

miles of existing roads, (15) decommission 18 miles of roads, (16) construct 19 permanent log landings, and (17) construct 20 temporary log landings. The total treatment area is 6,569 acres.

Responsible Official

Stevan J. Christiansen, District Ranger; St. Ignace Ranger District; W1900 W US-2; St. Ignace, Michigan 49781.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to manage the vegetation on any or all of the 6,569 acres by harvesting, and; whether or not to manage the transportation system through construction of temporary and permanent roads and log landings, addition of unclassified roads, and road closures and decommissioning.

Scoping Process

The St. Ignace Ranger District proposes to scope for information by contacting persons and organizations on the Hiawatha's mailing list and landowners within or adjacent to the project area. In addition a legal notice will be posted in the local newspapers. An open house is also scheduled for January 30, 2008 at the St. Ignace District office at the address listed above, from 5–8 p.m. This present solicitation is for comments on this Notice of Intent and the scoping materials available elsewhere, such as on the Hiawatha National Forest webpage.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary or potential issues have been identified from experience with similar projects.

(1) Timber harvesting may adversely impact wildlife species requiring early succession habitat.

(2) Timber harvesting may adversely impact wildlife species requiring late succession habitat.

(3) Closing and decommissioning roads could reduce the amount of legal motorized vehicle activity and could increase the amount of illegal motorized vehicle activity.

(4) Closing and decommissioning roads could result in adverse effects to soils, riparian areas and wetlands, wildlife, and plants.

(5) Timber harvesting and road building may adversely impact Canada lynx or Hart's tongue fern.

(6) The karst topography and its dependent above-ground and below-ground resources may be impacted by the area's ability to produce valuable timber products.

Addresses

Information is available electronically on the Hiawatha National Forest webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha/planning.htm>—click on "Niagara". Send electronic comments to: comments-eastern-hiawatha-st-ignace@fs.fed.us. When submitting electronic comments, please reference the Niagara Project on the subject line. In addition, include your name, mailing address, and whether you would like a CD or paper copy of the draft EIS.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments are most valuable if they are within the scope of the proposed action, specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for consideration in the environmental impact statement and any subsequent decisions. Comments will be used to identify relevant issues, display environmental effects, or develop a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Any referenced scientific literature should be accompanied by a complete copy of the literature, and rationale as to its pertinence to the Niagara Project.

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 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: January 23, 2008.

Stevan J. Christiansen,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. E8-1607 Filed 1-29-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Meeting; Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title VIII, Pub. L. 108-447)

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee will hold its third meeting via teleconference. The purpose of the meeting is to receive recommendations concerning recreation fee proposals on areas managed by the Forest Service in Michigan and to discuss other items of interest related to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004.

A final detailed agenda, with any additions/corrections to agenda topics and meeting time, will be sent to regional media sources at least 14 days before the meeting, and hard copies can also be mailed or sent via FAX.

Individuals who need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, or who wish a hard copy of the agenda, should contact Marcia Heymen at 626 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202 no later than 10 days prior to the meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 26, 2008.

Send written comments to Cheryl Chatham, Designated Federal Official for the Eastern Recreation RAC, US Forest Service, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Chatham, Designated Federal Official US Forest Service, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring recreation fee matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. A public input session will be provided and individuals who made written requests by February 20, 2008, will have the opportunity to address the Committee at the meeting.

The Recreation RAC is authorized by the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act, which was signed into law by President Bush in December 2004.

Dated: January 23, 2008.

Cheryl G. Chatham,
Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 08-389 Filed 1-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Mendocino Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mendocino County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet February 15, 2008 in Willits, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Approval of minutes, (2) Public Comment, (3) Sub-committees, (4) Discussion—items of interest, (5) Discussion/approval of projects, (6) next agenda items and meeting date.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 15, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mendocino County Museum, located at 400 E. Commercial St., Willits, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roberta Hurt, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Covelo Ranger District, 78150 Covelo Road, Covelo, CA 95428. (707) 983-8503; e-mail rhurt@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff by February 10, 2008. Public will have the opportunity to address the committee at the meeting.

Dated: January 23, 2008.

Lee Johnson,
Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 08-381 Filed 1-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Meeting; Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title VIII, Pub. L. 108-447)

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee will hold its third meeting at Staybridge Suites—Atlanta Perimeter Center East, 4601 Ridgeview Road in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting is to receive recommendations concerning recreation fee proposals on areas managed by the Forest Service in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico; and to discuss other items of interest related to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004.

A final detailed agenda, with any additions/corrections to agenda topics, location, field trips and meeting times, will be sent to regional media sources at least 14 days before the meeting, and hard copies can also be mailed or sent via FAX. Individuals who need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, or who wish a hard copy of each agenda, should contact Caroline Mitchell at PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902 (501-321-5318) no later than 10 days prior to the meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 20–21, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Staybridge Suites—Atlanta Perimeter Center East, 4601 Ridgeview Road in Atlanta, Georgia. Send written comments to Cheryl Chatham Designated Federal Official for the Southern Recreation RAC, US Forest Service, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Chatham, Designated Federal Official, US Forest Service, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring recreation fee matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. A public input session will be provided and individuals who made written requests by February 14, 2008, will have the opportunity to address the Committee at the meeting. The Recreation RAC is authorized by the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act, which was signed into law by President Bush in December 2004.

Dated: January 23, 2008.

Cheryl G. Chatham,
Designated Federal Officer, Southern Region.

[FR Doc. 08-390 Filed 1-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Notice of Request for Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service, Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; Comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces Rural Development's intention to request a revision for a currently approved information collection in support of loan programs administered by the Rural Housing Service, Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 29, 2008.