

## Range of Alternatives

A range of reasonable alternatives will be considered. The no-action alternative will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. The proposed action will be considered along with additional alternatives developed that meet the purpose and need and address significant issues identified during scoping. Alternatives may allow different locations, types, and seasons of travel activities.

## Public Participation

Public participation will be important at several points during the analysis. This notice of intent initiates the scoping process. The scoping process will identify issues to be analyzed in detail and lead to the development of alternatives to the proposal.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribal governments; organizations; and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Comments received in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the project record and available for public review.

Public meetings are scheduled during the 60-day scoping period and following issuance of the draft EIS. The public scoping meetings are: September 30, in Riggins, Salmon River High School; October 6 in Weiser, Vendome Conference Center; October 12 in McCall, Forest Supervisor's Office; October 14 in Council, Adams County Fairground Exhibit Hall; and October 21 in New Meadows, New Meadows Ranger District Office. All meetings are 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The second major opportunity for public input is with the draft EIS. The draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is anticipated to be available for public review during the summer of 2005. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 60 days. It is important that those interested in travel management on the Payette National Forest participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes 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 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 EIS stage, but that are not raised until completion of the final EIS, may be waived or dismissed by the courts (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1002 (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 important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 60-day comment period so 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 raised by 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 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 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.)

After the 60-day comment period ends on the draft EIS, the Forest Service will analyze comments received and address them in the final EIS. The final EIS is scheduled to be released in December 2005. In the final EIS, the Forest Service will respond to substantive comments received during the comment period. The Responsible Official (Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest) will document the decision and rationale in a Record of Decision (ROD). The decision will be subject to review under Forest Service appeal regulations at 36 CFR part 215.

Dated: September 24, 2004.

**Mark J. Madrid,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Meeting of the Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board will hold a meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2004. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal

Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

The meeting agenda includes the following:

- (1) Welcome/Introductions/Agenda;
- (2) Advisory Board Membership;
- (3) Land and Resource Management Plan Update;
- (4) Conservation Education;
- (5) Four Threats;
- (6) Tour of Turkey Bay;
- (7) Board Discussion of Comments Received;
- (8) LBL Updates.

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments are invited and may be mailed to: William P. Lisowsky, Area Supervisor, Land Between The Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211. Written comments must be received at Land Between The Lakes by October 20, 2004, in order for copies to be provided to the members at the meeting. Board members will review written comments received, and at their request, oral clarification may be requested at a future meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2004, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., c.s.t.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the USDA Forest Service Administrative Building, Land Between the Lakes, and will be open to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Byers, Advisory Board Liaison, Land Between the Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211, (270) 924-2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** None.

Dated: September 24, 2004.

**William P. Lisowsky,**

*Area Supervisor, Land Between the Lakes.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393), the Boise and Payette National Forests' Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will conduct a business meeting, which is open to the public.

**DATES:** Wednesday, October 20, 2004, beginning at 10:30 a.m.