

DATES: Input concerning issues with the Proposed Action must be received by March 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct written input and questions about the Proposed Action and Environmental Impact Statement to the Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA. 95959-6003. Telephone (916)265-4531.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Carlson, Project Leader, Nevada City Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA. 95959-6003. Telephone (916)265-4531.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will tier to the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Forest Plan EIS. The purpose of the Proposed Action is four-fold.

1. Address public concerns about potential destruction of private and public lands due to uncontrolled wildfires.
2. Improve the existing state of the forested areas in such a manner that wildlife within the area will have better forage, habitat, cover, and migration corridors.
3. Improve the overall health of the timber stands by removing undesirable understory and other weakened or high-risk trees.
4. Provide forest products for the forest products industry.

Public Scoping Process: A letter describing the Proposed Action was mailed to a list of interested parties on January 9, 1997. An article describing the project and soliciting information/concerns from the public was published in the "The Union" newspaper in Grass Valley, CA. On February 18, 1997. The Tahoe National Forest plans to issue a scoping letter to all interested publics in March, 1997. A public meeting with potentially interested parties and specialists occurred on February 22, 1997.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement 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 a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so the 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, 533 (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 these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period on the draft EIS 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 statement. 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.)

A draft EIS is expected to be available for agency and public review by April 1997. A final EIS is expected to be completed by June 1997 and documented by a Record of Decision.

The responsible official for the EIS and decision is John H. Skinner, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA 95959-6003.

Dated: March 4, 1997.
John H. Skinner,
Forest Supervisor.
[FR Doc. 97-6138 Filed 3-11-97; 8:45am]
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Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA

Iron Range Livestock Exchange, Inc.; Aitkin, Minnesota; Correction

A notice of the posting of certain stockyards listing their facility number, name, and location was published in the Federal Register on February 7, 1997, (62 FR 5795). This notice is to correct the posting number assigned to Iron Range Livestock Exchange, Inc., to read MN-192.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 4th day of March 1997.

Daniel L. Van Ackeren,
*Director, Livestock Marketing Division,
Packers and Stockyards Programs.*
[FR Doc. 97-6097 Filed 3-11-97; 8:45 am]

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BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 552b of Title 5, United States Code, that a meeting of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission will be held on Thursday, March 27, 1997.

The Commission was established pursuant to Public Law 99-647. The purpose of the Commission is to assist federal, state and local authorities in the development and implementation of an integrated resource management plan for those lands and waters within the Corridor.

The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Valley Resource, Inc., 1595 Mendon Road, Cumberland, RI for the following reasons:

1. Update on Cumberland Projects
2. Welcome Workshops; The Plan
3. Commission Business

It is anticipated that about twenty people will be able to attend the session in addition to the Commission members.

Interested persons may make oral or written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made prior to the meeting to: Susan K. Moore, Executive Director, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI 02895, Tel.: (401) 762-0250.

Further information concerning this meeting may be obtained from Susan K. Moore, Executive Director of the Commission at the aforementioned address.

Susan K. Moore,
Executive Director, BRVNHCC.
[FR Doc. 97-5624 Filed 3-6-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission For OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for