

### Nature of Decision To Be Made

Based on the environmental analysis in the EIS, the Forest Supervisor will decide whether or not to continue grazing on the allotments within the Great Basin South Project area in accordance with the standards in the proposed action or as modified by additional mitigation measures and monitoring requirements.

### Scoping Process

The Forest Service will mail information to interested parties. Public involvement will be ongoing throughout the analysis process and at certain times public input will be specifically requested. There are currently no scoping meetings planned.

### Preliminary Issues

The following are some potential issues identified through internal Forest Service scoping based on our experience with similar projects. The list is not considered all-inclusive, but should be viewed as a starting point. We are asking you to help us further refine the issues and identify other issues or concerns relevant to the proposed project.

- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect the health of riparian vegetation.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect the health of rangeland vegetation.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect sage grouse habitat.

### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

*Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review:* A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, that 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 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. NRDC*, 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 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 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 on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

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

Dated: May 12, 2005.

**Randall M. Sharp,**  
*Natural Resources Staff Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council will meet in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 27-29, 2005. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss emerging issues in urban and community forestry.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held June 27-29, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 330 Tijeras, NW., Albuquerque, NM 87102. Individuals who wish to speak at the meeting or to propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Suzanne M. del Villar, Executive Assistant, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, P.O. Box 1003, Sugarloaf, CA 92386-1003. Individuals may fax their names and proposed agenda items to (909) 585-9527.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne M. del Villar, Urban and Community Forestry Staff, (909) 585-9268.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members; however, persons who wish to bring urban and community forestry matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided.

Dated: May 10, 2005.

**Robin L. Thompson,**  
*Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.*

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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 at the Trinity County Office of Education in Weaverville, California, June 13, 2005. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss proposed projects under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

**DATES:** June 13, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Trinity County Office of Education, 201 Memorial Drive, Weaverville, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael R. Odle, Assistant Public Affairs Officer and RAC Coordinator.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to