

The scoping will include identifying: potential issues, significant issues to be analyzed in depth, alternatives to the proposed action, and potential environmental effects of the proposed and alternatives.

#### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

#### 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 EISs must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposed 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, 533, (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 statement. 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.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of these 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 191.15, Section 21)

Dated: September 27, 2002.

**Michael P. Lee,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor, Klamath National Forest.*

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## 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, October 21, 2002. 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) (Pub. L. 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. Tentative agenda items include information sharing on the following topics:

Implementation of the Opal Creek SRA Management Plan;

Discussion on transition of the Council membership in accordance with provisions of the Council Charter;

Discussion of future topics and a tentative schedule for the Council meetings;

A direct 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 October 21 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; Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District, HC 73 Box 320, Mill City, OR 97360; (503) 854-3366.

Dated: September 27, 2002.

**Y. Robert Iwamoto,**

*Acting 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 Grand Ronde, OR, October 24, 2002. The theme of the meeting is Community Recovery Sustainability/Business Planning. The agenda includes: A panel discussion involving special use permittees/off highway vehicle users/outfitters/guides/Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management; Community sustainability; Socio analysis of the southern Willamette Valley; Public input; and Round Robin sharing.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held October 24, 2002, beginning at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Spirit Mountain Casino, ¼ mile west of Valley Junction, Oregon, on Highway 18.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joni Quarnstrom, Public Affairs Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, 541-750-7075, 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