

distributed on July 15, 1996. As the Assessment progresses, continued public involvement will be facilitated through additional meetings, newsletters, and electronic media.

2. Beginning of the Forest Plan Revision Efforts for the Ouachita, Ozark-St. Francis, and Mark Twain National Forests

This Notice announces that the Ouachita, Ozark-St. Francis, and Mark Twain National Forests have already started or are beginning efforts to revise their Forest Plans. These Forests are each in the very early stages of preparing an AMS, one of the first steps in the revision process. This step includes updating resource inventories, defining the current situation, estimating supply capabilities and resource demands, and determining the "Need for Change" (36 CFR 219.12(e)(5)).

3. Public Involvement in Developing the "Need for Change" in an AMS

Determining the concerns and expectations of National Forest constituents and getting public input on how well current Forest Plans are working, or not working, are critical elements of describing the "need to change" a Forest Plan. An integral part of determining the need for change is public involvement. Each of the National Forests described above either have already, or will soon contact its interested publics to solicit their participation in this step of the Forest Plan revision process.

4. Relationship Between the AMS and a Notice of Intent to Prepare an 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, including 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 then issuing a NOI prior to developing alternatives. This will allow us to incorporate a more definable "Proposed Action" and "Purpose and Need" into our NOIs, which will begin the formal NEPA process of preparing the EISs that will accompany the Revised Forest Plans.

5. Relationship Between the Ozark/Ouachita Highlands Assessment and the Process for Revising the Forest Plans for Each National Forest

Some individuals may be concerned that the Ozark/Ouachita Assessment will "delay" revising Forest Plans in the

Ozark/Ouachita Highlands. However, the OOHA is being conducted concurrently, and in support of, the Forest Plan revisions.

Many of the information needs for the Forest AMSs and for the OOHA are the same. The Assessment will support the revision of the Forest Plans by determining how the lands, resources, people and management of the National Forests interrelate within the larger context of the Ozark/Ouachita Highlands Area. The OOHA, however, will not be a "decision document" and it will not involve the NEPA process. As broad-scale issues are identified and addressed at the sub-regional level in the Assessment, the individual National Forest's role in resolving those broad-scale issues will become a part of the "need for change" at the Forest level.

6. Issuing the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS

The National Forests identified above will issue their NOI once they have developed the "Need for Change" section of their respective Draft AMSs. The Draft AMSs are scheduled to be completed by mid-1998; NOIs are also scheduled to be issued during this same time period.

Each NOI will include a description of a preliminary "Proposed Action", based on the "Need for Change" analysis in the Draft AMS, the preliminary issues, and some preliminary alternatives. Scoping to receive public comments on the preliminary propose action, issues and preliminary alternatives will begin following the publication of the NOIs. These public comments will be used to further refine the "Proposed Action", the preliminary issues and the preliminary alternatives, to possibly identify additional alternatives, and to complete the AMS and the "Need for Change."

7. The Responsible Official

The Responsible Official for this notice is Bill Pell, Assessment Team Leader, USDA Forest Service, 100 Reserve Street, Box 1270, Federal Building, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71902.

Dated: October 9, 1996.
Bill Pell,
Assessment Team Leader.
[FR Doc. 96-26503 Filed 10-15-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Southwest Oregon Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on October 24, 1996 at Brookings Inn, Brookings, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:15 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Local area issues presentation; (2) Guidelines for new working groups; (3) Grazing committee report; (4) Year-end review of Province Advisory Committee work, and (5) Public comments. All 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 Kurt Austermann, Province Advisory Committee staff, USDI, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, Oregon 97504, phone 541-770-2200.

Dated: October 8, 1996.
Charles J. Anderson,
Acting Forest Supervisor, Designated Federal Official.
[FR Doc. 96-26444 Filed 10-15-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Advisory Committee Meeting; Cancellation

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Natural Resources Conservation Service is cancelling the meeting of the Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality scheduled for October 25, 1996, to provide time to complete the selection process for Task Force membership. A rescheduling of this meeting will be announced in the Federal Register in approximately 90 days under Notices. The original meeting was announced in the Federal Register of October 7, 1996 (61 FR 52406).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Bluhm, University of California, Land, Air, Water Resources, 151 Hoagland Hall, Davis, CA 95616-6827. Telephone (916) 752-1018, fax (916) 752-1552.

Dated: October 9, 1996
Richard L. Duesterhaus,
Deputy Chief, Science and Technology.
[FR Doc. 96-26478 Filed 10-15-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3014-16-P