

**Federal Register.** The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is important that those interested in the management of the Umatilla National Forest participate at that time.

The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by July, 1999. In the final EIS, the Forest Service will respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the Draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage 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 environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statement 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 provision of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points).

The Forest Service is the lead agency. Jeff Blackwood, Forest Supervisor, is the

Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official, he will decide which, if any, of the proposed projects will be implemented. He will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: December 30, 1998.

**Jeff D. Blackwood,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99-487 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Notice of Annual Board of Directors Meeting

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of annual board meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center announces that it will hold its annual Board of Directors meeting. The meeting will be held over 2 days in the Washington, DC area.

**DATES:** The meeting dates are:

1. February 17, 1999, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Arlington, VA.
2. February 18, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Washington, DC.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting locations are:

1. Arlington, VA—Holiday Inn Westpark, 1900 N. Ft. Meyer Drive, Arlington, VA, Board Room conference room.
2. Washington, DC—USDA South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, Room 3107.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3252, telephone (202) 690-0368. (This is not a toll free number.) E-mail:

thomas.stafford@usda.gov. The Federal Information Relay service on 1-800-877-8339 may be used by TDD users.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The February board meeting will serve as the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center's annual meeting. Specific meeting rooms are subject to last minute changes.

#### Background

The sheep and goat industries, the 1996 Farm Bill established the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center to

assist and strengthen the U.S. sheep and goat industries through projects and assistance financed through the Center's revolving fund. The Center is managed by a nine member, non-compensated board. The Board of Directors may use the monies in the fund to make grants, and intermediate and long-term loans, contracts, cooperative repayable agreements, or cooperative agreements in accordance with an annual strategic plan submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture.

#### Purposes of the Center

The purposes of the Center are to:

(1) Promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by private and State entities to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States;

(2) Optimize the use of available human capital and resources within the sheep or goat industries;

(3) Provide assistance to meet the needs of the sheep or goat industry for infrastructure development, business development, production, resource development, and market and environmental research;

(4) Advance activities that empower and build the capacity of the United States sheep or goat industry to design unique responses to the special needs of the sheep or goat industries on both a regional and national basis; and

(5) Adopt flexible and innovative approaches to solving the long-term needs of the United States sheep and goat industries.

#### Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to the public.

**Authority:** 7 USC 2008j, Pub.L. 104-130.

Dated: December 16, 1998.

**Dayton J. Watkins,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-474 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to and deletions from procurement list.