DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on June 9, 1998 at the Madras Fire Department Convention Hall located on the corner of Adam and J Street off of Hwy 97 in Madras, Oregon. A combined field trip and business meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and finish at 4:30 pm. Agenda items include: (1) Fuels Management Issues (2) PAC Rechartering (3) Working Group Update (4) Public Forum from 9:00 to 9:20 am at the Madris Fire Hall. All Deschutes Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mollie Chaudet, Province Liaison, USDA, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 N. E. 3rd, Bend, Oregon 97701, 541–383–4769.

Dated: May 7, 1998.

Sally Collins,

Deschutes National Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98–13030 Filed 5–14–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Colfax Watershed, Richland County, North Dakota; Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of significant no impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the National Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice than an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Colfax Watershed, Richland County, North Dakota.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Hoag, Jr., State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 220 East Rosser Avenue, P.O. 1458, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502–1458, (701) 250–4421.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Scott Hoag, Jr., State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purposes are for flood control, agricultural water management, and watershed protection. The planned works of improvement include a 300 linear foot dike with overflow, 8,800 linear feet of floodway with pipe drop inlet and grade stabilization structure, 3,000 linear feet of floodway and dike, 12,000 linear feet of floodwater diversion, and 22,500 linear feet of floodway renovation. Associated Land Treatment Measures will be planned and installed on a minimum of 50 percent of the watershed above the structural measures. Seven thousand acres of cropland and 500 acres of grassland are expected to be benefited through the proposed project.

The Notice of a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Scott Hoag, Jr., State Conservationist, 220 East Rosser Avenue, P.O. box 1458, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502–1458.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Scott Hoag, Jr.,

State Conservationist.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials)

Introduction

The Colfax Watershed is a federally assisted action authorized for planning under Public Law 83–566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. An environmental assessment was undertaken in conjunction with the development of the watershed plan. This assessment was conducted in consultation with local, State, and Federal agencies as well as with interested organizations and individuals. Data developed during the assessment are available for public review at the following location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 220 East Rosser Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501.

Recommended Action

Proposed is the implementation of both structural and associated land treatment measures (ALTM) to reduce flood damages and protect the watershed. The structural components include a 300 linear foot dike with overflow, 8,800 linear feet of floodway with pipe drop inlet and grade stabilization structure, 3,000 linear feet of floodway and dike, 12,000 linear feet of floodwater diversion, and 22,500 linear feet of floodway renovation. The ALTM will be planned and installed on a minimum of 50 percent of the watershed above the structural measures. Seven thousands acres of cropland and 500 acres of grassland are expected to be benefited through the proposed project.

Effect of Recommended Action

The recommended action will protect the watershed hydrologically by improving the soil cover condition, water quality, and reduce overland flow quantities and velocities. Existing floodways will be restored, or built to the extent the peak flood flow rates for a 10 year, 24 hour flood event can be handled.

The proposed action will have little or not effect on wetlands. Only 2.2 acres are expected to be impacted to the point of requiring mitigation. The land treatment applied on 7,500 acres, will improve rainfall infiltration on both cropland and grassland. Sedimentation rates will be reduced from high value low residue crop fields. Integrated crop management will reduce the availability of nutrients and pesticides from entering the Wild Rice River.

The proposed project still encourage and promote farm units in the watershed to manage their natural resources in a safe and productive manner. This action will tend to sustain agricultural diversity and productivity for land users in the watershed. The reduced threat of flooding will provide social and economic benefits to watershed residents.

An initial site leads inventory of cultural resources as they relate to the planned components has been completed. This inventory concludes that no significant adverse impacts will occur to cultural resources in the