

scientifically sound, ecosystem-based strategy for management of lands administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.* * * The strategy will modify existing Forest Plans and will focus on forest, rangeland, and aquatic/riparian ecosystem health and the sustainability of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.”

Direction from the Record of Decision for the ICBEMP EIS is assumed to be in place for 10 years. Forest Plan direction that is specific to the Kootenai National Forest (such as standards applicable to particular areas) will be revisited at the time of Forest Plan revision. Direction that applies to multiple units (such as broad scale objectives) will remain in place to guide forest plan revision. It is the intent that the Kootenai Forest Plan revision will be designed to achieve this ICBEMP broad scale direction. Therefore, the revision schedule for the Kootenai National Forest Plan will be coordinated with the information and decisions produced by the ICBEMP EIS.

(2) Beginning of the Forest Plan Revision Effort

This notice announces that the Kootenai National Forest is beginning the effort to revise the Land and Resource Management Plan. The forest is in the process of preparing the AMS, one of the first steps in the revision process. This step includes defining the current situation, reviewing new information, reviewing monitoring and evaluation results, estimating supply capabilities and resource demands, and determining the Need for Change (36 CFR 219.12(e)(5)).

As part of the AMS a communication strategy is being developed. The purpose of this strategy is to document how the public and government entities may participate in the AMS and revision of the Forest Plan on an ongoing basis. Suggestions on the formation of the communication strategy are welcome. In addition, the Forest Plan mailing list is being updated. Send a letter to the address above to add your name to the mailing list.

Another critical element in describing the need for change is determining the concerns and expectations of National Forest constituents and getting public input on how well the current forest plan is working. A social assessment for the Kootenai Forest was completed in July 1995. The assessment provides the initial information about how people in surrounding communities perceive the resources of the Kootenai Forest and their management. This assessment is one information source for describing

the need for change. Additional information will be requested as portions of the AMS are assessed.

(3) Relationship Between the AMS and the Notice of Intent to Prepare the Environmental Impact Statement

In the past, a “Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement” was issued at the beginning of the forest planning process, and before the development of the AMS. This time, we are first defining the current situation and an initial need for change in a Draft AMS, and will issue a NOI to prepare an EIS prior to developing alternatives. The draft AMS is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 1998. The NOI to prepare an EIS would be issued after this date. The NOI to prepare an EIS will include (1) a proposed action and purpose and need; (2) preliminary issues and; (3) preliminary alternatives. Scoping to receive public comments on the proposed action and alternatives will follow the publication of the NOI. These public comments will be used to further refine the proposed action and the alternatives, to possibly identify additional alternatives, and to finalize the AMS and the need for change. It will also start the formal NEPA process of preparing the EIS that will accompany the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan.

(4) The Responsible Official

The responsible official is Richard M. Bacon, Deputy Regional Forester, Northern Region, 200 East Broadway, PO Box 7669, Missoula, Montana 59807.

Dated: November 20, 1996.
Richard M. Bacon,
Deputy Regional Forester.
[FR Doc. 96-30271 Filed 11-25-96; 8:45 am]
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COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the California Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the California Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 11:00 a.m. and adjourn at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 1996, at the Holiday Inn at Union Square, 480 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California 94108. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the status of on-going projects and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation

to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Fernando Hernandez, 310-696-0104, or Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, November 18, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-30188 Filed 11-25-96; 8:45 am]
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Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the New York State Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the New York State Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 1996, at the Hall of Justice, 65 Exchange Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14614. The purpose of the meeting is to convene a factfinding meeting for the purpose of gathering information on equal housing opportunities in section 8 housing in Rochester.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson M. D. Taracido, 212-645-8999, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, November 18, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
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