

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Wasatch Plateau Sheep Grazing

AGENCY: Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest, Sanpete, Carbon, Utah and Emery Counties, Utah.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent to proceed with an Environmental Impact Statement, Wasatch Plateau Sheep Grazing.

SUMMARY: On June 19, 2001 the Manti-La Sal National Forest published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 66, No. 118) for issuance of 42 Term Grazing Permits that would authorize grazing on 31 sheep allotments. Due to other priorities, the assessment has been delayed but the Forest is initiating action to proceed with the assessment at this time.

The project analysis area is located on top of the Wasatch Plateau approximately 9 miles east of Ephraim, Utah and approximately 16 miles west of Castle Dale, Utah, between the Price River drainage on the north and Mooseneah Peak on the south.

The need for this analysis is to meet direction specified by Section 504 of Pub. L. 104-19 (The Rescission Act of 1995) and bring grazing in compliance with Forest Plan direction, applicable laws, regulation and policy. The selected alternative, associated mitigations and management strategies will be implemented through the Term Grazing Permit and a specific allotment management plan.

The area being analyzed is National Forest System lands where grazing is authorized by permit. This involves approximately 171,000 acres of which 118,000 acres are suitable for sheep grazing. The permitted number of livestock is 33,382 head of sheep that

generally graze from July 1 to September 30 for 30,587 animal unit months.

The proposed action is to continue livestock grazing with modification of the permitted number of sheep and inclusion of additional management requirements in Term Grazing Permits. (Final permitted number of sheep, by allotment, is displayed on Table A.)

TABLE A.—PART 1—WASATCH PLATEAU SHEEP GRAZING PROPOSED ACTION

| Allotment | Permitted number of sheep | Permitted grazing season |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Black Canyon ... | 1,000 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Clay Banks | 1,155 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Heliotrope | 1,205 | 7/01-09/25 |
| Indian Creek | 1,000 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Little Petes Hole | 971 | 7/15-09/30 |
| Joos Valley | 1,276 | 6/13-09/30 |
| Olsen Bench | 1,130 | 6/21-09/30 |
| Peavine | 1,000 | 7/01-09/20 |
| Potters Canyon | 600 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Reeder Ridge ... | 1,100 | 6/26-09/30 |
| Ridley Ridge | 1,090 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Wagon Road | | |
| Ridge | 993 | 7/11-09/30 |
| Bob Wright | 1,013 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Booths Canyon | 565 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Crandall Canyon | 658 | 7/06-09/25 |
| Crandall Ridge .. | 354 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Eccles | 750 | 7/16-09/25 |
| Horse Creek | 666 | 7/01-09/30 |
| South Skyline | 1,019 | 7/07-09/30 |
| Spring Lake | 1,080 | 7/08-09/30 |
| Trough Springs | | |
| Ridge | 1,000 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Candland | 1,060 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Monument Peak | 361 | 7/01-09/30 |
| Swens | 559 | 7/01-09/30 |

TABLE A.—PART 2—WASATCH PLATEAU SHEEP GRAZING PROPOSED ACTION

| Allotment | Permitted number of sheep | Permitted grazing season |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mountain Lion ... | 1,000 | 6/14-09/30 |
| Beaver Dams- Boulger | 1,200 | 7/06-10/05 |
| Birch Creek- Bear Canyon | 1,100 | 6/06-09/30 |
| Cottonwood- Gooseberry ... | 900 | 7/06-09/30 |
| Island Lake | 954 | 7/05-09/25 |
| Order Mountain | 1,095 | 7/01-09/25 |
| Willow Creek | 1,000 | 7/01-09/25 |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the proposed

action and EIS should be addressed to John Healy, Supervisory Range Management Specialist, Ferron/Price Ranger District, (435) 384-2372.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This EIS will tier to the final EIS for the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Manti-La Sal Forest Plan provides the overall guidance (Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Management Area Direction) to achieve the desired future condition for the area being analyzed, and contains specific management area prescriptions for the entire Forest.

Initial scoping and issue development identified the following tentative issues: water quality, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species, cultural resources, social, economic, recreation, noxious weeds, riparian, and rangeland health.

The Forest Service has previously scoped this project on three separate occasions, April 1999, April 2000, and June 19, 2001 (Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the **Federal Register** Vol. 66, No. 118). If you have already commented, your comments are part of the record and will be considered in determining issues, and alternatives.

Agency representatives and other interested people are invited to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the EIS process. Two specific time periods are identified for the receipt of formal comments on the analysis. The two comment periods are, (1) during the scoping process, the next 30 days following publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, and (2) during the formal review period of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS is estimated to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review on September 30, 2004. At that time, the EPA will publish an availability notice of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability 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, reviewers of Draft EIS's structure their

participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and intentions.

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 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 Circuit, 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 we 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, comment 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 EIS. 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, 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.)

The Final EIS is expected to be released December 10, 2004.

The Sanpete and Ferron/Price District Rangers, Manti-La Sal National Forest, are the responsible officials for the EIS. They will make a decision regarding this proposal, after considering the comments, responses, and environmental consequences discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision.

Dated: January 21, 2004.

Alice B. Carlton,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-4344 Filed 2-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Mississippi Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Meeting notice for the Southwest Mississippi Resource Advisory Committee under Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (PL 106-393).

SUMMARY: This notice is published in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Meeting notice is hereby given for the Southwest Mississippi Resource Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-393. Topics to be discussed include: general information, possible Title II projects, and next meeting dates and agendas.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 11, 2004, from 6 p.m. and end at approximately 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Franklin County Public Library, 381 First Street, Meadville, Mississippi.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Bell Lunsford, Public Affairs Officer, USDA, Homochitto National Forest, 1200 Hwy. 184 East, Meadville, MS 39653 (601-384-2814) (601-660-6322).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff, Committee members and elected officials. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. A public input session will be provided and individuals who made written requests by March 5, 2004, will have the opportunity to address the committee at that session. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Gary Taylor, Acting District Ranger, DFO, 1200 Hwy. 184 East, Meadville, MS 39653.

Dated: February 19, 2004.

Gary Taylor,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-4308 Filed 2-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-52-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yakutat, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting is to continue business of the Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee. The committee was formed to carry out the requirements of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000. The agenda for this meeting is to review submitted project proposals and consider recommending projects for funding. Project proposals are due by March 12, 2004 to be considered at this meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 19, 2004 from 6-9 p.m. and will continue on March 20, 2004 from 9-12 a.m., if necessary.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Kwaan Conference Room, 712 Ocean Cape Drive, Yakutat, Alaska. Send written comments to Tricia O'Connor, c/o Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 327, Yakutat, AK 99689, (907) 784-3359 or electronically to poconnor@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tricia O'Connor, District Ranger and Designated Federal Official, Yakutat Ranger District, (907) 784-3359.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members. However, persons who wish to bring resource projects or other Resource Advisory Committee matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by March 12, 2004 will have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions.

Dated: February 17, 2004.

Patricia M. O'Connor,

District Ranger, Yakutat Ranger District, Tongass National Forest.

[FR Doc. 04-4315 Filed 2-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of Modoc County RAC meetings.