

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

[Docket No. 99-007N]

**National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods****AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a public meeting on February 24-26, 1999 to review and discuss ongoing and completed issues on meat and poultry, fresh produce, and Codex.

**DATES:** The full committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. on February 24, 1999. On February 25, the subcommittees will meet, and the full committee will reconvene on February 26.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Park Terrace on Embassy Row, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments should contact Ms. Amelia L. Wright, Advisory Committee Specialist, Scientific Research Oversight Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Suite 6913, Franklin Court, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700, by mail or FAX (202) 501-7366. Comments and requests may be provided by E-mail to amelia.wright@usda.gov. Written comments may be submitted to the FSIS Docket Clerk, 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Wright by February 15, 1999.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In addition to reviewing issues regarding meat, poultry, fresh produce, and Codex, the Committee will receive new requests from the sponsoring agencies. Dr. I. Kaye Wachsmuth, Deputy Administrator, Office of Public Health and Science, FSIS, will be the Committee Chair.

NACMCF provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the development of microbiological safety and wholesomeness of food by assessing available data as it relates to the human health consequences of food safety. The Committee also provides guidance to the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Done at Washington, DC, on February 11, 1999.

**Thomas J. Billy,***Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 99-3962 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****South Fork Burnt River Range Planning on the Unity Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Baker County, Oregon****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to update range management planning on five (5) livestock grazing allotments which will result in the development of new Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). The allotments are West Burnt River, North Fork Burnt River, Powell Gulch, South Burnt River and Bullrun. The allotments are located approximately 50 miles, by road, southwest of Baker City, Oregon. The allotments, combined, are called the South Fork Burnt River Range Planning Area. National Forest System lands within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will be considered in the proposal. Management actions are planned to be implemented beginning in the year 2000. 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 may participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by March 26, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal to Deborah G. Schmidt, District Ranger, Unity Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, P.O. Box 38, Unity, Oregon 97884.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions about the proposed action and EIS to Paul Bridges, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Baker Ranger District, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814, phone (541) 523-1950.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed action is to continue to permit livestock grazing on National Forest System lands. The proposed action is

designed to continue the improving trends in vegetation, watershed conditions, and in ecological sustainability relative to livestock grazing within the five allotments of the South Fork Burnt River Watershed. The action is needed to develop new AMPs which incorporate results of recent scientific research, analysis and documentation at the sub-basin level.

The Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plan as amended, recognized the continuing need for forage production from the Forest and recognized the five allotments of the South Fork Burnt River watershed as containing lands which are capable and suitable for grazing by domestic livestock. This action is needed to continue this historic use.

The allotments are located within the Bullrun Creek, Job Creek, East Camp Creek, Lower West Camp Creek, Upper West Camp Creek, Middle Fork Burnt River, Pole-Sheep Creeks, South Fork Burnt River, Elk Creek, North Fork Burnt River, and the West Fork Burnt River subwatersheds on the Unity Ranger District. These subwatersheds are contained within the South Fork Burnt River, North Fork Burnt River and Camp Creek Watersheds.

The Forest planning process allocated specific management direction across the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Within the area encompassed by the five allotments, management areas (MA) include MA1 (timber production), MA3 (wildlife/timber), MA4 (wilderness), and MA6 (backcountry).

The five allotments encompass approximately 77,000 acres of National Forest System Lands, with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private land making up an additional 8,100 acres within the Powell Gulch, North Fork Burnt River, and South Burnt River allotments. Important riparian areas occur in three of the allotments: Bullrun, South Burnt River and West Burnt River. Other points of interest in the allotments are as follows: in the Bullrun allotment, a portion of the Monument Rock Wilderness occurs; in the South Burnt River allotment, a multi-campground fenced enclosure occurs along the river which provides a livestock free recreation area and helps to improve riparian conditions on that portion of river; within the West Burnt River allotment, there is a Bald Eagle Management Area and many fenced enclosures exist which contribute to improving trends for many portions of the river.

The South Fork Burnt River Range Planning Area provides habitat for many wildlife species including management indicator species (MIS) and their