

operations authorized by general mining laws.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to authorize VANE Minerals, Inc. to perform exploratory drilling at the 25 drill sites proposed. This Proposed Action would constitute exploratory drilling only. No mining extraction or transporting of uranium minerals for processing would be contemplated or permitted by this proposal.

Public Involvement

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest received several comments during the categorical exclusion analysis in 2007 which will be considered in this analysis. The Forest Service encourages the public to express issues, concerns, and suggestions they may have about this proposed action. Comments should be directly related to issues associated with the proposed action, rather than general advocacy of or opposition to the project, to best assist us in the NEPA analysis. Although comments are welcome at any time during this NEPA analysis, they will be most useful to us if they are received within 30 days following the publication of this notice.

Responsible Official

The Forest Supervisor for the Kaibab National Forest of the Southwestern Region of the USDA Forest Service is the Responsible Official.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is what plan of operations to approve for exploration, including any requirements for surface resource protection. VANE Minerals, Inc. has a statutory right to explore for locatable minerals under the 1872 Mining Law.

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 state, 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 the 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: October 2, 2008.

Michael P. Williams,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E8-23993 Filed 10-9-08; 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: Black Hills National Forest, Rocky Mountain Region.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board, acting in its capacity as the Black Hills National Forest Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC), will meet in Rapid City, SD. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to consider recommending special recreation permit fees to use the Black Hills National Forest's designated, motorized, off-highway vehicle trail system. Fees would include a \$20.00 weekly permit, a \$40.00 annual permit, and a \$100.00 commercial vehicle annual permit. The fees would be established pursuant to Public Law 108-447 (H.R. 48 118), September 8, 2004, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Title VIII-Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, Section 803 Recreation Fee Authority, (h) Special Recreation Permit Fee.

DATES: The meeting(s) will tentatively be held October 15 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This meeting will only be held if a quorum of the Committee is present.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center; LaCroix Hall, in Rapid City, South Dakota. Details will be published prior to the meeting on the Black Hills National Forest Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills>, and in the news media. Send written comments to Craig Bobzien, Designated Federal Official, 1019 N. 5th St., Custer, SD, 57730 or e-mail twillems@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Willems, Black Hills National Forest Travel Planner at 605-673-9217 or twillems@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. There will be time on the agenda for timed verbal comments (at the discretion of the Chair) and the Chair may ask for comments from the public at any time during the meeting. People wishing to speak at the meeting are asked to sign in at the door with a name and contact information. Public comments will be taken based first-come, first-served. The public may provide written comments to the Committee staff. Check for the status of the meeting, the final agenda, and a special recreation permit fee proposal at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills>. The Recreation RAC is authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which was signed into law by President Bush in December 2004.

Dated: September 25, 2008.

Craig Bobzien,

Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest, DFO, Black Hills National Forest Recreation Resource Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. E8-23994 Filed 10-9-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

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

AGENCY: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of New Fee Site.

SUMMARY: The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests is planning to charge a \$5 per site per night fee for overnight camping at Hickey Gap Campground. The fees listed are only proposed and will be determined upon further analysis and public comment. This campground has five campsites and has been available for camping use prior to this date. Campgrounds on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests have shown that people appreciate and enjoy the availability of outdoor camping facilities. Funds from the campground will be used for the continued operation and maintenance of Hickey Gap Campground.

DATES: Hickey Gap Campground will start charging fees in March, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, 1755 Cleveland Highway, Gainesville, GA 30501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen McKenzie, Public Affairs Officer, 770-297-3061.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Recreation Lands Enhancement Act (Title VII, Pub. L. 108-447) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a six month advance notice in the **Federal Register** whenever new recreation fee areas are established. This new fee will be reviewed by a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee prior to a final decision and implementation.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests currently has thirty-five other campgrounds. These campgrounds have a total of 675 campsites; 23 campgrounds are operated by concessionaires. A business analysis of Hickey Gap Campground has shown that people desire having this sort of recreation experience on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. A market analysis indicates that the \$5

per site per night fee is both reasonable and acceptable for this sort of unique recreation experience.

Dated: October 6, 2008.

Paul L. Bradley,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

[FR Doc. E8-24131 Filed 10-9-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Willamette National Forest is seeking nominees for six positions on the Opal Creek Advisory Council. The Council was originally established in June 2000 with 13 members. About half of the current members will remain on the Council to provide continuity for new members.

The Advisory Council makes recommendations to the Detroit District Ranger on matters relating to the management of the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA).

The Advisory Council is composed of a diverse group of citizens, which allows for sharing of technical knowledge and personal experience. Members represent interests including, but not limited to: Timber industry; environmental organizations; mining industry; SRA land in-holders within the Opal Creek Wilderness and SRA; economic development interests; and Indian tribes. Other members serving on the Council as required by the Act represent Marion County, communities within a 25 mile radius of the SRA, State of Oregon, and City of Salem.

Positions to be filled are from timber industry, SRA in-holders, environmental organizations, mining industry and two at-large members. Examples of "at-large" members who may be interested in serving on this Council include recreation interests, adjacent landowner, educators and researchers.

Nominees must be United States citizens, at least 18 years old. Willamette officials will recommend nominees' appointments to the Secretary of Agriculture based on criteria which includes long-time familiarity with the Opal Creek SRA, knowledge and understanding of other cultures, ability to actively participate in diverse team settings, and respect and credibility in local communities.

Nominations are due November 12, 2008. People interested in more information or a nomination packet should contact the Detroit Ranger District at 503-854-3366. The nomination packet can also be downloaded from the Opal Creek Advisory Council section of the Willamette National Forest Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/manage/opalcreek/advisorycouncil.html>.

Dated: October 6, 2008.

Dallas Emch,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E8-24132 Filed 10-9-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Meeting of the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) will meet to continue discussions on air quality issues relating to agriculture.

DATES: The meeting will convene on Thursday, November 6, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, November 7, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A public comment period will be held on November 6, 2008, at 3:15 p.m. Individuals making oral presentations should register in person at the meeting site and must bring 50 copies of materials they would like to distribute. Written materials for AAQTF's consideration prior to the meeting must be received by Michele Laur (address given below) no later than October 24, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel located at 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-2891; *Tel:* (703) 416-4100; *Fax:* (703) 416-4126.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Questions and comments should be directed to Michele Laur, Designated Federal Officer. Ms. Laur may be contacted at USDA NRCS, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 6165-S, Washington, DC 20250; *telephone:* (202) 720-1858; *e-mail:* michele.laur@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. Additional information concerning