

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues include snag and downed wood habitat; noxious weeds; effects of proposed activities on soils exposed by the fire; effects of proposed activities on the recovery of water quality and resident fisheries resource; ability of proposed activities to contribute to restoration of historic vegetation composition, structures, and patterns; potential loss of commercial timber value; and economic viability of timber salvage.

Public comments about this proposal are requested in order to assist in properly scoping issues, to determine how to best manage the resources, and to fully analyze environmental effects. Comments received to this notice, 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; those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 and 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 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 a specific number of days.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register** the draft EIS is expected in May 2003 and the final EIS is expected in September 2003.

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 a draft EIS 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 EIS.

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

The Forest Service is the lead agency. The Responsible Official is the Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest, 431 Pattern Bridge Road, John Day, Oregon 97845. The Responsible Official will decide which, if any, of the proposed projects will be implemented. The Responsible Official may also decide on site-specific Forest Plan amendments regarding standards and guidelines for snag and coarse woody debris, as well as big game habitat, if warranted by the analysis of those components in light of recent science.

The Responsible Official will document the Flagtail Fire Recovery Project decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: January 27, 2003.

Roger W. Williams,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-2836 Filed 2-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss project development for 2003. Agenda topics will include project form submittals and a public forum (question and answer session). The meeting is being held pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393). The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 25, 2003, 6:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ravalli County Administration Building, 215 S. 4th Street, Hamilton, Montana. Send written comments to Jeanne Higgins, District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870, by facsimile (406) 777-7423, or electronically to jmhiggins@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeanne Higgins, Stevensville District Ranger and Designated Federal Officer, Phone: (406) 777-5461.

Dated: January 30, 2003.

David T. Bull,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-2835 Filed 2-5-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Interim Direction for Commercial Filming and Still Photography Activities on National Forest System Lands

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of agency interim directives.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is issuing interim directives to guide its employees in the permitting and administration of authorizations and the collection of land use fees for commercial filming and still photography on National Forest System lands. These interim directives make Forest Service policy and procedures in Forest Service Manual chapter 2720 and in Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, chapter 30, consistent with the

provisions of the Act of May 26, 2000, which provides authority for the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to authorize and set conditions on the use of Federal lands for commercial filming and still photography and to establish, retain, and spend without further appropriation land use fees collected for those uses. A primary purpose of the act is to promote consistent permitting and land use fee practices among the Federal land management agencies.

DATES: These interim directives are effective February 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: These interim directives (ID 2700-2003-1 and ID 2709.11-2003-2) are available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>. Single paper copies of the IDs are also available by contacting Melissa Hearst, Lands Staff (Mail Stop 1124), Forest Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1124 (telephone 202-205-1196).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Hearst, Lands Staff (202-205-1196).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service is issuing interim directives (IDs) to Forest Service Manual (FSM) chapter 2720 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11, chapter 30 to guide its employees in the permitting and administration of authorizations and the collection of land use fees for commercial filming and still photography consistent with the provisions of the Act of May 26, 2000 (16 U.S.C. 4601-6d).

Prior to this act, the Forest Service's authority to issue permits for commercial filming and still photography and to collect land use fees for these uses was the Organic Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 551) and implementing regulations at title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 251, subpart B. Legislative history for the Act of May 26, 2000, states that the act is intended to supplement the Forest Service's existing authorities to regulate commercial filming and still photography.

The interim directive to FSM 2720 provides a definition for "commercial filming" that establishes the types of filming activities for which a special use permit is required. This definition specifically excludes "breaking news" as an activity for which a special use permit is required, because the need for commercial filming and still photography to cover breaking news arises suddenly, may evolve quickly, and may cease to be newsworthy by the time a permit is issued. The ID also sets

out definitions of other terms common to commercial filming and still photography. A clear understanding of these definitions is essential so that agency personnel can correctly determine under what situation or condition a special use permit is required.

The Act of May 26, 2000, also provides the Forest Service with the authority to collect, retain, and spend without further appropriation the land use fees collected for commercial filming and still photography. The ID to FSH 2709.11, chapter 30, instructs agency personnel to continue to use current Regional and Forest fee schedules established for these activities and provides direction for the accounting and expenditure of these funds.

The interim directive to FSM 2720 is issued as ID number 2700-2003-1 and the interim directive to FSH 2709.11, chapter 30, is issued as ID number 2709.11-2003-2.

Dated: January 30, 2003.

Sally Collins,

Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 03-2968 Filed 2-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Connecticut 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 Connecticut Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:30 p.m. and adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2003, at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn, 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. 06604. The Advisory Committee will hold new member orientation, be briefed by invited guests on civil rights issues in Bridgeport, and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact 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, January 31, 2003.

Ivy L. Davis,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 03-2944 Filed 2-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Illinois 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 planning meeting of the Illinois Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1 p.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2003, at 55 West Monroe Street, Suite 525, Chicago, Illinois 60603. 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 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, January 31, 2003.

Ivy L. Davis,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 03-2943 Filed 2-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

National Infrastructure Advisory Council; Amended Notice of Open Meeting

The time of the meeting of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) scheduled for Friday, February 7, 2003, notice of which previously appeared in the **Federal Register** (see 68 FR 4167, January 28, 2003), has changed. The meeting will now commence at 11:15 a.m., rather than at 12 p.m.

As previously announced, the meeting will be open to interested members of the public via conference call-in line. Members of the public interested in attending by telephone should call (toll free) 1-888-899-7785