

Recognizing our commonalities, and in an attempt to set the stage for forest plan revisions, the respective Forest Supervisors initiated the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands Assessment in 1996. This multi-agency, broad-scale assessment yielded a five-volume set of reports in late 1999 and demonstrated the value of a coordinated approach to meeting national forest planning needs in the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands. We intend to continue coordination among the three national forests throughout the forest plan revision process.

Inviting Public Participation: We are now soliciting comments and suggestions from Federal agencies, State and local governments, individuals, and

organizations on the scope of the analysis to be included in the draft environmental impact statement for the revised Forest Plan (40 CFR 1501.7). Comments should focus on (1) the proposal for revising the Forest Plan, (2) possible alternatives for addressing issues associated with the proposal, (3) potential environmental effects that should be included in the analysis, and (4) any possible impacts associated with the proposal based on an individual's civil rights (race, color, national origin, age, religion, gender, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status). We will encourage public participation in the environmental analysis and decision-making process.

Along with the release of this NOI and proposal for revising the Forest Plan, we will provide for many types of public involvement. One method of public involvement will be a series of public meetings hosted by the Forest Service. The purpose of these meetings is to (1) present and clarify proposed changes to the Forest Plan; (2) describe ways that individuals can respond to this Notice of Intent; and (3) accept comments from the public on this proposal for revising the Forest Plan.

Below is the schedule of initial meetings based on publication of this NOI. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Date	Time	Location
June 6, 2002	7-8:30 p.m.	West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis, West Plains, MO 65775.
June 13, 2002	7-8:30 p.m.	Black River Coliseum, 301 South 5th Street, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901.
June 20, 2002	7-8:30 p.m.	Farmington Civic Center, #2 Black Knight, Farmington, MO 63640.
June 27, 2002	7-8:30 p.m.	Leinor Community Center, #1 Hurigan Drive, Columbia, MO 65201.

Availability of Public Comment:

Comments received in response to this solicitation, 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; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decisions under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any persons may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) 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 requester 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 90 days.

Release and Review of the Draft EIS: The DEIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public comment in November 2004. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 90 days from the date the EPA publishes

the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, that it is important to give reviewers notice 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. v. NRDS*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (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. *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 90-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 of Environmental Quality Regulations (<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm>) for implementing the procedural provision of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: April 8, 2002.

Donald L. Meyer,

Acting Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 02-9142 Filed 4-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on May 6, 2002 in Weaverville, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 6, 2002 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Trinity County Office of Education, 201 Memorial Drive, Weaverville, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Andersen, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Shasta Trinity National Forests, PO Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093. Phone: (530) 623-1709. E-mail: jandersen@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will focus on agreeing on Title II projects for recommendation to the Secretary of Agriculture. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: April 10, 2002.

Jerry Boberg,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-9158 Filed 4-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on May 7, 2002 in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 7, 2002 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center, 2298 Norris Avenue, Suite B, Crescent City, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Chapman, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501. Phone: (707) 441-3549. E-mail: lchapman@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the fifth meeting of the committee, and will focus on the process for requesting and reviewing public Title II proposals and project monitoring. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and

individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: April 10, 2002.

Jerry Boberg,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-9159 Filed 4-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Reports and Guidance Documents; Availability; Withdrawal of the Alaska Regional Guide

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The intended effect of this action is to comply with 36 CFR part 219 § 219.35(e) which directs the Regional Forester must withdraw the Regional Guide. When a Regional Guide is withdrawn, the Regional Forester must identify the decisions in the Regional Guide that are to be transferred to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system (36 CFR 200.4) and to give notice in the **Federal Register** of these actions.

DATES: This action will be effective the date of this **Federal Register** notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jan Lerum, Regional Planner, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Telephone (907) 586-8796.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action withdraws the Alaska Regional Guide and transfers some decisions therein to the Forest Service directive system. Specifically, this action transfers from the Regional Guide to a regional supplement to the FSM 2410 directives the management standards and guidelines for: Appropriate harvest cutting methods; forest type standards; maximum size of created openings (a requirement of the National Forest Management Act); dispersal and size variation of tree openings; management intensity; utilization standards; sale administration; project monitoring; and competitive bidding and small business.

Dated: April 8, 2002.

Jacqueline Myers,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 02-9160 Filed 4-15-02; 8:45 am]

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CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

Public Hearing: Reactive Chemical Hazards

AGENCY: U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB).

ACTION: Notice announcing public hearing and requesting public comment and participation.

SUMMARY: The CSB is planning to hold a public hearing to examine findings and preliminary conclusions resulting from its investigation into chemical process safety involving reactive hazards. This notice provides information regarding the CSB investigation into reactive hazards, a request for comments on specific issues raised by the investigation, and the date, time, location and format for the public hearing.

DATES: The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2002, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Paterson, New Jersey, City Hall, 155 Market Street, Paterson, New Jersey.

Pre-registration: The event is open to the public and there is no fee for attendance. However, attendees are strongly encouraged to pre-register, to ensure adequate seating arrangements. To pre-register, please e-mail your name and affiliation by May 22, 2002, to reactives@csb.gov.

Written Comments: The public is encouraged to not only submit written comments but also to provide oral comments at the Public Hearing. Individuals, organizations, businesses, or local, state or federal government agencies may submit written comments on the questions to be addressed at the Public Hearing. Such comments must be filed on or before June 30, 2002. For further instructions on submitting comments, please see the "Form and Availability of Comments" section below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to provide oral comments at the Public Hearing should be submitted to: Mr. John Murphy, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, 2175 K Street, NW., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20037. Alternatively, they may be e-mailed to reactives@csb.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Murphy, Office of Investigations and Safety Programs, 202.261.7622 or e-mail at: reactives@csb.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- A. Introduction
- B. Background
- C. CSB Hazard Investigation
- D. Key Findings