

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 65, No. 59

Monday, March 27, 2000

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.

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Meetings

The Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce was established by Public Law 105-277 to conduct a thorough study of federal, state, local and international taxation and tariff treatment of transactions using the Internet and Internet access and other comparable intrastate, interstate or international sales activities. The Commission is to report its findings and recommendations to Congress no later than April 21, 2000. Notice is hereby given, that the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce has scheduled a meeting by telephone conference call on Monday, April 10, 2000, at a time to be determined. Meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public. This meeting will be audiocast live on the World Wide Web. The audiocast will be accessible from the "Calendar/Meetings" page of the Commission's Web site, www.ecommercecommission.org/calendar.htm. The time for the meeting will be posted on the Web site no later than Friday, April 7, 2000. A verbatim transcript of this meeting will be posted on the Web site no later than April 24, 2000.

Oral comments from the public will be excluded at this meeting.

A listing of the members of the Commission and details concerning their appointment were published in the **Federal Register** on June 9, 1999, at 64 FR 30958.

Heather Rosenker,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 00-7594 Filed 3-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 0000-00

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Fuels Treatment Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA

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

SUMMARY: On July 4, 1999, heavy rains and straight-line winds in excess of 90 miles per hour blew down approximately 477,000 acres of forest within northeastern Minnesota. The majority of the blown down forest occurs within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) on the Superior National Forest. As a result of the windstorm, down and dead trees and brush (fuels) on approximately 360,000 acres within the wilderness increased from 5 to 20 tons per acre up to 50 to 100 tons per acre. This fuel loading increases the potential for wildfire to move from within the wilderness to adjacent State, County, federal, and private lands and across the Canadian border, and possibly threaten life, property and other resource values. The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the BWCAW to develop a site-specific fuels treatment plan to reduce the fire hazard resulting from the blown down forest. This fuels treatment plan may require an amendment or exception to the Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and the BWCAW Management Plan in order to use prescribed fire (fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives) within the Wilderness. The purpose of the project is to improve public safety by reducing the potential for high-intensity wildland fires to spread from the BWCAW into areas of intermingled ownership that includes homes, cabins, resorts, and other improvements both in the United States and Canada. This will be accomplished in a manner which is sensitive to ecological and wilderness values, and protects safety of firefighters and BWCAW visitors during implementation. The proposed action is to treat approximately 47,000 to 81,000 acres with prescribed fire over a five to six year time-period. The proposed action would treat approximately 13 to

22 percent of the area blown down in the July 4, 1999 windstorm or four to seven percent of the 1.1 million acre wilderness. Implementation of the proposed action may require the use of mechanized tools within the BWCAW. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed, including a no-action alternative. The Record of Decision will disclose whether or not the Forest Service will manage fuels within the BWCAW to improve public safety. If the decision is to use prescribed fire, the decision will include the following:

- The pattern of treatment to be used;
- The priority areas to be treated;
- The approximate timeframe when each area will be treated;
- The minimum action and tools needed within the wilderness to meet management objectives;
- The environmental conditions (e.g., weather conditions) under which areas will be prescribed burned;
- How wilderness and ecological values and other resources will be protected during treatment;
- Surveys and monitoring that will be conducted before, during and after treatments; and
- How decisions will be coordinated with adjacent landowners and how the public will be notified of prescribed burns.

DATES: Public open houses to solicit comments and to answer questions on the proposed action will be held from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM, CST at the following locations:

- April 10, 2000 at Cook County Community Center, 317 West 5th St., Grand Marais, MN 55604.
- April 11, 2000 at Holiday Inn SunSpree, Ridgeview Room, 400 North Poiner Rd., Ely, MN 55731.
- April 12, 2000 at Radisson Hotel, Great Hall 1, 505 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802.
- April 13, 2000 at Country Inn at White Bear Lake, Lambert Room, 4940 Hwy. 61 N., White Bear Lake, MN 55110 (directly north of Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN).
- April 14, 2000 at U.S. Forest Service, LaCroix Ranger District Office, 320 Hwy 53 N., Cook, MN 55723.

Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by the Superior National Forest by May 1, 2000.