

action could potentially impact wildlife species associated with closed canopy forest communities.

#### Responsible Official

Cathy Barbouletos, Forest Supervisor, Flathead National Forest, 1935 3rd Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 59901, is the responsible official for the preparation of the EIS and will make a decision regarding this proposal.

#### Nature of Decision To Be Made

This project will provide for removal of approximately 5.5 MMBF of commercial forest products, use of prescribed fire for ecosystem maintenance burning, shrub/grassland maintenance, reduction of hazardous fuels, and provide personal-use wood products for the local community.

#### Scoping Process

Public and internal scoping for this proposal is being initiated by the publication of this Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Cooney McKay Project in the **Federal Register**. The Forest Service scoping for the proposal includes the publishing of a legal notice in the paper of record, which will coincide with a mailing of information about the proposal to interested parties during January 2007. Multiple mailings to other government agencies, the public and organizations are planned to insure that interested parties are aware of and have an opportunity to comment on the proposal. The Forest Service plans on issuing news releases periodically during the development of this proposal. In addition the proposal will be included in the Schedule of Proposed Actions, which is updated quarterly and available on the National Forest Service Web site. A public meeting and field trip are tentatively planned for the June–July 2007 timeframe, the location of both of these scoping events will be at the Forest Service Condon Work Center, Condon, Montana.

#### Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues identified to-date include concerns that the implementation of the proposed action could result in the loss of white-tailed deer winter habitat and could also potentially reduce habitat for wildlife species associated with closed forest canopy communities.

#### Comment Request

This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

#### Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. 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, 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 draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that 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 environmental impact statement stage, but that 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 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 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 at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: December 15, 2006.

**Cathy Barbouletos,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 06–9821 Filed 12–21–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–11–M**

---

#### 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 January 17, 2007 at The Creekside Room, Lake Tahoe Community College, One College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. 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 Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held January 17, 2007, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at The Creekside Room, Lake Tahoe Community College, One College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arla Hains, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. (530) 543–2773.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Items to be covered on the agenda include: (1) The Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee Communications Plan; (2) the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 8; and (3) Public Comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend at the above address. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: December 15, 2006.

**Terri Marceron,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 06-9819 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meetings will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 and March 28, 2007. These meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. Meetings will be held in the South Room of the Stayton Community Center located on 400 West Virginia Street in Stayton, Oregon.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (Pub. L. 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include the mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA, and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. Tentative agenda items include: Subcommittees reports and recommendations, and Three Pools Site Rehabilitation Project Update.

A direct public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to scheduled meetings by sending them to Designated Federal Official Paul Matter at the address given below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Paul Matter; Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District,

HC 73 Box 320, Mill City, OR 97360; (503) 854-3366.

Dated: December 15, 2006.

**Dallas J. Emch,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 06-9820 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Willows, California. Agenda items covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Status of Funding, (5) General Discussion (6) Status of Legislation, (7) Next Agenda.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 22, 2007, from 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 4:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988. Individuals who wish to speak or propose agenda items send their names and proposals to David A. Mortin, Acting DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95939. (530) 968-1815; EMAIL [ggaddini@fs.fed.us](mailto:ggaddini@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee will file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions are provided and individuals who made written request by January 19, 2007 have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: December 18, 2006.

**David T. Morton,**

*Acting Designated Federal Official.*

[FR Doc. 06-9824 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### The Secretary of Agriculture's determination of the Primary Purpose of Specified State of Florida Conservation Programs

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Service (NRCS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of determination.

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing public notice that the Secretary of Agriculture has determined the cost-share payments made under specific State of Florida conservation programs are primarily for the purposes of conserving soil and water resources, or protecting and restoring the environment. NRCS was assigned technical and administrative responsibility for reviewing the State of Florida's conservation programs and making appropriate recommendations for the Secretary's determination of primary purpose. The programs are:

- Program for Citrus, Cow/Calf, Dairies and Other Agriculture in the Lake Okeechobee Priority Basins;
- Program for Indian River Area Citrus Groves;
- Program for Interim Measures for Tri-County Agricultural Area Farms;
- Program for Interim Measures for Florida Producers of Container-Grown Plants;
- Program for Best Management Practices for Shadehouse Grown Leatherleaf Ferns;
- Nitrogen Best Management Practices Program for Florida Ridge Citrus;
- Nitrogen Interim Measure for Florida Citrus;
- Nitrogen Interim Measure for Bahiagrass and Bermuda Grass; and
- Florida Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

This determination is in accordance with Section 126 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C. 126), and permits recipients of cost-share payments to exclude from gross income to the extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture, Florida 32399, or Branch Chief, Environmental Improvement Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under section 126(a)(10) of the Internal