

Forest Service administered surface and under private surface.

* Where applicable, recommend Wild and Scenic River designations, in cooperation with the National Park Service, in accordance with 16 USC 1274; and

* Where applicable, recommend non-Wilderness allocations or Wilderness recommendations for roadless areas (26 CFR 219.17).

The authorization of project level activities within the planning area occurs through project decision-making, the second stage of forest and grassland planning. Project-level decisions must comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures and must include a determination that the project is consistent with the Management Plan, or the Plan must be amended according to the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

Release and Review of the EIS: The DEIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public comment by December 2002. 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 90 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

Reviewers of the DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions; Vermont *Yankee Nuclear Power Com. 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 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, 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 three-month comment period so that substantive comments and objections 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 on 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 DEIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statements. 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 in addressing these points.

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, 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 December 2003. The responsible officials 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 his decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision for the revised Management Plan. The decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909-15, section 21.2)

Dated: July 19, 2002.

Richard C. Stem,

Deputy Regional Forester, Resources, Rocky Mountain Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC); Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on September 11-12, 2002. The first day is a field trip to the Dilman project on the Deschutes River to view implementation of activities related to forest health and dispersed recreation on the Deschutes National Forest. The second day will be a business meeting beginning 9 a.m. and ending 4 p.m. at the La Pine Library at 16425 1st St. in La Pine, Oregon. Topics include Northwest Forest Plan Monitoring, Deschutes National Forest Recreation Strategy, Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan, Hosmer, Subcommittee updates/Round Robin, and a Public Forum from 3-3:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Mickle, Province Liaison, USDA, Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE. 3rd., Bend, OR, 97701, Phone (541) 383-4769.

Dated: August 14, 2002.

Leslie A.C. Weldon,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-21217 Filed 8-20-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 19, 2002, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lake County Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie McIntosh, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Upper Lake Ranger District, 10025 Elk Mountain Road, Upper Lake, CA 95485. (707) 275-2361; e-mail dmcintosh@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Roll Call/Establish Quorum; (2) Review and Approval of the Minutes of the August 8, 2002 Meeting; (3) Finalize business for 2002; (4) Discuss/revise evaluation criteria for projects; (5) Evaluate Committee Membership; (6) Discussion on Chair Position for 2003; (7) Discussion on Next Meeting Date; and (8) Discuss Project Cost Accounting USFS/County of Lake; (9) Recommend Projects for 2003; (10) Public Comment period. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: August 14, 2002.

Blaine P. Baker,

Designated Federal Officer.

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