

Notices

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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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Long Prong Project, Boise National Forest, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: The Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for an integrated resource management project in the headwaters of Clear Creek, a tributary of the North Fork Payette River below Cascade Reservoir. The project area is located 10 miles east of Cascade, Idaho, and about 100 miles north of Boise, Idaho.

The agency invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. The agency also hereby gives notice of the environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision. At this time, no public meetings to discuss the project are planned.

Proposed Action: Five primary objectives have been identified for the project: (1) Improve timber stand health so that stands are more resilient to damaging forest insects and diseases, and uncharacteristic wildfires; (2) improve long-term stand growth to or near levels indicative of sustainable forest; (3) provide wood products to support local economies and stumpage receipts sufficient to yield a significant positive return to the U.S. Treasury and trust funds; (4) reduce management-induced sediment by closing and/or rehabilitating roads that are not needed for long-term resource management, and; (5) where consistent with other project objectives, pursue opportunities to enhance aspen stands.

The Proposed Action would treat a total of 2,203 acres in the 67.637-acre Gold Fork/Clear Creek Management Area (MA 53). An estimated 13.0 MMBF of timber would be harvested using ground-based (857 acres), skyline (495 acres), and helicopter (851 acres) yarding systems. The Proposed Action would employ a variety of silvicultural prescriptions including clearcut with reserve trees (389 acres), commercial thin/sanitation (833 acres), final removal shelterwood (90 acres), sanitation/improvement (490 acres), seed cut shelterwood (110 acres), and commercial thin/final removal (291 acres). The existing transportation system would be improved to facilitate log haul and reduce sedimentation with individual sections of 2.6 miles of road being reconstructed. An estimated 1.4 miles of specified road and 0.4 mile of temporary road would be constructed to facilitate harvest. In addition, 1.6 miles of road not needed for the long-term management of the area would be decommissioned and 1.5 miles closed year-round to motorized use with the exception of snowmobiles.

Three 30-acre units would be treated to enhance aspen regeneration. All competing coniferous trees less than 20 inches in diameter would be cut down and the areas burned with a helitorch. Mature aspen may also need to be felled to create sufficient fuels to sustain the burn. No construction of fireline would be necessary on these sites.

Prescribed fire would be used on an area roughly 750 acres in size to reduce natural fuels, with a secondary objective of enhancing aspen rejuvenation. No construction of fireline would be necessary on this site.

Preliminary Issues: Preliminary concerns with the proposed action include: (1) potential loss of pileated woodpecker and boreal owl nesting habitat; (2) possible degradation of fisheries habitat, particularly in the East Fork of Clear Creek; (3) adverse impacts on recreational access, and; (4) impacts on the visual quality of the area.

Possible Alternatives to the Proposed Action: Three alternatives to the proposed action have been discussed thus far: (1) a no action alternative; (2) an alternative to mitigate potential impacts on pileated woodpecker and boreal owl nesting habitat, and; (3) an alternative that would mitigate increases in sediment delivery to the East Fork of

Clear Creek. Other alternatives may be developed as issues are identified and information received.

Decisions to be Made: The Boise National Forest Supervisor will decide the following: Should roads be built and timber harvested within the Long Prong Project Area at this time, and if so; where within the project area, and how many miles of road should be built; and which stands should be treated and what silvicultural systems should be used? What mitigation/watershed enhancement measures should be applied to the project? Should the decommissioning of portions of roads 405B and 405B2 and/or other existing roads be implemented at this time? Should prescribed fire be used in the project area at this time, and if so; where within the project area? Should aspen rejuvenation treatments be implemented in the project area at this time, and if so; where within the project area?

DATES: Written comments concerning the proposed project and analysis are encouraged and should be postmarked on or before May 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Steve Patterson, Cascade Ranger District, P.O. Box 696, Cascade, ID 83611. Comments received in response to this request will be available for public inspection and will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Further information can be obtained from Steve Patterson at the address mentioned above or by calling 208-382-7430.

Schedule: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), June 1999, Final Environmental Impact Statement, August 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A similar proposed action was scoped in November 1998 with the intention of preparing an environmental assessment (EA). In addition to public announcements in the "The Idaho Statesman" (November 21, 1998) and the "The Long Valley Advocate" (November 25, 1998), a scoping package describing the proposed action was mailed to 34 individuals and/or groups. In response to those scoping efforts, written comments were received from 10 interested parties. Comments received from those efforts will be incorporated into this analysis.

The comment period on the DEIS 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 the DEIS 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 DEIS stage but are not raised until after completion of the FEIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1002 (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 DEIS 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 FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft 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.

Responsible Official

David D. Rittenhouse, Forest Supervisor, Boise National Forest, 1249 South Vinnel Way, Boise, ID 83709.

Dated: April 7, 1999.

David D. Rittenhouse,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-9385 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Michigan Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the

Michigan Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 1999, at the Marriott Hotel, Renaissance Center, Renaissance Drive off East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48243. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss civil rights issues and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Roland Hwang, 517-373-1476, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, April 5, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 99-9418 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the New Hampshire Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the New Hampshire Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. on May 6, 1999, at the Nashua Senior High School Auditorium, 36 Riverside Drive, Nashua, New Hampshire 03062. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a consultation on civil rights in police/community relations and equal educational opportunities in public schools as part of its project, *A Biennial Report on the Status of Civil Rights in New Hampshire*.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Acting Chairperson Patricia Taylor, 603-883-5813, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, April 8, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 99-9420 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Utah Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Utah Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 6:00 p.m. and adjourn at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 1999, at the Ogden Park Hotel, 247 24th Street, Ogden, Utah. The purpose of the meeting is to brief members on regional and commission activities, statewide issues, and the Wiesenthal Conference.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact John Dulles, Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 303-866-1040 (TDD 303-866-1049). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, April 8, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 99-9419 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Miscellaneous Activities

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).