

prescribed fire would be used throughout the wilderness. Reservation and permit fees (if legal) would be collected.

Maximum Wilderness Preservation. The wilderness would be managed for very primitive to pristine conditions. Stock and human use levels would be reduced. Dogs, shooting, and campfires would be prohibited. Signing, streamflow maintenance dams, some campsites, and many trails would be removed. Fish stocking would cease. Reservation and permit fees (if legal) would be collected.

John Phipps, Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest, and Robert E. Harris, Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, are the responsible officials.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by August 1995. At that time the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that reviewers participate at that time. To be the most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (see The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3). In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of draft EIS's must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and contentions, *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978), and that environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure 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 final EIS.

After the comment period ends on the draft EIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final EIS. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by January 1996. The Forest Service is required to respond in the final EIS to the comments received (40 CFR 1503.4).

The responsible officials will consider the comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision regarding this proposal. The responsible officials will document the decision and rationale in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal.

Dated: May 15, 1995.

Robert E. Harris,
Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit.

Dated: May 15, 1995.

John Phipps,
Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest.
[FR Doc. 95-12857 Filed 5-24-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Inland Native Fish Strategy; Environmental Assessment for Public Review

ACTION: Notice of publication of the Inland Native Fish Strategy Environmental Assessment for public review.

SUMMARY: In the March 14, 1995, **Federal Register** (Vol. 60, No. 49, pp. 13697-13698), notice was given that the Forest Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and US Fish and Wildlife Service, is gathering information in order to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposal to protect habitat and populations of native inland fish.

This EA will address National Forest System lands on the Bitterroot, Boise, Caribou, Challis, Clearwater, Colville, Deerlodge, Deschutes, Flathead, Fremont, Helena, Humboldt, Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, Lolo, Malheur, Ochoco, Payette, Sawtooth, Wallowa-Whitman, and Winema National Forests in the Northern, Intermountain, and Pacific Northwest Regions.

The public scoping period began March 14 and ended April 26, 1995. As of May 1, approximately 235 letters have been received from the public. Many people commented that they should have an opportunity to review the alternatives and effects analysis that will be documented in the Environmental Assessment. The agency agrees that the public should have this opportunity. The Environmental Assessment will be completed on or about May 31, and will be sent to the public for a 30-day review and comment period. These comments will be considered in reaching a decision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the environmental assessment should be directed to David

Wright, Team Leader, USDA Forest Service, 3815 Schrieber Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83814. Phone: (208) 765-7223.

The responsible officials for this Environmental Assessment are the Regional Foresters for the Intermountain, Northern, and Pacific Northwest Regions. They will make a decision regarding this proposal considering the comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the Environmental Assessment, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and reasons for the decision will be documented in a Decision Notice. The Decision Notice is expected to be available in late July, 1995.

Dated: May 16, 1995.

David J. Wright,
Inland Native Fish Team Leader, USDA,
Forest Service.
[FR Doc. 95-12858 Filed 5-24-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Willamette Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Willamette PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, June 15, 1995, at the Salem District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until approximately 3:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Followup on procedural issues, (2) Information on watershed analysis and schedule for FY 95-97, (3) Key issues, concerns, and opportunities of Federal Agencies for implementing the Northwest Forest Plan, (4) Identifying Advisory Committee tasks, (5) Open public forum. All Willamette PIEC meetings are open to the public, and interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Written comments concerning the Advisory Committee's affairs can be submitted at the meeting. Oral comment can also be made during the public forum. Length of oral comments will be limited to the time allotted on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Neal Forrester, Designated Federal Official, Willamette National Forest, 211 East Seventh Avenue, Eugene, Oregon; 503-465-6924.

Dated: May 19, 1995.

Darrel L. Kenops,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-12824 Filed 5-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Rural Utilities Service

Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft supplemental environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are issuing a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) related to Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s, (Seminole) proposed Hardee Unit 3. The DSEIS is a supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement issued in January 1991 by the Rural Electrification Administration (predecessor of RUS), with EPA, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as cooperating agencies, for their actions related to the Hardee Power Station. Hardee Unit 3 would increase the originally proposed ultimate output of the Hardee Power Station from 660 megawatts (MW) to 880 MW.

RUS's federal action related to Hardee Unit 3 would be providing a loan guarantee to Seminole to cover the cost of project construction. EPA's federal action related to Hardee Unit 3 has, to date, been the preparation of the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit needed to operate the new unit. However, on May 1, 1995, EPA authorized the State of Florida to administer the NPDES Permit Program (with EPA program oversight retained). As such, EPA's role as an NPDES permitting agency has changed and EPA no longer has a direct federal action related to the proposed Hardee Unit 3. With program authorization, the NPDES permitting decision now is a state action as opposed to an EPA federal action. The notice for the Draft NPDES permit will be issued by the State of Florida. Despite program authorization, EPA nevertheless remains a cooperating agency to RUS for the DSEIS and will also have a role in the RUS National Environmental Policy Act process for Hardee Unit 3 by providing review and comment on the DSEIS and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Hardee Unit 3 via its

responsibilities pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The draft NPDES permit is Appendix A to the DSEIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Lawrence R. Wolfe, Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, Ag. Box 1569, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone (202) 720-1784, Fax (202) 720-7491.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DSEIS for Hardee Unit 3 covers the construction and operation of 440 MW of additional generating capacity to be installed at the existing 1,300-acre Hardee Power Station site. The Hardee Power Station site is located in Hardee and Polk counties approximately 9 miles northwest of Wauchula, 16 miles south-southwest of Bartow, and 40 miles east of Tampa Bay. The site is bordered on the east by Hardee County Road 663, a CSX Railroad right-of-way, and CF Industries' Hardee Complex. IMC-Agrico properties surround the remaining portions of the site. Payne Creek flows along the southern and western boundary of the Hardee Power Station site. The proposed Hardee Unit 3 would occupy approximately 50 acres of this site.

As proposed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Hardee Power Station, Hardee Power Partners has constructed and operates 295 MW of generation capacity at the Hardee Power Station and proposes an additional 145 MW of generation capacity there by the year 2003 for use by Seminole. Seminole originally proposed to construct and operate an additional 220 MW at the Hardee Power Station at a future date to be determined. That addition, along with Hardee Power Partners' 145 MW addition, would have increased the existing 295 MW Hardee Power Station capacity to 660 MW. Seminole now proposes in the DSEIS to construct 440 MW of additional capacity at the Hardee Power Station at a specified date, 1999, instead of the originally proposed 220 MW addition at an unspecified date. As now proposed, the Hardee Power Station Site would be made up of a total of 880 MW of capacity when completed.

The proposed Hardee Unit 3 would consist of natural gas fired combustion turbines utilizing heat recovery steam generators that will operate efficiently by recovering heat from the combustion turbines. Fuel oil would be used as a backup source of fuel. These are the same type of generators already installed at the Hardee Power Station (295 MW) and the same type proposed for future installation (145 MW) at the site by Hardee Power Partners. The

natural gas would be transported via an existing 18 inch diameter, underground gas pipeline connected to the Florida Gas Transmission System to the Hardee Power Station. Three existing 230 kilovolt transmission lines would be utilized to connect Hardee Unit 3 into the Florida transmission grid.

Alternatives to the project as proposed included no action, design alternatives, alternative fuels, and conservation.

Seminole has provided RUS with a Site Certification Application/Environmental Analysis for Hardee Unit 3 which is the primary support document used by RUS to develop its DSEIS. RUS has concluded that the Site Certification Application/Environmental Analysis for Hardee Unit 3 represents an accurate assessment of the potential environmental impacts related to the proposed project. The Hardee Unit 3 Site Certification Application/Environmental Analysis has been incorporated by reference into the DSEIS and is available for inspection by interested parties at RUS or Seminole at the addresses provided in this notice. That document, along with the DSEIS, will also be available for review at the following libraries: Bartow Public Library, 315 E. Parker Street, Bartow, Florida 33830; Hardee County Library, 315 N. 6th Avenue, Suite 114, Wauchula, Florida 33837.

Anyone wishing to comment on the DSEIS should do so in writing within the 45-day comment period to RUS at the appropriate address provided in this notice. All comments received during the comment period will be given consideration in the formulation of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Hardee Unit 3. (Oral responses submitted by telephone will be considered, but it is recommended that comments be submitted in writing.) A copy of each written comment and a summary of each oral comment received will be included in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Notice of availability of the DSEIS and the 45-day comment period is being published in the **Federal Register** by RUS and EPA. Seminole will have a notice similar to this one published in newspapers of general circulation in the proposed project area. As it is possible that RUS, EPA, and Seminole's notices will not appear on the same date, the 45-day comment period will begin on the date the latest notice (RUS, EPA or Seminole's) is published. Questions concerning the closing date of the 45-day comment period should be referred