

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

Public Meetings of the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting postponement.

SUMMARY: The November 19 meeting of Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) has been postponed until December 3, 2003. The proposed agenda includes advisement on last month's presentation concerning forest health and fuels and ongoing discussion of fuel-load reduction. The meeting is open, and members of the public may attend any part of the meeting.

DATES: Wednesday, December 3, 2003 from 1 to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: SDSU West River Ag Center, 1905 Plaza Boulevard, Rapid City, SD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Carroll, Black Hills National Forest, 25041 North Highway 16, Custer, SD 57730, (605) 673-9200.

Dated: October 22, 2003.

Brad Exton,

Black Hills National Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-27427 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) the Sierra National

Forest's Resource Advisory Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday, November 10, 2003. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Yosemite Bank, Oakhurst, CA. The purpose of the meeting is: review new RAC proposals, review progress of FY 2002 accounting, review new Forest Service Region 5 RAC website, decision on Madera County RAC Mission Sub-committee proposal, report on trails project field review, and voting procedures proposal update.

DATES: The Madera Resource Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, November 10, 2003. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the Yosemite Bank, 40061 Highway 40, Oakhurst, CA 93644.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Martin, U.S.D.A., Sierra National Forest, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643, (559) 877-2218 ext. 3100; e-mail: dmartin05@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review new RAC proposals, (2) review progress of FY 2002 accounting, (3) review new Forest Service Region 5 RAC website, (4) decision on Madera County RAC Mission Sub-committee proposal, (5) voting procedures proposal update. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: October 24, 2003.

David W. Martin,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 03-27425 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-930-6333 DT]

Notice of Availability (NOA) of Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the Clarification of Language in the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan; National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Proposal To Amend Wording About the Aquatic Conservation Strategy); Western Oregon and Washington, and Northwestern California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA; Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The USDI Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service have prepared a FSEIS to consider an amendment of selected portions of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) (part of the Northwest Forest Plan) to clarify guidance intended to protect and restore watersheds. The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior propose limited changes to language about how to demonstrate that projects follow the ACS. Projects needed to achieve Northwest Forest Plan goals have been delayed or stopped due to misapplication of certain passages in the ACS. The agencies are responding to the underlying need for increased agency success in planning and implementing projects, to the extent that the current wording has hindered the agencies' ability to follow Northwest Forest Plan principles and achieve its goals. The goals of the Northwest Forest Plan cannot be achieved without project implementation. Copies of the FSEIS may be requested from the address below or access on line at <http://www.reo.gov/acs/>.

DATES: Publication of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Notice of Availability and filing of the FSEIS in the **Federal Register** initiates a 30-day review period. Comments will be accepted at the addresses below. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold

your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. No public meetings have been scheduled.

ADDRESSES: To request copies of the document, add your name to the mailing list, or submit written comments. Contact: ACS EIS, 333 SW. First Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208; FAX: (503) 326-2396 (please address fax to "ACS EIS").

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Casey; phone (503) 326-2430; E-mail: jcasey01@fs.fed.us or Leslie Frewing-Runyon; phone (503) 808-6088; E-mail: lfrewing@or.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed amendment would make limited changes to language within Attachment A of the 1994 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Northwest Forest Plan. These changes would amend Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management plans throughout the Northwest Forest Plan area. The limited changes clarify that the proper scale for federal land managers to evaluate progress toward achievement of the ACS objectives is the fifth-field watershed and broader scales. The changes would also document requirements for land managers to demonstrate that projects follow the ACS. It would remove the expectation that all projects must achieve all ACS objectives, but would reinforce the role of watershed analysis in providing context for project planning. Current land allocations, standards and guidelines, and Northwest Forest Plan goals and objectives would be retained.

Three alternatives are considered in the FSEIS: No Action, the Proposed Action, and Alternative A. The No Action Alternative would not change existing language within the ACS. The Proposed Action and Alternative A would make limited changes to clarify documentation requirements. Alternative A is the Preferred Alternative. If the Preferred Alternative is approved, implementation of the range of projects envisioned under the Northwest Forest Plan would be more likely. Land managers would more successfully demonstrate that projects follow the ACS.

The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior propose limited changes to language about how to implement the ACS. The ACS is intended to maintain and restore the ecological health of

watersheds and aquatic ecosystems within the Northwest Forest Plan area. The ACS includes language that has been interpreted to mean that decision-makers must demonstrate that a proposed project will attain all of the ACS objectives. These objectives were never intended to be site-specific standards; rather, they were intended to be achieved at the fifth-field watershed scale and broader, over the long term. Confusion related to the existing language has hindered federal land managers' ability to plan and implement projects needed to achieve Northwest Forest Plan goals.

Readers should note that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are the responsible officials for this proposed action. Therefore, no administrative review ("appeal") through the Forest Service will be available on the ROD under 36 CFR 217, and no administrative review ("protest") through the Bureau of Land Management will be available on the ROD under 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Because there is no administrative review of the decision, the ROD will not be signed until 30 days after the EPA Notice of Availability for the FSEIS appears in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 22, 2003.

Charles E. Wassinger,
Associate State Director, Oregon/Washington State Office.

Michael Ash,
Deputy Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region.

[FR Doc. 03-27304 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact in connection with possible impacts related to the construction and operation of a 500 megawatt combined-cycle combustion turbine generation facility proposed by Brazos Electric Power Cooperative (Brazos), of Waco, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis E. Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571,

1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1953 or e-mail: dennis.rankin@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Brazos is proposing to construct a 500 MW gas-fired combined-cycle electric generation station near Joplin in Jack County, Texas. The project will consist of two combustion turbines and heat recovery steam generators and one steam turbine with a water-cooled steam surface condenser. Associated facilities include the construction of a gas pipeline, water and wastewater pipelines and a 138 kV electric transmission line. Some other transmission facilities in the area will be upgraded. RUS may provide financing assistance for this project.

Based on its environmental and engineering assessment of the project, RUS has concluded that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities would have no significant impact to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, RUS will not prepare an environmental impact statement for its action related to this project.

Copies of the FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein.

Dated: October 28, 2003.

Blaine D. Stockton,
Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 03-27473 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-15-U

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to and deletions from Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List products and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes from the Procurement List products previously furnished by such agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-3259.