

2007. Appropriate activities will occur once the Draft EIS is available for review, which is expected to occur in the late summer of 2007.

Preliminary Issues: Because the conveyance of land will not significantly change the expected land use of the transferred lands, no significant issues have been identified. Reconstruction of FR 416v has the potential to affect known cultural resource sites located within the existing roadway. Because the sites and road occupy land between a canyon wall and steep ground, options to avoid these sites are limited, and so data recovery is the likely method for mitigating impacts. No threatened or endangered species—or Region 3 sensitive species—of animal or plant are known in the project area. Likewise, no Region 3 sensitive species are known. Because the National Forest System lands would be closed to the general public once conveyed to the Pueblos, a change in recreational use patterns is likely. A closed pumice mine exists on the land to be conveyed to the San Ildefonso Pueblo, with reclamation underway. Any unfinished reclamation will pass to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Act, Section 7(f).

Comment Requested: This notice of intent initiates the scoping process that guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the proposed action, including any issues to consider, as well as any concerns relevant to the analysis.

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 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 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 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.

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

Dated: June 13, 2007.

Daniel J. Jiron,

Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee (DPAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on July 11, 2007, starting at 8 a.m. at the Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office at 1001 SW. Emkay Drive, Bend, Oregon, for a field trip to the Bend-Ft. Rock and Crescent Ranger Districts. The purpose of the trip is to monitor the Dilman and Five Buttes Projects to obtain feedback from members. The trip is scheduled to end at 5 p.m. in Bend. All Deschutes Province Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public and an open public forum is scheduled from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mollie Chaudet, Province Liaison, Deschutes NF, 1001 SW. Emkay Drive,

Bend, Oregon, 97702, Phone (541) 383-5517.

Leslie A.C. Weldon,

Deschutes National Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on June 26, 2007 in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the project submission and selection process for Title II proposals submitted 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 July 2, 2006, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Del Norte County Unified School District Board Room, 301 West Washington, Crescent City, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Ranieri, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501. Phone: (707) 441-3673.

e-mail: jranier@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Individuals, community-based organization, tribes and government agencies will present the Title II project proposals submitted to the RAC. 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: June 18, 2007.

William D. Metz,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC68

USDA Forest Service Open Space Conservation Strategy

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of request for public input.