

County will be required in the implementation of these projects.

Commenting

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for review in July 2002. At that time, EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period of the Draft EIS will be at least 45 days from the date the EPA's Notice of Availability appears 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 the draft EIS 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. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact 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 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 EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated or 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.

Robert L. Vaught,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southeast Washington Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Southeast Washington Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on March 16, 2002 in Clarkston, Washington. The purpose of the meeting is to meet to nominate and select a chairperson, accept Bylaws and 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 March 16, 2002 from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Bennett Lumber Company Conference Room, 1951 Wilma Drive, Clarkston, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Monte Fujishin, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District, 71 West Main Street, Pomeroy, WA 99347. Phone: (509) 843-1891.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the second meeting of the committee, and will focus on nomination and selection of a chairperson, accept Committee bylaws and discuss Title II project proposals. 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: February 26, 2002.

Jeff D. Blackwood,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Columbia County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Columbia County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on March 18, 2002 in Dayton, Washington. The purpose of the meeting

is to meet as a Committee for the first time and 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 March 18, 2002 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Youth Building located at the Columbia County Fairgrounds, Dayton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Monte Fujishin, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District, 71 West Main Street, Pomeroy, WA 99347. Phone: (509) 843-1891.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the second meeting of the committee, and will focus on discussing Title II proposed projects. 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: February 26, 2002.

Jeff D. Blackwood,

Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-BH-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, Boise, ID, USDA, Forest Service.

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 Boise and Payette National Forest's Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday March 20, 2002 in Boise, Idaho for a business meeting. The Meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on March 20 begins at 10:30 AM, at the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program Building, 3100 South Vista Avenue, Boise, Idaho. Agenda items will include (1) development of criteria for evaluating project proposals, (2) initial review of project proposals and (3) an open public forum.