

secure habitat at 1998 levels through management of motorized access routes, with short-term deviations allowed under specific conditions, (2) do not exceed the number of commercial livestock allotments and the number of permitted domestic sheep Animal Months (AMs) from the 1998 level, and (3) manage developed sites at 1998 levels, with some exceptions for administrative and maintenance needs.

All standards apply only to the Recovery Area. Monitoring requirements in the Proposed Action include monitoring adherence to the above standards and monitoring changes in motorized access route density and habitat effectiveness.

Possible Alternatives

A range of alternatives that responds to issues developed during scoping will be considered. A reasonable range of alternatives will be evaluated and reasons will be given for eliminating some alternatives from detailed study, if that occurs. A no action alternative (forest plans would not be amended) will be considered. Written comments on the range of alternatives and their effects will be requested and considered with the draft EIS is released.

Responsible Officials

The Responsible Officials for this decision will be Thomas Reilly, Forest Supervisor, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, 420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725-5372; Nancy Curriden, Forest Supervisor, Custer National Forest, 1310 Main Street, Billings, MT 59105-1786; Becki Heath, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest, PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771-0130; Jerry Reese, Forest Supervisor, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401-2100; Kniffy Hamilton, Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest, PO Box 1888, Jackson, WY 83001-1888; and Rebecca Aus, Forest Supervisor, Shoshone National Forest, 808 Meadow Lane Avenue, Cody, WY 82414-4549. Rebecca Aus has been delegated the authority to direct the preparation of the environmental analysis.

Scoping Process

Public participation will be solicited by notifying people by mail. The first formal opportunity to comment is during the scoping process, which begins with the issuance of this notice of intent. Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. All comments, including the names and

addresses when provided, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection and copying at the Shoshone National Forest Supervisor's Office, 808 Meadow Lane Avenue, Cody, WY. The Forest Service will work with tribal governments to address issues concerning Indian tribal self-government and sovereignty, natural and cultural resources held in trust, Indian tribal treaty and Executive Order rights, and any issues that significantly or uniquely affect their communities.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement 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 on 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, 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: July 20, 2003.

Rebecca Aus,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Oregon Coast Province Advisory Committee will meet in Corvallis, OR, July 24, 2003. The theme of the meeting is Introduction/Overview/Business Planning. The agenda includes: Payments to Counties Update, Siuslaw Stewardship Pilot, PAC Subcommittee Presentation, Public Comment and Round Robin.

DATES: The meeting will be held July 24, 2003, beginning at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the LaSells Stewart Center, 100 LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joni Quarnstrom, Public Affairs Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, 514-750-7075, or write to Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor, P.O. Box 1148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Council Discussion is limited to Forest Service/BLM staff and Council Members. Lunch will be on your own. A public input session will be at 2:30 p.m. for fifteen minutes. The meeting is expected to adjourn around 3:30 p.m.

Dated: July 9, 2003.

Gloria D. Brown,

Forest Supervisor.

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