

2. Clarify the roles and responsibilities held by the Forest Service, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and private mineral owners in regard to the protection of surface resources during the development of reserved and outstanding oil and gas, by replacing applicable sections in the Record of Decision, the 2007 Forest Plan, the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Appendix F; and

3. Supplement the Air Resources—Section 3.2.4 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (pp. 3–52 to 3–63) to fully evaluate the potential cumulative effects from emissions of methane, hydrogen sulfide, and emissions from vehicles and equipment used in oil and gas development on air quality in the Allegheny National Forest and surrounding region.

Possible Alternatives

No specific alternatives have been identified; however, alternative design criteria may be appropriate. Continued application of the 1986 Forest Plan standards and guidelines for reserved and outstanding oil and gas development will serve as the no action alternative. The alternative of denying reasonable and necessary access to reserved and outstanding minerals will not be considered in detail, as the Forest Service lacks the legal authority to do so without engaging in a taking of private property.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The lead agency for this proposal is the USDA-Forest Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management will be invited to become cooperating agencies for this proposal.

Responsible Official

The official responsible for the decision is the Regional Forester for the Eastern Region of the Forest Service.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made by the Regional Forester concerns the application of design criteria to the exercise of reserved and outstanding minerals rights, to ensure reasonable and necessary access while adequately protecting, enhancing and restoring ecosystems.

Preliminary Issues

Issues are expected to include concerns related to the ability of various design criteria to protect surface resources including water, air, and wildlife.

Permits or Licenses Required

The Forest Service is not required to obtain any permits or licenses in order to implement this proposal.

Scoping Process

This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the SEIS. Other information used in determining the scope of actions, alternatives and effects to be analyzed includes the public involvement process for the 2007 Forest Plan, appeal resolution processes related to the 2007 Forest Plan, and the decision of the Chief of the Forest Service on the appeals of the 2007 Forest Plan.

Comments received on this notice will be used to identify design criteria for surface management that are effective and appropriate. Comments that point to disagreements over the environmental effects of the proposed action will be used to further develop issues that will be analyzed in the SEIS.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the SEIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments may affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

Dated: February 17, 2009.

Leanne M. Marten,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet at the USDA Service Center in Redding, California, on March 12, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon; April 9, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon; May 27 and 28, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss proposed projects under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2008.

DATES: Thursday, March 12, 2009; Thursday, April 9, 2009; Wednesday and Thursday, May 27 and 28, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the USDA Service Center, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, California 96002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator John Heibel at (530) 226–2524 or jheibel@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee.

Dated: February 17, 2009.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

[FR Doc. E9–4117 Filed 2–26–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Siskiyou Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Siskiyou Resource Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, March 5, 2009 to recommend Title II projects for fiscal year 2009 under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. The meeting will be held at the Grants Pass Interagency Office, 2164 NE. Spalding Avenue, Grants Pass, Oregon. It begins at 9:30 a.m., ends at 4:30 p.m.; the open public comments begin at 11 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting and delivered to Designated Federal Official, Scott Conroy at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Public Affairs Officer Patty Burel at telephone: (541) 618–2113, or cell phone (541) 941–4268, e-mail: pburel@fs.fed.us, or USDA Forest Service, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR, 97504.

Dated: February 19, 2009.

Scott Conroy,

Forest Supervisor, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

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