

project proposals for FY2004 funds regarding the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) for expenditure of Payments to States Fresno County Title II funds.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 18, 2003 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sierra National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, California 93612. Send written comments to Rick Larson, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, c/o Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651 or electronically to relarson@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Larson, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, (559) 855-5355, ext. 3319.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Payments to States Fresno County Title II project matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting.

Public sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by November 18, 2003 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Call for new projects; (2) Status report from project recipients; and (3) Public comment.

Dated: October 20, 2003.

Ray Porter,
District Ranger.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

McNally Fire Restoration Projects

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sequoia National Forest will host a field trip on Saturday, November 22, 2003, to visit the McNally Fire/Sherman Pass Restoration (Sherman Pass) and McNally Fire Roadless Restoration (Roadless) Projects. The purpose of the meeting is to aid the participants in the review and understanding of the two projects through on-the-ground discussions. Both of these projects are expected to

have Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) available for public review and comment sometime in November. We will travel to several key locations that will focus attention on the Sherman Pass and Roadless DEISs, proposed actions, and environmental effects.

DATES: The meeting will be held Saturday, November 22, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pacific daylight time.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public should meet at the Cannell Meadow Ranger District Office, 105 Whitney, Kernville, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To receive further information, contact Cindy Thill, (760) 376-3781, extension 625.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Sherman Pass project involves the areas with roads in them on the Kern Plateau. Of particular interest is the approximately 4,900 acres of conifer stands severely damaged or destroyed by the fire. The analysis area is over 20,000 acres.

The Roadless project involves inventoried roadless areas outside of the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Again, of particular interest is the approximately 11,000 acres of conifer stands severely damaged or destroyed by fire. The analysis area is over 60,000 acres.

The meeting is open to the public. If you are planning to attend, please contact Cindy Thill at the Cannell Meadow Ranger District by November 17. Some transportation will be available, but we will also rely on participants to provide assistance in transporting people in the sites. Please bring your own lunch and wear appropriate field clothing. The meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need accommodations, please contact Cindy Thill at the number provided.

Dated: October 20, 2003.

Arthur L. Gaffrey,
Forest Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Interim Direction for Processing Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Proposals on National Forest System Lands

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of agency directive.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is issuing an interim directive to guide its employees in processing proposals for interstate natural gas pipeline projects. This interim directive is designed to supplement existing direction in the Forest Service Manual chapter 2720, consistent with a May 2002 interagency agreement between the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The agreement establishes procedures for responding to and processing applications for interstate natural gas pipeline projects when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will be the lead agency in conducting the required environmental and historic preservation reviews.

DATES: This interim directive is effective October 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: This interim directive (ID 2720-2003-2) is 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 ID 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 an interim directive (ID) to Forest Service Manual (FSM) chapter 2720 to guide its employees in the streamlining of proposal and application procedures for interstate natural gas pipelines certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and adopted in a May 2002 agreement between the FERC, the Department of Agriculture, and other Federal agencies.

The May 2002 agreement entitled "Interagency Agreement on Early Coordination of Required Environmental and Historic Preservation Reviews Conducted in Conjunction with the Issuance of Authorizations to Construct and Operate Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines Certificated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission" eliminates overlapping and duplicative environmental processes required by the numerous Federal agencies having jurisdiction in the permitting of interstate natural gas pipeline projects. Minimizing the duplication and overlap of procedures shortens the cumulative processing time for evaluating applications and making decisions on these projects. The ID to FSM 2720 provides Forest Service field officers with specific procedures to ensure that