attendance, will be held on May 13-14.

Closed Sessions

While certain segments of this meeting are open to the public, there

will be two closed sessions during the meeting. The first closed session is planned for approximately 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 13, 2009. This session is reserved for individual paint manufacturers to present products and information about tree-marking paint for consideration in future testing and use by the agency. Paint manufacturers also may provide comments on tree-marking paint specifications or other requirements. This portion of the meeting is open only to paint manufacturers, the Committee, and Committee staff to ensure that trade secrets will not be disclosed to other paint manufacturers or to the public. Paint manufacturers wishing to make presentations to the Tree-marking Paint Committee during the closed session should contact the Committee chairperson at the telephone number listed at **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in this notice. The second closed session is planned for approximately 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 14, 2009. This session is reserved for Steering Committee members only.

Any person with special access needs should contact the Chairperson to make those accommodations. Space for individuals who are not members of the National Tree-marking Paint Committee is limited and will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dated: March 6, 2009.

Richard W. Sowa,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. E9-5341 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Applications for Rural Business Opportunity Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of grants of up to \$50,000 per application from the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2009, to be competitively awarded. For multi-state projects, grant funds of up to \$150,000 will be available on a competitive basis. These limits do not apply to specific funding for certain specifically designated rural areas as discussed below. This notice is being issued prior to passage of a final