

Signed at Washington, DC April 27, 2004.

Michael W. Yost,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 04-11743 Filed 5-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Public Meeting, Davy Crockett National Forest Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Davy Crockett National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC meeting will be held June 24, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC meeting will be held at the Davy Crockett Ranger Station located on State Highway 7, approximately one quarter mile west of FM 227 in Houston County, Texas. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and adjourn at approximately 9 p.m. A public comment period will be at 8:45 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Raoul Gagne, District Ranger, Davy Crockett National Forest, Rt. 1, Box 55 FS, Kennard, Texas 75847: Telephone: 936-655-2299 or e-mail at: rgagne@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC proposes projects and funding to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 203 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. The purpose of the June 24, 2004 meeting is to introduce the RAC members, discuss the operational requirements of the RAC, and elect a chairperson. These meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the RAC. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Dated: May 20, 2004.

Raoul W. Gagne,

Designated Federal Official, Davy Crockett National Forest RAC.

[FR Doc. 04-11808 Filed 5-24-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC19

Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Advanced notice of interim final guideline; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is announcing its intent to prepare an interim final guideline, in cooperation with Indian tribes, for the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program, as authorized by Title III, Section 303, of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-148). The Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program (TWFAP) is administered by the Forest Service and implemented by participating Indian tribes. The purpose of the TWFAP is to build and strengthen watershed partnerships that focus on forested landscapes at the State, regional, tribal, and local levels; to provide tribal forestry best-management practices and water quality technical assistance directly to Indian tribes; to provide technical guidance to tribal land managers and policy makers for water quality protection through forest management; to complement tribal efforts to protect water quality and provide enhanced opportunities for consultation and cooperation among Federal agencies and tribal entities charged with responsibility for water and watershed management; and to provide enhanced forest resource data and support for improved implementation and monitoring of tribal forestry best-management practices. In accordance with Forest Service policy, formal consultation is ongoing with Indian tribes on development of this new program. This notice supplements the consultation process. Comments are invited and will be considered in the development of the interim final guideline. Additional direction on the implementation of TWFAP will be issued to the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3500, Cooperative Watershed Management.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Karen Solari, USDA Forest Service,

Cooperative Forestry, Mail Stop Code 1123, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0003; via electronic mail to ksolari@fs.fed.us; or via facsimile to (202) 205-1271. Comments also may be submitted via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The agency cannot confirm receipt of comments. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments during regular business hours at the office of the Cooperative Forestry Staff, 4th Floor SE., Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-1389 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Solari, USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry, (202) 205-1274, or Susan Johnson, USDA Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations, sjohnson08@fs.fed.us, (303)275-5760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program (TWFAP) is established in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide technical, financial, and related assistance to Indian tribes for the purpose of expanding tribal stewardship capacities and activities through tribal forestry best-management practices and other means at the tribal level to address watershed issues on land under the jurisdiction of or administered by the Indian tribes. A copy of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, Title III, and other information on the watershed forestry program can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/wfa/>. The TWFAP provides for (1) Development a program of technical assistance; (2) Annual awards to participating tribes for watershed forestry projects; (3) Selection of priority watersheds to target watershed forestry projects for funding; and (4) An opportunity to create tribal watershed forester positions. At a minimum, the TWFAP interim final guideline will address these provisions.

In addition, the TWFAP interim final guideline will establish the criteria that Indian tribes should follow in implementing the TWFAP. These will include criteria for priority watershed selection, acceptable watershed forest projects, and best management practice programs. The guideline also will establish monitoring and accomplishment reporting requirements. The guideline will, to the extent consistent with Federal accountability and oversight responsibility, allow flexibility to the

tribes to implement the program in a manner consistent with local needs and opportunities. Comments are solicited on these provisions and other issues that should be included in the interim final guideline.

The interim final guideline and additional direction issued to Forest Service Manual 3500 will be developed by a workgroup of representatives from Indian tribes, and regional and national Forest Service State and Private Forestry.

The agency goal is to publish a notice of issuance of the interim final guideline with request for further comment in the **Federal Register** by October, 2004. A separate advance notice of an interim final guideline for the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program, to be developed in cooperation with State Foresters, has been published in today's **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 6, 2004.

Sally D. Collins,

Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 04-11735 Filed 5-24-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC18

Watershed Forestry Assistance Program

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Advanced notice of interim final guideline; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is announcing its intent to prepare an interim final guideline, in cooperation with the State Foresters and with involvement of the public, for the implementation of the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program, as authorized by Title III, section 302, of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-148). The Watershed Forestry Assistance Program (WFAP) is administered by the Forest Service and implemented by the State Foresters, or an equivalent State official. The purpose of the WFAP is to improve public understanding of the connection between forest management and watershed health; encourage property owners to maintain tree cover and use tree plantings and vegetative treatments as creative solutions to watershed problems; enhance forest management and riparian buffer use in watersheds, with an emphasis on community watersheds; and establish partnerships and collaborative watershed approaches

to forest management, protection, and conservation. Public comment is invited and will be considered in the development of the interim final guideline. Additional direction on the implementation of WFAP will be issued to the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3500, Cooperative Watershed Management.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Karen Solari, USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry, Mail Stop Code 1123, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0003; via electronic mail to ksolari@fs.fed.us; or via facsimile to (202) 205-1271. Comments also may be submitted via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The agency cannot confirm receipt of comments. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments during regular business hours at the office of the Cooperative Forestry Staff, 4th Floor SE., Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-1389 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Solari, USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry, (202) 205-1274.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Watershed Forestry Assistance Program (WFAP) is established in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to address watershed issues on nonfederal forested and potentially forested land. A copy of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, Title III, and other information on the watershed forestry program can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/wfa/>. The WFAP provides for (1) development of a program of technical assistance; (2) establishment of a watershed forestry cost-share program; (3) creation of State watershed forester positions; and (4) selection of priority watersheds by the state forest stewardship coordinating committees. At a minimum, the WFAP interim final guideline will address these provisions.

In addition, the WFAP interim final guideline will establish the criteria that State Foresters and communities, nonprofit groups, and owners of nonindustrial private forest land should follow in implementing the WFAP. These will include criteria for priority watershed selection, acceptable watershed forest projects, and best management practice programs. The guideline also will establish budget

allocation procedures and monitoring and accomplishment reporting requirements. The guideline will, to the extent consistent with Federal accountability and oversight responsibility, allow flexibility to the States to implement the program in a manner consistent with local needs and opportunities. Comments are solicited on these provisions and other issues that should be included in the interim final guideline.

The interim final guideline and additional direction issued to Forest Service Manual 3500 will be developed by a workgroup of representatives from State forestry agencies and regional and national Forest Service State and Private Forestry offices and USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service.

The agency goal is to publish a notice of issuance of the interim final guideline with request for further comment in the **Federal Register** by October 2004. A separate notice of an interim final guideline for the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program, to be developed in cooperation with Indian tribes, has been published in today's **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 6, 2004.

Sally Collins,

Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 04-11734 Filed 5-24-04; 8:45 am]

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COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights that a conference call of the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee will convene at 1 p.m. and adjourn at 2 p.m. on May 26, 2004. The purpose of the conference call is to discuss future projects.

This conference call is available to the public through the following call-in number: 1-800-659-1088, access code: 23863133. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls not initiated using the supplied call-in number or over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls using the call-in number over land-line connections. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal