

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee

The Paducah Sun, published daily in Paducah, KY

National Forests in Mississippi, Mississippi

Forest Supervisor Decisions: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

District Ranger Decisions:

Bienville Ranger District: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

Chickasawhay Ranger District: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

Delta Ranger District: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

De Soto Ranger District: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

Holly Springs Ranger District: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

Homochitto Ranger District: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

Tombigbee Ranger District: *Clarion-Ledger*, published daily in Jackson, MS

National Forests in North Carolina, North Carolina

Forest Supervisor Decisions: *The Asheville Citizen-Times*, published daily in Asheville, NC

District Ranger Decisions:

Appalachian Ranger District: *The Asheville Citizen-Times*, published daily in Asheville, NC

Cheoah Ranger District: *Graham Star*, published weekly (Thursday) in Robbinsville, NC

Croatan Ranger District: *The Sun Journal*, published weekly (Sunday through Friday) in New Bern, NC

Grandfather Ranger District: *McDowell News*, published daily in Marion, NC

Highlands Ranger District: *The Highlander*, published weekly (mid May–mid Nov Tues & Fri; mid Nov–mid May Tues only) in Highlands, NC

Pisgah Ranger District: *The Asheville Citizen-Times*, published daily in Asheville, NC

Tusquitee Ranger District: *Cherokee Scout*, published weekly (Wednesday) in Murphy, NC

Unwharrie Ranger District:

Montgomery Herald, published weekly (Wednesday) in Troy, NC

Wayah Ranger District: *The Franklin Press*, published bi-weekly (Wednesday and Friday) in

Franklin, NC

Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas, Oklahoma

Forest Supervisor Decisions: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

District Ranger Decisions:

Caddo Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Cold Springs Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Fourche Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Jessieville Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Mena Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Oden Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Poteau Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Winona Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Womble Ranger District: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, published daily in Little Rock, AR

Choctaw Ranger District: *Tulsa World*, published daily in Tulsa, OK

Kiamichi Ranger District: *Tulsa World*, published daily in Tulsa, OK

Tiaki Ranger District: *Tulsa World*, published daily in Tulsa, OK

Ozark-St. Francis National Forest: Arkansas

Forest Supervisor Decisions: *The Courier*, published daily (Tuesday through Sunday) in Russellville, AR

District Ranger Decisions:

Sylamore Ranger District: *Stone County Leader*, published weekly (Tuesday) in Mountain View, AR

Buffalo Ranger District: *Newton County Times*, published weekly in Jasper, AR

Bayou Ranger District: *The Courier*, published daily (Tuesday through Sunday) in Russellville, AR

Pleasant Hill Ranger District: *Johnson County Graphic*, published weekly (Wednesday) in Clarksville, AR

Boston Mountain Ranger District: *Southwest Times Record*, published daily in Fort Smith, AR

Magazine Ranger District: *Southwest Times Record*, published daily in Fort Smith, AR

St. Francis Ranger District: *The Daily*

World, published daily (Sunday through Friday) in Helena, AR

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, Texas

Forest Supervisor Decisions: *The Lufkin Daily News*, published daily in Lufkin, TX

District Ranger Decisions:

Angelina National Forest: *The Lufkin Daily News*, published daily in Lufkin, TX

Davy Crockett National Forest: *The Lufkin Daily News*, published daily in Lufkin, TX

Sabine National Forest: *The Lufkin Daily News*, published daily in Lufkin, TX

Sam Houston National Forest: *The Courier*, published daily in Conroe, TX

Caddo & LBJ National Grasslands: *Denton Record-Chronicle*, published daily in Denton, TX

The Responsible Official under 36 CFR part 215 gave annual notice in the **Federal Register** published on May 18, 2000, of principal newspapers to be utilized for publishing notices of proposed actions and of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215. The list of newspapers to be used for 215 notice and decision is corrected as follows:

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Georgia

District Ranger Decisions:

Oconee Ranger District:

Change:

Monticello News to Eatonton Messenger, published weekly (Thursday) in Eatonton, GA

Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana

District Ranger Decisions:

Calcasieu Ranger District:

Clarify:

Rapides Parish Area—*The Town Talk*, published in Alexandria, LA

Add:

Vernon Parish Area—*Leesville Leader*, published daily in Leesville, LA

Dated: November 7, 2000.

David G. Holland,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 00-29122 Filed 11-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Dry Fork Vegetation Restoration EIS—Lewis and Clark National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to treat vegetation on approximately 4,100 acres in Cascade and Judith Basin Counties, Montana. An assessment titled Dry Fork Vegetation and Recreation Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in August 1999 and a Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact was released on June 15, 2000. On appeal, a portion of the decision dealing with vegetative restoration was reversed. In order to further the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act and to provide additional disclosure, the analysis will now be revisited and documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis, issues, the alternatives, and evaluation of alternatives were received during development of the EA. Although no formal scoping period is proposed for this EIS, comments will be accepted and an opportunity to comment on the draft EIS will be provided.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Rick Prausa, Forest Supervisor, Lewis and Clark National Forest, 1101 15th Street North, Box 869, Great Falls, MT 59403. Electronic mail may be sent to comment/rl lewisclark@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Scheer, EIS Team Leader, (406) 791-7700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service proposes to treat vegetation on approximately 4,100 acres in the Dry Fork of Belt Creek drainage on the Kings Hill Ranger District of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The entire project area covers about 40,700 acres in the western portion of the Little Belt Mountains. The purpose of the proposed action is to move the condition of the area's forest and grasslands in a direction more closely approximated under natural conditions in which fire succession played a larger role. In addition, the proposed action will reduce the risk of large wildfire by reducing fuel accumulation. The previous EA considered, in detail, five alternatives for vegetative treatment. This EIS will include those alternatives, but will replace Alternative 5 in the EA with the modified alternative previously identified for selection in the decision notice. The alternatives evaluate a variety of treatment methods, including timber harvest, prescribed burning, road construction or reconstruction, and road

closure to address issues and concerns in the project area.

Decisions To Be Made: The Forest Supervisor will decide whether and where vegetative treatment activities would take place in the project area. He will decide the number of acres, if any, on which treatment would take place and the types of treatment methods to be used. He will decide when any management activities would take place, what mitigation measures would be implemented to address concerns, and whether the action requires amendment(s) to the Lewis and Clark Forest Plan.

Responsible Official: Rick Prausa, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official for making the decision to implement any of the alternatives evaluated. He will document his decision and rationale in a Record of Decision.

Preliminary Issues: Issues associated with vegetative treatments that were identified during scoping and development of the Environmental Assessment include impacts of proposed activities on wildlife and fish species and their habitat, soil resources, water quality and water yield, and forest health.

Public Involvement, Rationale, and Public Meetings: Initial scoping for this project began in April 1998. A letter was sent to 376 individuals requesting comment on the proposed action. Public participation, including public meetings, field trips, and community involvement, occurred throughout the development of the EA. Comments were received on the EA and an opportunity provided for appeal of the decision. A portion of the decision resulting from the EA was reversed on appeal. As scoping on this proposal has already taken place during development of the EA, no formal scoping period or public meetings on the proposal are being considered at this time, however, public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time. Documenting the analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement provides an opportunity to strengthen the analysis and allow for additional public review and comment. A 45-day review period for comments on the Draft EIS will be provided. Comments received will be considered and included in documentation of the Final EIS. The public is encouraged to take part in the process and to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service has sought and will continue to seek 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.

Electronic Access and Filing Addresses: Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to comment/r1 lewisclark@fs.fed.us. Please reference the Dry Fork Vegetation Restoration EIS on the subject line. Also, include your name and mailing address with your comments so documents pertaining to this project may be mailed to you.

Estimated Dates for Filing: The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by December, 2000. At that time 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 publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by March, 2001. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences of the action, as well as those pertaining to applicable laws, regulations, and policies. These will be considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

The Reviewers Obligation To Comment: The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage 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. versus NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (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. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. versus 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 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.

Dated: October 11, 2000.

Robin Strathy,

Acting Lewis and Clark Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-29476 Filed 11-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Monday, December 11, 2000. 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) (Public Law 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 Scenic 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. The tentative agenda will include refining

issue statements and describing the desired future condition of the SRA.

The 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 December 11 meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips at the address given below.

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

Dated: November 13, 2000.

Y Robert Iwamoto,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-29455 Filed 11-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Intent to Hold A Public Workshop and Prepare An Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to hold a public workshop and prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold a public scoping meeting/workshop and prepare an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to the construction and operation of a combined cycle combustion turbine generation facility. The project is proposed by South Texas Electric Cooperative (STEC), of Nursery, Texas and Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Victoria, Texas. RUS may provide financing assistance for the project. RUS will conduct a public scoping meeting/workshop at the Sam Rayburn Generating Plant Pavilion, which is located three miles west of Nursery, Texas on FM 447. The meeting/workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2000, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis E. Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone:

(202) 720-1953 or e-mail: or Joe Araiza, Project Manager, Burns and McDonnell, 1776 Yorktown, Suite 840, Houston, Texas 77056, telephone: (713) 622-0224 or e-mail: jaraiza@burnsmcd.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: STEC and Medina are proposing to construct a 3-on-1 LM6000 combined-cycle combustion turbine 186 MW generation plant available for commercial dispatch in January 2003. The preferred site is the existing Sam Rayburn Plant, which is located in Nursery, Texas. The existing plant infrastructure will be utilized for this new generation addition including existing gas lines, cooling water ponds and switchyard.

Alternatives to be considered by RUS include no action, load management and energy conservation, purchase power, alternative generators and alternative sites.

Comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted in writing at the public meeting/workshop or in writing no later than January 5, 2001, to RUS at the address provided above.

An environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared for the proposed project. Based on a review of the Environmental Assessment and other relevant information, RUS will determine if the preparation of an environmental impact statement is necessary. Should RUS determine that the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary, it will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal, State and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review procedures as prescribed by RUS's Environmental Policies and Procedures.

Dated: November 13, 2000.

Glendon D. Deal,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 00-29483 Filed 11-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and deletions from procurement list.