

# 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

#### California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on September 25 and 26, 2002, in Humboldt County, California. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct field monitoring relating to implementing the Northwest Forest Plan. Three Late Successional Reserve density management projects on federal lands will be monitored for compliance with Standards and Guidelines.

**DATES:** The monitoring field trip will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on September 25 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 26.

**ADDRESSES:** The September 25 field trip will begin at the Bureau of Land Management office, 1695 Heindon Rd., in Acrata, CA, and travel to Lacks Creek. The September 26 field trip will begin at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA, and travel to a project on the North Fork Eel River and a road decommissioning project on the national forest.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Phebe Brown, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA 95988, (530) 934-3316; e-mail [pybrown@fs.fed.us](mailto:pybrown@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee.

Dated: September 6, 2002.

**James Fenwood,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 02-23363 Filed 9-12-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Steamboat Mountain Mining Operations, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, OR

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in response to Vest-O-Land Enterprises, Inc.'s proposed Plan of Operations, for the purpose of establishing operational terms and conditions as deemed reasonable, and to in due course, promote the development of locatable mineral resources of the United States, as mandated by the Mining Law of 1872.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of this analysis should be received by October 15, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Erin Connelly, District Ranger, Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, 6941 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, Oregon, 97530-9314, FAX (541) 899-3888.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bengt Hamner, Assistant Lands Staff, Rogue River National Forest, (541) 858-2304, or Carol Spinos, Planner, Applegate Ranger District, (541) 899-3843.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the terms of the 1872 Mining Law, a mineral claimant, a k a Vest-O-Land Enterprises, Inc., proposes to exercise his exclusive, mineral extraction rights by conducting surface or "open pit" gold, platinum and roodium withdrawal, from overlapping Mining Claims #146192 and #146193 (DVT #3 and DVT #4). The location of the Steamboat Mountain Mining Operations in NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 20, Township 40 South, Range 4 West, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon. The proposed 8-acre operations site is located approximately .75 air miles south of Steamboat Mountain peak, between 3,000-3,200 feet above

sea level on National Forest System Lands. The claimant plans to facilitate mineral production over the next fifteen years by excavating an open pit area approximately 70-200 feet depth x 840 feet width. The Steamboat Mountain Mining Operations would provide for stages (year-by-year) excavation, resulting in the removal of over 4,400 cubic yards of bedrock annually. Initial clearing would include the incidental cutting of approximately 25-50 commercially valuable trees. Rock would be blasted, crushed, loaded on trucks with an excavator, and hauled off National Forest System Lands (estimate 5 semi-truck loads/day), along Forest Service Road 300 to County Road 777, for gold recovery processing off of national forest.

#### Proposed Action

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Rogue River National Forest, Applegate Ranger District, proposes to fulfill all legally mandated environmental analysis and statement requirements, including the establishment of operating terms and conditions. The application of operational terms and conditions are intended to direct mining operation mitigation and reclamation activities to minimize adverse effects on National Forest System surface resources (36 CFR 228.1).

#### Preliminary Alternatives

The following preliminary alternatives will be analyzed in the forthcoming draft EIS; No-Action (as required by NEPA), a baseline alternative that assumes mining without any terms and conditions, an alternative that assumes mining with associated terms and conditions as proposed by the claimant, and an alternative that incorporates proposed claimant terms and conditions, as well as additional premium terms and conditions for resource protection.

#### Responsible Official/Nature of Decision To Be Made

the Responsible Official, Erin Connelly, Applegate District Ranger, will review the analysis contained in the Steamboat Mountain Mining Operations Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to decide whether or not terms and conditions shall be required, and if so, specially where, when, and to what extent they shall be