

for the area being analyzed, and contains specific management area prescriptions for the entire Forest.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by the proposed action. The Forest Services invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS. For most effective use, comments should be submitted to the Forest Service within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

The Ferron/Price Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Emery and Sanpete Counties in the state of Utah would administer the proposed management activities for this analysis. 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 comment period on the draft environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statements must 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 that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waved 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 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 Environmental Impact Statement. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statement 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 release of the EIS is projected to be September 12, 2003. The Forest Supervisor for the Manti-La Sal National Forest is the responsible official for the EIS. After considering the comments, responses, and environmental consequences discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies a decision by this official will be made regarding the proposal. The reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. The Forest Supervisor's office of the Manti-La Sal National Forest is located at 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501, phone: 435-637-2817.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

**Elaine J. Zieroth,**

*Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Southeast Washington County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Southeast Washington County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on February 26, 2003 in Pomeroy, Washington. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the final selection of Title II projects for Fiscal Year 2003 under Pub. L. 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of

2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on February 26, 2003 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Pomeroy Ranger District Office, 71 West Main Street, Pomeroy, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Monte Fujishin, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District, 71 West Main Street, Pomeroy, WA 99347. Phone: (509) 843-1891.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting will focus on discussing Title II proposed projects. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: January 31, 2003.

**Monte Fujishin,**

*Designated Forest Official.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Columbia County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Columbia County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on February 10, 2003, in Dayton, Washington. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the final selection of title II projects for Fiscal Year 2003 under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on February 10, 2003, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Dayton Post Office, 202 South Second Street, Dayton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Monte Fujishin, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District, 71 West Main Street, Pomeroy, WA 99347. Phone: (509) 843-1891.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting will focus on discussing title II proposed projects. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will