

storage and staging areas. Ruby is proposing to use a 115 foot wide construction right-of-way with a 50 foot wide permanent ROW over the top of the pipeline. All work sites would be restored. The following Forest Plan amendments are proposed:

1. General Forest Plan Standard and Guideline for Soils Management, Forest Plan pages 80 to 81. Add item (5) under the Operational Considerations for Surface Soil Condition which says:

During and immediately after construction of the Ruby Pipeline the soil conditions within the activity area (construction right-of-way) will be permitted to exceed the 20 percent standard and guideline for detrimental soil condition. The implementation of Ruby's Upland Erosion, Revegetation and Mitigation Plan would reduce erosion impacts and minimize impacts to soil productivity.

2. General Forest Standard and Guideline for Soils Management, Forest Plan pages 83 and 84. Add a statement under item 4, operational considerations "During installation of the Ruby pipeline exposed mineral soil standards displayed in Table 21 will be exceeded; however with the extra mitigation proposed in Ruby's Upland Erosion, Revegetation and Mitigation Plan, these standards would be achieved."

3. Management Area 6—Scenic Viewsheds: The pipeline crosses through a portion of Management Area 6 when it crosses FR 3915; the area has a VQO of foreground retention and middleground partial retention. Item B will be added to Land Uses on Forest Plan page 154: B. The cleared corridor needed to install the Ruby pipeline will not immediately meet VQO objectives of retention and partial retention. Mitigation measures, including vegetation management and restoration actions, will occur to move the construction corridor toward current visual quality objectives over an extended timeframe.

4. Management Area 14—Old Growth habitat: The pipeline crosses through a stand of dedicated old growth. The best stands either meeting or soon to meet old growth standards will be designated as replacement.

5. Management Area 15—Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Water Quality: The crossing of seeps and springs is expected to be uncommon. The pipeline is known to cross one seasonal seep. The following statement will be added under Seeps and Springs, management treatments on Forest plan page 204. (d) Construction equipment necessary to install the Ruby pipeline will be permitted in the area of seeps and springs. Implementation of Ruby's

Upland Erosion, Revegetation and Mitigation Plan and special construction measures would minimize impacts.

Responsible Official

The responsible official of the Forest Plan amendments will be the Forest Supervisor of the Fremont Winema National Forests.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

Determine what forest plan standards and guideline would need to be amended to allow the construction of the Ruby pipeline if FERC approves the project. These amendments would apply only to Ruby pipeline and are expected to be limited in scope.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process for the forest plan amendment. The decision will be tiered to the analysis contained in the FERC EIS for the Ruby Pipeline Project. FERC has already performed the scoping process for the EIS. This NOI is to inform about the Fremont Winema National Forest's need to amend the Fremont Forest Plan, which did not get included in the original FERC NOI scoping period for the Ruby Project. A scoping letter will be mailed to those currently on the Forests' mailing list. No other methods of scoping will be used. The Fremont Forest Plan can be found on the Forests' Web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/frewin/projects/forestplan/index.shtml>. Comments should be focused on the forest plan amendments and not about the decision whether to construct the pipeline or not. There will be another opportunity to comment on the construction aspect when the DEIS is available in June 2008.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review.

March 11, 2009.

Karen Shimamoto,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: 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 Salmon-Challis National Forest's Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will conduct a business meeting which is open to the public.

DATES: Friday, March 20, 2009, beginning at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Salmon-Challis N.F. South Zone Office, Highway 93, Challis, Idaho.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda topics will include review and approval of project proposals, and is an open public forum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William A. Wood, Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Officer, at 208-756-5111.

Dated: March 11, 2009.

Larry Svalberg,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Salmon-Challis National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on Friday, April 24, 2009. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 12 p.m. The meeting will be held at Salem Office of the Bureau of Land Management Office; 1717 Fabry Road SE; Salem, Oregon; (503) 375-5646. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Orientation; (2) Election of chairperson; (3) Decision on overhead rate for 2009 and 2010 projects; (4) Presentation of 2009 and 2010 Projects; and (5) Public Forum.

The Public Forum is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 4-5 minutes. Written