

potential for noxious weed invasion and expansion; effects of proposed activities on soil productivity and erosion; effects of proposed activities on water quality and fish habitat including Bull Trout populations; effects of the proposed activities on late successional reserves and old growth habitat; potential loss of commercial timber value; economic viability of timber salvage; effects of the proposed activities on potential wildfire intensity; and effects on public access, safety and use of the area.

Public comments about this proposal are requested in order to assist in properly scoping issues, determining how to best manage the resources, and fully analyzing environmental effects. Comments received to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decisions under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

*Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review.* A draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by May 2003. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the NOA appears in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the

reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 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 it 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, comments 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 statement. 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 at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The final EIS is scheduled to be available October 2003. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. The Forest Service is the lead agency and the responsible official is the Forest Supervisor, Deshutes National Forest. The responsible official will decide where, and whether or not to salvage timber. The responsible official will also decide how to mitigate impacts of these actions and will determine when and how monitoring of effects will take place. The Eyerly Fire Salvage decision and the reasons for the decision will be documented in the record of decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: February 26, 2003.

**Kevin D. Martin**,

*Deputy Forest Supervisor, Deshutes National Forest.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Public Meeting of the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) will hold a meeting to review its charter, discuss its roles and responsibilities in relation to the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) management, and establish operational procedures. Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman approved the board's formation on January 16, 2003, and Regional Forester Rick Cables appointed 15 members to the board in early February 2003. The meeting is open, and the public may attend any part of the meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2003, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the Ramkota Best Western Hotel located at 2111 LaCrosse Street, Rapid City, SD.

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

Dated: February 28, 2003.

**William G. Schleining**,

*Acting Black Hills National Forest Supervisor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-570-874]

#### Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Ball Bearings and Parts Thereof From the People's Republic of China

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of final determination of sales at less than fair value.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 6, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Terpstra or Cindy Lai Robinson, AD/CVD Enforcement, Office 6, Group II, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3965, and (202) 482-3797, respectively.