

interesting to middle and high school students. The distribution for the newest *Natural Inquirer*, which includes both national and international destinations, will be over 500,000. Formal, non-formal, and informal educators, as well as the general public, receive this journal through the Forest Service Conservation Education network, federal and state partners, and through *The Natural Inquirer* Web site. *The Natural Inquirer* provides a new benchmark for the utility of Forest Service research, as it extends the utility of the research to an educational resource meant to increase scientific literacy in middle and high school students.

Current evaluation of *The Natural Inquirer* by its users is not systematic or scientifically valid and provides only anecdotal information about the utility of the Forest Service research being presented. The Forest Service, therefore, needs a systematic and scientifically valid way of assessing the usefulness of the journal in accordance with USDA guidelines for implementing the Data Quality Act. Further, such systematic assessment should be the basis for extending the utility of information dissemination via *The Natural Inquirer*.

Five hundred respondents will be selected using a random sample based on addresses of individuals who have ordered *The Natural Inquirer* publication within the United States. They will be asked to respond to questions in the following categories: (1) The utility of *The Natural Inquirer* journal; (2) the utility of *The Natural Inquirer* Web site; (3) suggestions for improvement of utility of *The Natural Inquirer*; and (4) selected demographic information regarding teaching experience.

The majority of information will be collected using the Dillman method through a mail survey instrument. Some personal interviews with a small sample of educators, and classroom observations will also be employed to assess how *The Natural Inquirer* is used in the classroom. A graduate student at the University of Georgia will collect the information. The graduate student will contact potential respondents via a postcard, then with the survey, follow-up postcards as necessary, and follow-up with a thank you note. A Forest Service social scientist will supervise the data collection.

A graduate student from the University of Georgia and a Forest Service social scientist will analyze and evaluate the collected information. The information collected will be used to increase accountability of Forest Service information outreach and to extend the

utility of *The Natural Inquirer* publication and Web site for educators and students.

The Forest Service has invested heavily in producing timely, relevant, and credible forest science across a wide range of natural resource disciplines. This information should be readily accessible to the general public, including non-traditional audiences such as students. *The Natural Inquirer* extends the utility of Forest Service research by making it accessible to a middle school audience. This information collection will enable the Forest Service to extend the utility of *The Natural Inquirer*, increase accountability regarding federal information outreach, and provide the most useful information possible to the public by gathering feedback on how to improve the journal for the use of its intended audience.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 20 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals in the United States who have ordered *The Natural Inquirer*.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 400.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 133.33 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: August 13, 2004.

Bov B. Eav,

Associate Deputy Chief for Research & Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on September 15 and 16, 2004, in Ukiah, California. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct annual implementation monitoring of two projects completed in previous years, relating to standards and guidelines in the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP).

DATES: The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., September 15 and 16, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the field both days, beginning at the Bureau of Land Management Office Conference Room, 2550 North State St., Ukiah, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phebe Brown, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA 95988, (530) 934-1137; e-mail pybrown@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The two projects to be monitored are: (1) County Line hazardous fuel removal, Bureau of Land Management project; and (2) Elk Mountain fuelbreak, Upper Lake Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest. The meeting is open to the public.

Dated: August 13, 2004.

James D. Fenwood,

Designated Federal Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on September 13, 2004, at the U.S. Forest Service Office, Emerald Bay Conference Room, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998 (64 FR 2876), is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency