

# 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.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the newly appointed Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA).

**DATE:** September 8, 1999 (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

**LOCATION:** U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, Naval Heritage Center, "Arleigh and Roberta Burke Theater", 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20004-2608.

This meeting will feature updates on important items of interest to the community of private voluntary organizations working in international development. Agenda items include discussion of proposed revisions to USAID's Strategic Plan; an assessment of the effectiveness of changes made to streamline USAID's results reporting process; and a status report on the relationship between USAID and the Department of State. There will also be updates on Balkan reconstruction and Hurricane Mitch rehabilitation in Central America, as well as on ACVFA's assessment of USAID's Gender Plan of Action. USAID's new administrator, J. Brady Anderson, has been invited to give the keynote address.

The meeting is free and open to the public. However, Notification by September 6, 1999 Through the Advisory Committee Headquarters is Required. Persons wishing to attend the meeting must fax their name, organization and phone number to Lisa J. Harrison (703) 741-0567.

Dated: August 11, 1999.

#### Noreen O'Meara,

*Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA).*

[FR Doc. 99-21681 Filed 8-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Agriculture has established an advisory committee, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership for the Lake Tahoe Region. Nominations of persons to serve as the 20th member, member-at-large, of the Committee are invited.

**DATES:** Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received in writing by September 7, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send nominations with telephone numbers for membership on the Committee to: FACA Nominations, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 870 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, (530) 573-2641.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture has established the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee on July 13, 1998 and will be selecting nominations for a 20th member. The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Basin and other matters raised by the Secretary.

The Secretary has determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, conducting public meetings to discuss management strategies, gather information and review federal agency accomplishments, and prepare a progress report every six months for submission to regional federal executives.

The Committee will consist of no more than 20 members representing a broad array of interests in the Lake

Tahoe Region. Representatives have been selected from the following sectors: (1) Gaming; (2) environmental; (3) natural resources; (4) ski resorts; (5) North Shore economic and recreation interests; (6) South Shore economic and recreation interests; (7) resort associations; (8) education; (9) property rights advocates; (10) member-at-large; (11) member-at-large; (12) science and research; (13) local government; (14) Washoe Tribe; (15) State of California; (16) State of Nevada; (17) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; (18) Union/labor interests; (19) transportation; and (20) member-at-large (vacant).

Nominations for the 20th member representing member-at-large should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee.

Vacancies on the Committee will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include to the extent practicable individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: August 11, 1999.

#### Juan Palma,

*Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.*

[FR Doc. 99-21597 Filed 8-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Wolf Creek Ditch Special Use Permit, Okanogan National Forest, Okanogan County, WA

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to issue an easements and special use permits to the Wolf Creek Reclamation District to

operate and maintain the Wolf Creek and Little Wolf Creek irrigation ditches and access the ditches over Forest Service roads. In addition to issuing easements and special use permits, the proposed action includes replacing the existing log diversion structure with a concrete structure, which will allow for fish passage, and realigning the existing culvert at the beginning of the ditch. The EIS will develop a range of alternatives for operation and maintenance of the ditch. The alternatives will include the No Action alternative, whereby no easements or special use permits would be issued to the Wolf Creek Reclamation District, and no water would be allowed to flow down the ditch, and alternatives that respond to issues identified during the scoping process. The proposed action is consistent with the direction in the 1989 Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), as amended by the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, which provide overall guidance for management of the area. Implementation of this proposal is scheduled to begin in summer 2000. The Forest Service invites written comments on this project. In addition, the agency gives notice of this environmental analysis so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the decision making process.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope and implementation of the proposal should be received in writing by September 10, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments and suggestions concerning this project to Sonny J. O'Neal, Forest Supervisor, Okanogan National Forest, 1240 S. Second Ave., Okanogan, Washington, 98840.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions about the proposed action and the scope of analysis to Jan Flatten, Project Team Leader at 1240 South Second Avenue, Okanogan, WA, (509) 826-3277.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Wolf Creek Reclamation District has held a special use permit to operate and maintain the Wolf Creek irrigation ditch since 1921. The Reclamation District provides both domestic and agricultural water to residents, businesses and public agencies along the ditch. The portion of the ditch on National Forest System lands (NFS) is located in Sections 1 and 2 of Township 34 North, Range 20 East, Willamette Meridian. The ditch on NFS lands spans approximately one mile, from the headgate on Wolf Creek just below the

boundary of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, across Little Wolf Creek to private land. The ditch eventually empties into Patterson Lake, where it is then channeled around Patterson Mountain to service private lands and the Methow Valley School District. The ditch currently has a log diversion dam and a temporary flat fish screen installed in the summer of 1999 at the headgate on Wolf Creek. The headgate is currently inaccessible by road and is located at the edge of the Sawtooth inventoried Roadless Area. The Reclamation District currently holds a temporary special use permit for operation and maintenance of the ditch. In 1997, steelhead were listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Bull trout were listed as a threatened species in 1998, and Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook Salmon were listed as an endangered species in 1999. All three species are found in Wolf Creek. The Wolf Creek Reclamation District does not hold a special use permit for the little Wolf Creek ditch.

The analysis area is located entirely in matrix lands under the Northwest Forest Plan, and is managed for wildlife (MA-5; 30%) under the Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). This EIS will tier to the Forest Plan, as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan. The amended Forest Plan provides forest-wide standards and guidelines, management area standards and guidelines, management area standards and guidelines, and desired future conditions for the various lands on the Forest. This direction is provided for management practices that will be utilized during the implementation of the amended Forest Plan.

In the early 1990s, the Wolf Creek Reclamation District applied for an easement for the ditch under Public Law 99-545 (Colorado Ditch Bill), which makes issuance of the easement to qualifying irrigation ditches non-discretionary.

The proposed action for the Wolf Creek Ditch easements and special use permits would permit the Wolf Creek Reclamation District to continue to operate and maintain the Wolf Creek and Little Wolf Creek irrigation ditches. Not allowing continued operation and maintenance of the ditches might have adverse social and economic impacts. Access to the Wolf Creek headgate would be via helicopter, all terrain vehicles and a 1/4 to 1/2 mile long tractor trail to allow for replacement of the headgate and diversion structure and realignment of the culvert. The proposed action would be adjusted

between draft and final EIS to comply with any terms and conditions identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as a result of a Biological Opinion on the listed species.

The following preliminary issues have been identified for this project: (1) Species listed under the Endangered Species Act (steelhead, bull trout and spring Chinook salmon) reside in Wolf Creek and may be adversely affected; (2) The headgate for the ditch is located near the boundary of an inventoried roadless area and building an access trail could potentially substantially alter the unroaded and undeveloped character of that portion of the roadless area; (3) The Lake-Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness boundary is approximately 500 feet upstream from the existing headgate and reconstruction activities may have short term impacts on wilderness users; and (4) Trail construction and stream crossings of heavy equipment, headgate replacement, culvert re-alignment, and diversion dam construction may increase sedimentation in Wolf Creek.

The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, tribes, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested or affected by the proposed project. This information will be used to determine the issues significant to the development and analysis of alternatives, to determine the appropriate range of alternative ways of implementing the proposed action, and to guide the analysis of effects.

The scoping process will include the following:

- Identification of potential issues;
- Identification of issues to be analyzed in depth;
- Elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process;
- Exploration of alternative ways to implement the proposed actions based on the issues identified during the scoping process; and
- Determination of environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The analysis will develop a range of alternatives from No Action to alternatives allowing for operation and maintenance of the irrigation that respond to the significant issues.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for

public review by January 2000. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date EPA publishes the notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**.

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, a reviewer of a draft EIS 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 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 objectives 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).

Individuals and organizations who write to comment on projects may have their letters released in their entirety, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in March 2000. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to 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 the decision regarding this proposal. Sonny O'Neal, Forest Supervisor, is the responsible official. As responsible official, he will document the project

decision and rationale in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215 and 36 CFR 251).

Dated: August 13, 1999.

**Stuart Woolley,**

*Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Okanogan National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 99-21635 Filed 8-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Goose Restoration Projects, Winema National Forest, Klamath County, Oregon

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for restoration projects on the Klamath Ranger District of the Winema National Forest. The planning area is located in T32S, R6E, T32S, R7 1/2E, T33S, R6E, and T33S, R7 1/2E, Willamette Meridian. Projects included under this analysis include commercial timber harvest, precommercial thinning, underburning, post and pole harvest, reforestation, evaluation of access and travel opportunities, road closures and obliterations, correction of sediment problems at the Annie Creek dispersed site, and elk forage enhancement. The Forest Service is initiating the process of preparing an EIS to analyze and disclose the effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by September 20, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to Goose Project, Klamath Ranger District, 1936 California Ave., Klamath Falls, Oregon, 97601.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Phil Jahns, Klamath Ranger District, Winema National Forest, 1936 California Avenue, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601, phone 541-885-3400 or e-mail at: pjahns/r6pnw\_\_,winema@fs.fed.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Goose Planning Area is located on the east side of the southern Cascades immediately south of Crater Lake National Park. The elevation ranges from 4000 to 6000 feet and encompasses forest types ranging from lodgepole pine and white fir in the lower elevations to Shasta red fir and Mountain hemlock in the higher reaches. The planning area contains one of the largest root disease pockets in western North America.

This project-level EIS will tier to the 1990 Winema National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended by the 1994 Record of Decision for "Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Document Within the Range of the Northern spotted Owl" (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan provides guidance for management activities within the potentially affected area through its goals objectives, management area direction, and standards and guidelines. The project would occur primarily within Scenic Management Area (MA3) and to a lesser extent within Late Successional Reserve (MA16) and Timber Management Area (MA12).

#### Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to (1) develop implementable treatments that will reduce the risk of large scale disturbances and/or encourage development of old growth characteristics within the planning area, (2) review the adequacy of the transportation system for the future and recommend deletion of those segments that are surplus to the needs or that are contributing to water quality problems, and (3) produce a timber product from matrix lands.

#### Proposed Action

The proposal contains a series of projects which reduce forest mortality to root disease while improving watershed condition. Up to 1930 acres of commercial harvest with thinning prescriptions will be proposed. Up to 2320 acres may be treated with prescribed underburning, possibly in conjunction with thinning. Up to 335 acres will be precommercially thinned and up to 100 acres will have opportunities to harvest posts and poles. Other proposed activities are 150 acres of seeding to improve elk foraging habitat, evaluation of access and travel opportunities and up to 40 miles of road may be closed or obliterated. In addition, the recreation site by Annie Creek will be reconstructed to minimize sediment.

#### Alternatives

The No Action alternative will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives and will be fully developed and analyzed. With the No Action alternative, there would be no activities implemented based on the Goose analysis. Previously approved activities, and routine protection and maintenance activities will continue. The proposed action, as described above, will be considered and other alternatives will be developed around the proposed