

selected alternative, the Forest LRMP will be amended to include L2 as a management practice available in Management Area #91.

In preparing the environmental impact statement, the Forest Service will identify and analyze a range of alternatives that address the issues developed for this area. One of the alternatives will be no treatment. Other alternatives will consider differing levels of timber harvest; different techniques for fuels reduction; differing amounts of plantation thinning; different types of wildlife habitat improvement; and whether to upgrade the #43 road. It also means that the needs of people and environmental values will be considered in such a way that this area will represent a diverse, healthy, productive, and sustainable ecosystem.

Public participation will be important during the analysis, especially during the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
4. Exploring additional alternatives.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The following list of issues has been identified through initial scoping:

- (1) To what extent will harvesting and creation of the DFPZ affect water quality?
- (2) What affect will the creation of the DFPZ have on the potential for large catastrophic wildfires within the project area?
- (3) To what extent can forest health be improved within the project area? In addition, what level of timber commodities could result from forest health improvement projects?
- (4) To what extent will the view from the Mosquito Ridge (#96) road be affected? What will the visual character be resulting from the proposed activities?
- (5) What affect will the proposed activities have on long-term soil productivity?

(6) To what extent will air quality in the Sacramento Valley be affected by proposed activities?

(7) What affect will including harvest of < 10" diameter trees have on the potential to sell harvested trees in a commercial timber sale?

Comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals who may be interested in, or affected by the decision, are encouraged to identify other significant issues. Public participation will be solicited through mailing letters to potentially interested or affected mining claim owners, private land owners, and special use permittees on the Foresthill Ranger District; posting information in local towns; and mailing letters to local timber industries, politicians, school boards, county supervisors, and environmental groups. Continued participation will be emphasized through individual contacts. Public meetings used as a method of public involvement during preparation and review of the draft environmental impact statement will be announced in newspapers of general circulation in the geographic area of such meetings well in advance of scheduled dates.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements 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 Corp. v. NRDC*, 435, U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 the court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day 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 final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action,

comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. 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.

The draft EIS is expected to be available for public review by the end of April, 1996. The final EIS is expected to be available by the end of June, 1996.

The responsible official is John H. Skinner, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, PO Box 6003, Nevada City, CA 95959.

Dated: February 28, 1996.

John H. Skinner,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-5354 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute (BMNRI), Board of Directors

AGENCY: Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute Board of Directors will meet on March 13, 1996 at Eastern Oregon State College, Hoke Hall, Room 309, 1410 L Avenue in La Grande, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 2:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) revision of BMNRI documents to comply with Federal Advisory Committee Act; (2) appoint Board members to serve on research and outreach subcommittees; (3) program status; (4) report on Seventh American Forest Congress; (5) status of requested charter changes; and (6) public comments. All Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute Board Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting should contact John Henshaw, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, OR 97850, 503-963-7122, no later than 5:00 p.m. March 12, 1996 to have time reserved on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to John Henshaw, Acting Manager, Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 503-963-7122.

Dated: February 9, 1996.

John Henshaw,

Acting Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-5326 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Western Washington Cascades Province Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Washington Cascades PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on March 26, 1996 at the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters, 21905 64th Avenue West, in Mountlake Terrace, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until about 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) continuation of discussion of the possibilities, pros, cons, and probable ramifications (including legal and administrative requirements) of changing the original designations, under the Northwest Forest Plan, of the Skagit and Green River basins from "non-key" to "key" watersheds; (2) determination of priority topics for discussion and recommendation by the Committee for the next 6 months; (3) report by the River Basin Study Group, including discussion of whether to move forward with a pilot information gathering effort; (4) other topics as appropriate; and, (5) open public forum. All Western Washington Cascades Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chris Hansen-Murray, Province Liaison, USDA, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 21905 64th West, Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043, 206-744-3276.

Dated: March 1, 1996.

Ronald R. DeHart,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-5370 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection, the Stocks Report.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 13, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Stocks Report.

OMB Number: 0535-0007.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1996.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production. The Stocks Report Surveys provide estimates of off-farm stocks of grains, rice, potatoes, peanuts, hops, and dry beans. Off-farm stocks are combined with on-farm stocks to estimate stocks in all positions. Stocks statistics are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help administer programs, by State agencies to develop research and promote the marketing of the products and by producers to find their best market opportunity.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 18 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms and businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 11,700.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 15,500 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of

the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval.

All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., March 1, 1996.

Donald M. Bay,

Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5315 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-M

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection, the Field Crops Objective Yield Surveys.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 13, 1996, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Field Crops Objective Yield.

OMB Number: 0535-0088.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1996.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service