

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, currently consisting of 14 members, is scheduled to meet for the sixth of eight planned meetings. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the National Agriculture Library, Beltsville, Maryland, beginning at 1 p.m. on December 1 and concluding at 3 p.m. on December 4. The meeting will be a review of the data collected by the Task Force and will begin discussion and plans for the development of the final report.

Times and dates: December 1, 1998, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; December 2, 1998, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; December 3, 1998, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; and December 4, 1998, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Place: National Agricultural Library Conference Room, Beltsville, Maryland.

Type of meeting: Open to the public.

Comments: The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mitch Geasler, Project Director, Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, Room 344–A Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–0113. Telephone 202–720–3803.

Done at Washington, DC, this 12th day of November, 1998.

I. Miley Gonzalez,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 98–30852 Filed 11–17–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region; Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Sheep Flats Diversity Unit Timber Sales, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest, Mesa County, Colorado

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to supplement an environmental impact statement.

Responsible Official: The Responsible Official for this Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is Mr. Robert Storch, Forest Supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, Colorado 81416.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service prepared and issued a final environmental impact statement in June 1998 about four (4) proposed timber sales: Valley View, Sheep Flats, Grove Creek, and Leon. These sales are located on the Grand Mesa National Forest, Collbran Ranger District. The Forest Service will supplement this environmental impact statement by developing and presenting additional information concerning soils and watershed resources. Errors and inconsistencies in the June 1998 EIS will also be corrected.

DATES: Publication of Draft Supplemental EIS: December 1998. Publication of Final Supplemental EIS: March 1999. Publication of Record of Decision: April 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mr. Robert Storch, Forest Supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, Colorado 81416. Send electronic mail comments to Pam Bode, Project Leader at pam.bode/r2_gmug@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Supervisor will use this Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to reconsider his decision concerning how to manage the timber resource within

Sheep Flats Diversity Unit. The Forest Service is proposing to harvest four timber sales on this National Forest System land. Even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural systems are considered in Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and aspen stands. These sales are scheduled to be offered within a five to ten year period after this analysis.

Initial scoping of interested parties identified three preliminary issues. These are: (1) Constructing roads and harvesting timber within areas that were identified as Salt Creek Roadless Area and Priest Mountain Roadless Area during the 1979 RARE II inventory, (2) harvesting old growth timber, and (3) cumulative impacts on ecosystems from logging operations in and around the sale areas.

Five alternatives were studied in the June 1998 EIS. Alternative 1 is No Action. Alternatives 2 and 4 harvest suited timber but do not enter the Salt Creek or Priest Mountain Roadless Area. Alternatives 3 and 5 enter both the Salt Creek and Priest Mountain Roadless Areas. Alternatives 2 and 3 emphasize maintenance of current old growth attributes and wildlife habitat networks while moderately improving timber structural diversity. Alternatives 4 and 5 emphasize improvement of timber structural diversity and production of wood fiber for timber industry. The selected action in the June 1998 Record of Decision was a combination of Alternatives 3 and 5. This action will be reconsidered when the Final Supplemental EIS is complete and a new decision will be published.

News releases were issued, field tours have been conducted, and public meetings have occurred over the past six years. No additional scoping is planned for this project. News releases will be issued to inform the public that a Supplemental EIS will be prepared. These releases will outline the analysis schedule, and identify the period of opportunity for comment. The comment period on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The parties that expressed interest previously have been informed individually by mail that this analysis is continuing.

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 supplemental 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 supplemental environmental impact stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final supplemental environmental impact statement 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 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 supplemental environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the supplemental EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the supplement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the supplement or its merits. 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.

Dated: November 9, 1998.

Robert L. Storch,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-30859 Filed 11-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the District of Columbia Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the District of Columbia Advisory Committee to the Commission will

convene at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 12:45 p.m. on December 4, 1998, at JC Penney, Government Relations Office (Suite 1015), 1156 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The purpose of the meeting is to hear from lending industry representatives on the use of credit scoring methods in relationship to minority loan applicants, to receive updates from subcommittees, to review an outline for a memorandum to the Commission on recent developments in lending and discrimination issues, and continue planning future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Steven Sims, 202-862-4815, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, November 10, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-30757 Filed 11-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-F

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Missouri Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Missouri Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 3 p.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. on December 3, 1998, at the Holiday Inn, 102 South 3rd, St. Joseph MO 64501. The purpose of the meeting is to plan future activities and receive civil rights monitoring issues from members.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TTD 913-551-1414). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, November 10, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-30758 Filed 11-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13.

Bureau: International Trade Administration.

Title: Internet Export Finance Matchmaker.

OMB Number: None.

Type of Request: Regular Submission.

Burden: 333 hours.

Number of Respondents: 1700.

Avg. Hours Per Response: Exporters, 10 minutes; Export Service Firms, 30 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Office of Finance assists U.S. firms in identifying trade finance opportunities and promotes the competitiveness of U.S. financial services in international trade. The Office of Finance interacts with private financial institutions in insurance, banking, leasing, factoring, barter, and counter trade; U.S. financing agencies, such as the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and others. To facilitate contact between exporters and financial institutions, the Office of Finance is developing an interactive Internet trade finance matchmaking program to link exporters seeking trade finance with banks and other financial institutions. The information collected from financial institutions regarding the trade finance products and services they offer will be compiled into a database. An exporter will be able to electronically submit a form identifying the potential export transaction and type of financing requested. This information will be electronically matched with the financial institution(s) that meet the requirements of the exporter. After a match has been made, a message will be electronically sent to both the exporter and the financial institution containing