

action and other alternatives that are analyzed. After providing the public an opportunity to comment on the specific activities described in the alternatives, the Responsible Officials will review all alternatives and the anticipated environmental consequences of each in order to make the following decisions:

- Whether or not to authorize livestock grazing within the Analysis Area in whole or in part.

- If grazing is to be Authorized, (a) what grazing systems and prescribed livestock use would be implemented; (b) what structural and non-structural range improvements would be necessary; and (c) what type of monitoring program would be proposed.

- If necessary, identify any "mitigation measure(s)" needed to implement the decision.

Individual Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) would then be developed to incorporate conditions outlined in the Record of Decision. These AMPs will become part of each associated term permit and/or grazing agreement issued.

**Public Scoping Process:** Comments and input regarding this proposal were requested from the public, other groups and agencies via direct mailing on March 10, 2008. Comments received during this first scoping process have been made part of the project record and will be addressed in the analysis process. With this second revised NOI, additional comments were received by July 30, 2010. Anyone who has provided comments to the draft EIS or expressed interest during the two comment periods will have standing in the process.

Public involvement will be especially important at several points during the analysis, beginning with the scoping process. The Forest Service will seek information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, Tribes, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposal. The scoping activities will include: (1) Engaging potentially affected or interested parties by written correspondence, (2) contacting those on our Forest media list, and (3) hosting public information meeting(s).

#### Preliminary Issues

Effects of proposed management strategies on natural ecosystems. This includes elements such as native and desirable nonnative plant and animal communities; black-tailed prairie dog management; riparian areas; upland grasslands; wooded draws; ponderosa pine forested areas; areas of hazardous fuels; and threatened, endangered, sensitive, and management indicator

species. Social-economic effects (positive or negative) on livestock grazing permittees and the local economy from changes in livestock management. Effects of proposed livestock grazing strategies on recreational activities and/or experiences.

**Comment Requested:** The notice of intent published on June 11, 2010, initiated the formal scoping process that guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Initial public comments were due and have been received by July 30, 2010.

**Early Notice of Importance for Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review:** A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) 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 document. 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: June 15, 2011.

**Jane D. Darnell,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting on July 8, 2011 in Quincy, CA. The purpose of the meeting is to review applications for Cycle 11 funding and select projects to be recommended to the Plumas National Forest Supervisor for calendar year 2012 funding consideration. The funding is made available under Title II provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place from 9–1:30 at the Mineral Building-Plumas/Sierra County Fairgrounds, 208 Fairgrounds Road, Quincy, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** (or for special needs): Lee Anne Schramel Taylor, Forest Coordinator, USDA, Plumas National Forest, P.O. Box 11500/159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971; (530) 283-7850; or by e-mail [eataylor@fs.fed.us](mailto:eataylor@fs.fed.us). Other RAC information may be obtained at <http://www.fs.fed.us/srs>.

Dated: June 15, 2011.

**Matt Janowiak,**

*Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor.*

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