

Head wilderness when it was created in 1983. The existing Meadows road #205 crosses a portion of this inventoried roadless area.

Wetlands

The existing roadway crosses a several small areas of wetlands.

Geological Hazards

The only alternative to the Meadows Road that provides access to the private lands is another existing two-track road that is unsafe and is closed by landslides.

Involving the Public

The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from individuals, organizations, tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies that are interested in or may be affected by the proposed action. The range of alternatives to be considered in the DEIS will be based on public issues, management concerns, resource management opportunities, and specific decisions to be made.

Public participation will be solicited by notifying in person and/or by mail known interested and affected local government agencies. News releases will be used to give the public general notice.

Release and Review of the EIS

We expect the DEIS to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public, agency, and tribal government comment in summer of 2001. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability for the DEIS in the Federal Register. The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA 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, reviewers of the DEIS must participate in the environmental review of the proposal in such a way that their participation 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 DEIS stage but are not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) may be waived or dismissed by the courts: *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Hertages, 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 comment period, so that substantive comments and objectives are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns relating to the proposed actions, comments on the DEIS 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 DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statements. In addressing these points, 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.

After the comment period on the DEIS ends, comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the Final EIS. The FEIS is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2001. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making decisions regarding these revisions. The responsible official will document the decisions and reasons for the decisions in a Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR part 251.

Dated: May 29, 2001.

Calvin N. Joyner,

Forest Supervisor, San Juan National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Friday, June 8, 2001, at the Wenatchee National Forest headquarters main conference room, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until

3 p.m. During this meeting we will finalize advice on Dry Forest Strategy management implementation on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, develop advice on noxious weed management, and share information on the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. All Eastern Washington Cascades and Yakima Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-662-4335.

Dated: May 21, 2001.

Sonny J. O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council, Hells Canyon Subgroup

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hells Canyon Subgroup of the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council will meet on June 15-16, 2001 at the Wallowa Mountains Visitors Center, 88401 Hwy 82, Enterprise, OR 97828. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. the first day and day 2 will begin at 8 a.m. and will be a field trip to the Buckhorn Lookout Area. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Update on CMP (2) Review of the fires on the NRA in 2000. Public comments will be received June 15, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. at the Wallowa Mountains Visitors Center.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kendall Clark, Area Ranger, USDA, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, 88401 Highway 82, Enterprise, OR 97828, 541-426-5501.

Dated: May 30, 2001.

Karyn L. Wood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-14048 Filed 6-5-01; 8:45 am]

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