

about 37% is secondary range. The sixth pasture, the Grayling Unit, is an on-off pasture. This pasture involves 3 separate parcels of Forest Service property (totaling 65 acres) that are used in combination with adjacent private property. The on-off parcels are currently authorized as continuous grazing.

Comments will be used to identify issues that should be addressed in environmental analysis. The analysis is being conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is designed to inform the Responsible Official of the potential environmental consequences of continued livestock grazing on this allotment. The Responsible Official for this decision is the Hebgen Lake District Ranger. The analysis will also advise of any changes in grazing practices that should be considered.

Cattle grazing around the West Yellowstone area is recognized to be controversial since it influences management practice adopted to prevent the transmission of brucellosis to cattle from bison migrating out of Yellowstone Park (Interagency Bison Management Plan, 12/2000).

The purpose of proposing re-issuance of a livestock grazing permit on the Horse Butte allotment is to continue to allow for this economic activity. Livestock grazing has been an important use of lands within and around the Gallatin National Forest since the 1800's. Grazing has been authorized since the formation of the Gallatin National Forest in the early 1900's and it continues to be an important part of the region's economy today. The Gallatin Forest Plan (1987) set goals and objectives for management of rangeland habitats and livestock grazing. The applicable management area goal for this area is to provide forage for livestock consistent with meeting grizzly bear mortality reduction goals as established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (Forest Plan, MA 15, pg. III-47). The decision to be made now is whether to re-issue the livestock grazing permit and if so, under what conditions.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands will be considered.

The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations

who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. No public meetings are scheduled at this time. Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of a Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in the fall of 2003. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in this proposal participate at that time. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by summer of 2004.

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 30-day scoping 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 developing issues and alternatives. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues, comments should be as specific to this proposal as possible. 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.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Gallatin National Forest, PO Box 130, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Dated: December 6, 2001.

Rebecca Heath,

Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest.

[FR Doc. 01-30664 Filed 12-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on January 9, 2001 in Redding, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 9, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Headquarters Conference Room, 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Pena, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, CA 96001. Phone: (530) 242-2201. E-mail: jpena@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the second meeting of the committee, and will focus on developing an overall strategy for selecting Title II projects. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: December 4, 2001.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-30643 Filed 12-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC); Meeting

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on January 7, 2002 in Weaverville, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II

projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 7, 2002 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Trinity County Public Utilities District Conference Room, 26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Andersen, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093. Phone: (530) 623-2121. E-mail: jandersen@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the third meeting of the committee and will focus on developing an overall strategy for selecting Title II projects. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: December 4, 2001.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-30642 Filed 12-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

South Mississippi Electric Power Association; Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request from South Mississippi Electric Power Association for assistance to finance the construction of a 255 megawatt electric generating station in Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468, fax (202) 720-0820, e-mail at bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: No comments were received by RUS via e-mail or telephone during the 30-day comment period which closed on November 30, 2001. However, mail service to the U.S. Department of

Agriculture has been disrupted during the comment period due to screening of mail for potential anthrax contamination. Any person that sent written comments on the environmental assessment through the U.S. Postal Service to RUS during the comment period should contact RUS at the telephone number listed above within 5 working days of this notice to ensure their comments are considered prior to project construction. Should RUS conclude that any written comments that may have been submitted during the official comment period warrant further review and would cause reconsideration of RUS' decision, the public would be so notified. Otherwise, this FONSI notice will serve as the final public notice of this project.

The project is to be named the Silver Creek Generating Station. South Mississippi Electric Power Association proposes to construct the generating station. The station site is located approximately 6 miles east of Silver Creek in Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi. The plant and associated facilities will include 3 GE 7EAs, a 115 kV switchyard and substation, approximately 6 miles of 115 kV transmission line, a natural gas metering station, and approximately 0.5 miles of natural gas pipeline.

Copies of the FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Joey Ward, South Mississippi Electric Power Association, 7037 U.S. Highway 49, North, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404-5849, telephone (601) 268-2083. Mr. Ward's e-mail address is jward@smepa.com.

Alfred Rodgers,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Electric Program.

[FR Doc. 01-30743 Filed 12-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

South Mississippi Electric Power Association; Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request from South Mississippi Electric Power Association for assistance to finance the construction of a 129 megawatt electric

generating station in Smith County, Mississippi.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468, fax (202) 720-0820, e-mail at bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: No comments were received by RUS via e-mail or telephone during the 30-day comment period which closed on November 10, 2001. However, mail service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been disrupted during the comment period due to screening of mail for potential anthrax contamination. Any person that sent written comments on the environmental assessment through the U.S. Postal Service to RUS during the comment period should contact RUS at the telephone number listed above within 5 working days of this notice to ensure their comments are considered prior to project construction. Should RUS conclude that any written comments that may have been submitted during the official comment period warrant further review and would cause reconsideration of RUS' decision, the public would be so notified. Otherwise, this FONSI notice will serve as the final public notice of this project.

The project is to be named the Sylvarena Generating Station. South Mississippi Electric Power Association proposes to construct the generating station. The station site is located approximately 3 miles southwest of Sylvarena in Smith County, Mississippi. The plant and associated facilities will include 3 General Electric LM6000 simple cycle combustion turbines, a 69 kV electrical switchyard and substation, approximately 7 miles of new 69 kV transmission line, rebuilding and upgrading of existing 69 kV transmission lines, a natural gas metering station, approximately 1.5 miles of natural gas pipeline, and a guyed microwave tower.

Copies of the FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Joey Ward, South Mississippi Electric Power Association, 7037 U.S. Highway 49, North, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404-5849, telephone