

other radio stations. An open house is planned to occur in early February and additional meetings and open houses will be provided if there is interest from the public. Project information is available on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/>. Click on "Project Proposals and Decisions", then "Twin Ghost Project".

#### Preliminary Issues

*The following issues will be analyzed in the EIS:* Effects of the proposed activities on forest sustainability, soil productivity, water and air quality, Regional Forester Sensitive Species (plants and wildlife), game and non-game wildlife and bird species, non-native invasive species, recreation and visuals.

#### Possible Alternatives

Two alternatives to the proposed action are being developed in response to public comments received. One alternative would consider different types and amounts of silvicultural treatments to achieve the vegetation related purpose and need objectives. The other would provide a higher level of motorized access opportunities.

#### 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, 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, it is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review. *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, 36 CFR 220.5(b) and Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: January 16, 2009.

**Jeanne M. Higgins,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announces a meeting of the

Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

**DATES:** The Committee meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, and from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2009. There will be an opportunity for public questions and comments at 9:30 a.m. on February 25, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** The Committee meeting will take place at the Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202. Written comments may be filed before or within a reasonable time after the meeting with the contact person identified herein at: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5041A, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joe Reilly, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, Telephone: 202-720-4333, Fax: 202-720-9013, or e-mail: [HQ\\_OA@nass.usda.gov](mailto:HQ_OA@nass.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, which consists of 25 members appointed from 7 categories covering a broad range of agricultural disciplines and interests, has scheduled a meeting on February 24-25, 2009. The meeting will focus on the following topics: 2007 Agricultural Census Results and Issues, 2012 Agricultural Census Content, Data Enclave update, and NASS Status of Programs. The Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) will hold a Data User meeting on Wednesday, February 25, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the same location. The ARMS meeting is optional but open to the public.

The Committee meeting is open to the public. The public may file written comments to the USDA Advisory Committee contact person before or within a reasonable time after the meeting. All statements will become a part of the official records of the USDA Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and will be kept on file for public review in the office of the Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Dated January 7, 2009, at Washington, DC.

**Joseph T. Reilly,**

*Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.*

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