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(1) *Mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant

Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410;

(2) *Fax*: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) *Email*: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all member appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee consider the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the many communities, identities, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, abilities, cultures, and beliefs of the American people, including underserved communities.

Dated: August 12, 2024.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024-18326 Filed 8-15-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Forest Service Manual 2470, Silvicultural Practices

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of availability for public comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Agency), is revising its directive related to silvicultural practices on National Forest System lands. The proposed directive updates Forest Service Manual 2470, "Silvicultural Practices." This directive sets forth policy, responsibilities, and direction for several aspects of management and moves the agency closer to its goal of providing more current direction.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by October 15, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically to <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Project/Details/4178>. Written comments may be mailed to Stephanie Miller, Assistant Director for Future Forest, Denver Federal Center, Building 40, Lakewood, CO 80215. All timely received comments, including names and addresses, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Project/Details/4178>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Miller, Assistant Director for Future Forest, by phone at 720-354-6454 or by email to stephanie.miller2@usda.gov. Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed directive reorganizes and eliminates redundant policies and procedures, deletes obsolete references, and updates agency policies and procedures. The intent of the updates is to amend the directive to reflect new authorities and more closely align with current and future forest restoration needs. An analysis of existing agency policy in Forest Service Handbooks and Manuals was conducted to identify revisions needed to support this initiative.

The Forest Service has determined that the changes to the manual formulate standards, criteria, or guidelines applicable to a Forest Service program and it is therefore publishing the proposed directive for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR part 216. The Forest Service is seeking public comment on the proposed directive, including the sufficiency of the proposed directive in meeting the stated objectives, ways to enhance the utility and clarity of information within the directive, or ways to streamline processes outlined.

Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act procedures exclude from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement "rules, regulations, or policies to establish servicewide administrative procedures, program processes, or instructions." 36 CFR 220.6(d)(2). The Agency's conclusion is that the proposed directive falls within this category of actions and that no extraordinary circumstances exist as currently defined that require preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

After the public comment period closes, the Forest Service will consider timely comments that are within the scope of the proposed directive in the development of the final directive. A notice of the final directive, including a response to timely comments, will be posted on the Forest Service's web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about>.

agency/regulations-policies/comment-on-directives.

Christopher French,

Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2024–18353 Filed 8–15–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notices by the Malheur National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of newspapers of record.

SUMMARY: This notice updates the newspapers that will be used by the Malheur National Forest of the Pacific Northwest Region to publish legal notices required under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The newspaper of record for Malheur National Forest Supervisor, Blue Mountain District Ranger, and Prairie City District Ranger decisions will be changed from the *Blue Mountain Eagle* to the *East Oregonian*. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspaper the Forest Service will use to publish notices of proposed actions and notices of decision. This will provide the public with constructive notice of Forest Service proposals and decisions, provide information on the procedures to comment, object or appeal, and establish the date that the Forest Service will use to determine if comments or appeals/objections were timely.

DATES: The list of newspapers will remain in effect for one year from the date of publication, when another notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Sasha Bertel, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Pacific Northwest Region, 1220 Southwest Third Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurie Montgomery, Forest Environmental Coordinator, Malheur National Forest, by email at laurie.montgomery@usda.gov or by phone at 541–820–3800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The administrative procedures at 36 CFR 214, 218, and 219 require the Forest Service to publish notices in a newspaper of general circulation. The content of the notices is specified in 36 CFR 214, 218, and 219. In general, the notices will identify the decision or

project, by title or subject matter; the name and title of the official making the decision; how to obtain additional information; and where and how to file comments or appeals/objections. The date the notice is published will be used to establish the official date for the beginning of the comment or appeal/objection period. The newspapers to be used are as follows:

Malheur National Forest

Malheur National Forest Supervisor, Blue Mountain District Ranger, and Prairie City District Ranger decisions: *East Oregonian*.

Emigrant Creek District Ranger decisions: *Burns Times Herald*.

Dated: August 13, 2024.

Jacqueline Emanuel,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2024–18405 Filed 8–15–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket ID NRCS–2024–0014]

Request for Public Input About Implementation of the Sustainability Targets in Agriculture to Incentivize Natural Solutions Act

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) requests public input for USDA to use all available tools to support climate-smart agriculture and forestry and advance conservation priorities on working lands. The Sponsoring USDA Sustainability Targets in Agriculture to Incentivize Natural Solutions Act of 2021 (the SUSTAINS Act) was signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. The SUSTAINS Act expands USDA's authority to accept contributions of private funds to support existing conservation programs and provides additional guidelines for those contributions. Specifically, the SUSTAINS Act provides an opportunity for the private sector to partner with USDA in engaging farmers and ranchers in conservation initiatives, including expanding conservation practices to sequester carbon, improve wildlife habitat, protect sources of drinking water, and address other natural resource priorities.

DATES: We will consider comments that we receive by September 16, 2024. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent possible.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to send comments in response to this notice. You may send comments through the method below:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRCS–2024–0014. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

All comments received, including those received by mail, will be posted without change and will be publicly available on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Bertelson, telephone: (253) 778–2409; email: Lisa.Bertelson@usda.gov.

Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In Title I of Division HH of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. 117–328), section 202, (the SUSTAINS Act amended section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f))). The SUSTAINS Act authorized NRCS to accept contributions of non-Federal funds (contribution account authority) to support a range of covered existing conservation programs, as detailed below.

The original authority for the contribution account was enacted as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, and included all programs authorized under subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 except the Conservation Reserve Program. Due to changes under the Agricultural Act of 2014, the authority of the contribution account became limited to supporting only the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program. The SUSTAINS Act expanded the authority to include other conservation programs, including:

- the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program;
- the Regional Conservation Partnership Program;
- the Emergency Watersheds Protection Program;
- the Healthy Forests Reserve Program; and