

Signed at Washington, DC on May 14, 2002.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-12640 Filed 5-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Lemolo Watershed Projects, Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, Douglas County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Supplement to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a variety of connected resource projects within the Lemolo Watershed Projects planning area of the Diamond Lake Ranger District. The Draft Supplemental EIS will describe additional alternatives developed in response to public comments. The additional alternatives address issues related to old-growth forests, and recreation. The projects proposed within the range of alternatives include several timber sales, the construction of temporary and system roads, site preparation, planting, the burning of natural fuels, road decommissioning, and soil restoration. These projects are proposed for implementation in 2003 and 2004. The planning area is located approximately 80 miles east of Roseburg, Oregon. The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they can participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal to John Ouimet, District Ranger, Diamond Lake Ranger District, 2020 Toketee Ranger Station RD, Roseburg, Oregon 97447-9704.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the proposed action, or EIS to Pat Williams, ID Team Leader/Project Planner, Diamond Lake Ranger District, 2020 Toketee Ranger Station RD, Idleyld Park, Oregon 97447-9704, or (541) 498-2531.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Forest Supervisor James Caplan is the responsible official

for this EIS. Mr. Caplan may be contacted at Umpqua National Forest, PO Box 1008, Roseburg, OR 97470.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Lemolo Watershed Project proposed action was first published in the federal register on April 14, 1999. A public meeting was held at the Douglas County Library on April 21, 1999 along with a subsequent field trip to the planning area in August of 1999. The draft EIS was published in October, 2001. The Forest Service received many comments on the project during the 45 day comment period. Public comments identified issues related to harvest of old-growth timber, and protection of recreation values. Based on public comment, 2 additional alternatives to the proposed action have been developed to address these issues and will be described in the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A total of 5 alternatives including the No Action and the Proposed Action alternative have been developed.

Public comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for public review by July 2002. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be available in October 2002.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of this early stage of public participation and of several court rulings related to public participation in the environment review process. First, reviewers of a 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 have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the court if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. *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 substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider 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 Supplement to the draft EIS 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 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 of 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.)

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under, 36 CFR Part 215.

Dated: May 7, 2002.

James Caplan,

Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-12646 Filed 5-20-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on June 13, 2002, at the Convention Center, Horizon Casino and Resort, Highway 50, Stateline, NV. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held June 13, 2002, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Convention Center, Horizon Casino and Resort, Highway 50, Stateline NV.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribeth Gustafson or Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership. Items to be covered on the agenda include: Lands and Budget Subcommittee reports, the Federal Partnership perspective the Partnership, Lake Tahoe August Congressional Event, update on the USFS Lake Tahoe Restoration Act projected list, USACE update on Lake Tahoe projects, the status of Lake Tahoe atmospheric deposition, and public comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: May 13, 2002.

Maribeth Gustafson,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-12701 Filed 5-20-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Lincoln County 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 Kootenai National Forests' Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee will meet Monday, June 3, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. in Libby, Montana for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: June 3, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Kootenai National Forest Supervisor's Office, located at 1101 U.S. Highway 2 West, Libby, MT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Edgmon, Committee Coordinator at (406) 293-6211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda topics include reviewing project proposals and receiving public comment.

Dated: May 13, 2002.

Bob Castaneda,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-12629 Filed 5-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Clarification of Direction on Safety Priorities During Wildland Firefighting Activities and Procedures for Emergency Consultation under the Endangered Species Act

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of agency interim directives.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is issuing two interim directives to provide internal administrative direction to guide its employees during wildland firefighting activities. The interim directive issued to Forest Service Manual chapter FSM 5130, Wildland Fire Suppression, as ID number 5130-2002-1, clarifies existing direction to ensure that the safety of firefighters, other personnel, and the public is always the first priority in fire suppression. While this is already the current agency policy, the agency believes that the direction should be clarified and better stated. The interim directive issued to Forest Service Manual chapter FSM 2670, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants and Animals, as ID number 2670-2002-1, clarifies and expands existing direction to facilitate emergency consultation under the Endangered Species Act. This interim directive makes clear that human safety is the highest priority for every emergency response action, and under no circumstances should an emergency response action be delayed in order to contact the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service for initiating emergency consultation or during an ongoing consultation. The agency will consider any comments received in the development of final directives.

DATES: The interim directives are effective May 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The interim directives are available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>. Single paper copies of the interim directives also are available for ID 5130-2002-1 by contacting Shelly

Steen, National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 South Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705 (telephone 208-387-5100), and for ID 2670-2002-1 by contacting Tina Kingsberry, Forest Service, USDA, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants Staff, Stop Code 1121, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-1121 (telephone 202-205-1205). Members of the public who wish to comment on the interim directives may mail their written comments in paper format to these addresses or send them electronically to directivecomment@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly Steen (208-387-5100) or Tina Kingsberry (202-205-1205).

Dated: May 14, 2002.

Sally Collins,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 02-12719 Filed 5-20-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact in connection with a request from East River Electric Power Cooperative (EREPC) for assistance from RUS to finance the construction of an electrical substation, a short segment of 230kV transmission line, and a communication tower in Lincoln County, South Dakota.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-1414, Fax (202) 720-0820, e-mail nislam@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from Mr. Ronald W. Golden, Land Agent, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., 121 Southeast First Street, Madison, South Dakota 5704, telephone (605) 256-4536, Fax (605) 256-8058, e-mail rgolden@eastriver.coop.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: East River Electric Power Cooperative (EREPC) proposes to construct an electrical substation, a short segment of 230 kV transmission line and a communication