

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 38

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

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

Payette National Forest, Idaho; Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Comment Period Extension for Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The comment period has been extended for the proposed Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Notice of Availability of the DEIS as published in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2003, (Volume 68, Number 2).

DATES: Comments concerning the analysis must be received in writing and postmarked by March 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions to Forest Supervisor, c/o Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 1026, McCall, Idaho 83638, fax (208) 634-0744.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Dixon, Interdisciplinary Team Leader; or Kimberly Brandel, New Meadows District Ranger at (208) 347-0300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The comment period ending February 24, 2003, has been extended to March 9, 2003, to provide time for public comment. This DEIS is available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/Payette/main.html>. Substantive comments received during the comment period will receive agency response in the final environmental impact statement.

Dated: February 19, 2003.

Mark Madrid,

Payette Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-4482 Filed 2-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

EastBridge Allotment Range Analysis; Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Caribou and Bonneville Counties, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Soda Springs Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, will be preparing an Environmental Impact State (EIS) to analyze the effects of authorizing grazing on several cattle allotments. Allotment Management Plans for the: Bridge Creek, Jackknife, Tincup, Stump Creek, and Salt Lick Cattle Allotments will be updated based on the analysis. The project area is located within Caribou and Bonneville counties in Idaho and in Lincoln County, Wyoming.

The Jackknife, Tincup, Stump Creek, and Salt Lick Cattle Allotments are located approximately 35 miles northeast of Soda Springs. They are in Townships 4, 5, and 6 South, Ranges 45 and 46 East. A small part of the Tincup and Stump Creek Allotments are in Wyoming (Townships 33 and 34 North, Range 118 West). The Bridge Creek Allotment is located approximately ten miles west of the Jackknife Allotment in Townships 4 and 5 South, Ranges 43 and 44 East.

The EIS will display the effects of authorizing cattle grazing on these allotments. Public comments will be used to identify issues and possible alternative management options. The purpose and need for this action is to utilize the opportunity to manage existing cattle grazing under updated management direction to move existing resource conditions to desired states within the project area. The EIS will outline standards and guidelines for livestock management, which will be used to revise Allotment Management Plans for each allotment. The EIS and subsequent revision of the Allotment Management Plans will bring these allotments into compliance with Public Law 104 of the Rescissions Act, and other applicable laws and regulations. Based on the environmental analysis in the EIS, the District Ranger will decide whether to authorize domestic livestock grazing under proposed management direction on the project area's suitable

rangelands, and if so, what changes need to be made to the representative Allotment Management Plans in accordance with Forest Plan goals, objectives, and desired future conditions.

DATES: Written comments concerning the analysis should be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Soda Springs Ranger District, Attn: David Whittekiend, 421 West 2nd South, Soda Springs, Idaho 83276. The responsible official for this decision is David Whittekiend, District Ranger.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to Victor Bradfield, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 547-4356.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS and subsequent revision of the Allotment Management Plans will bring these allotments into compliance with Public Law 104, and other applicable laws and regulations.

The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS. For most effective use, comments should be submitted to the Forest Service within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

Agency representatives and other interested people are invited to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the EIS process. Two specific times periods are identified for the receipt of formal comments on the analysis. The two comment periods are, (1) during the scoping process, the next 30 days following publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, and (2) during the formal review period of the Draft EIS.

The Forest Service estimates the Draft EIS will be filed within 6 months of this Notice of Intent, approximately May 2003. The Final EIS will be filed within 6 months of that date, approximately October 2003.

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 intentions.

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 environmental impact statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the 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.)

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA, confidentiality may be

granted in only very limited circumstances such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

Dated: February 20, 2003.

David C. Whittekiend,

Soda Springs Ranger District.

[FR Doc. 03-4486 Filed 2-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Monday, March 17, 2003. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the South Room of the Stayton Community Center located on 400 West Virginia Street in Stayton, Oregon.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (Pub. L. 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA, and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. Tentative agenda items include information sharing on the following topics.

Update on SRA Management Plan appeal;
Process for recruitment and appointment of replacement Council members;
Review of draft Information Strategy Plan for implementing new use rules;
Finalize the monitoring plan;
Information on new trail proposals for the Transportation Plan;

Presentation of draft evacuation plan.

A direct public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to the March 17 meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Gina Owens at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Gina Owens; Williamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District, HC 73 Box 320, Mill City, OR 97360; (503) 854-3366.

Dated: February 20, 2003.

Dallas J. Emch,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-4488 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Glen/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Glen/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Willows, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Colusa Historical Society, (5) Revised Tracking Form/Possible Action, (6) Election of Officers, (7) Update on Absent Members, (8) How to Solicit Projects, (9) General Discussion, (10) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 31, 2003, from 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, P.O. Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited Forest Service staff and Committee members.