

trails will be included in specific locations.

- **Mountain Bike Trail Connectors**—Two separate mountain bike connections are planned. They will be free of charge and open to the general public as key connections to the larger network of trails in and around Heavenly and the surrounding public lands. The first trail connection is intended to connect the East Peak Mountain Bike Park to the Tahoe Rim Trail. The second trail connection is intended to connect the mountain to Heavenly Village.

- **Emergency Gondola Snow Cat Evacuation Route—Gondola Alignment**, In order to safely evacuate the gondola during emergency situations, Heavenly proposes to selectively clear trees at a limited number of strategic access points located from the Gondola Mid-Station down along the gondola line for emergency snow cat access. The access route will only be used in times of operational emergencies and will not be used on a regular basis.

Maps and a more specific project description can be found on the LTBMU Web site at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu>.

**Possible Alternatives**—In order to address substantive issues identified during scoping, project alternatives may be considered and developed by lead agency staff, following completion of the public scoping period. If necessary, the alternatives shall fulfill the identified purpose & need for action while addressing one or more significant issues related to the proposed project.

**Preliminary Issues/Potential Environmental Effects**—Potential environmental effects and impacts will be explored during project scoping and during preparation of the EIS/EIS/IS. In addition to the potential environmental effects outlined below, the EIS/EIS/IS will analyze the full range of resource topics required by the lead agencies (e.g., noise, land use), cumulative impacts, and attainment of the TRPA Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities.

**Cumulative Watershed Effects/Water Quality**. The EIS/EIS/IS will evaluate potential water quality impacts associated with the proposed projects that focus on Heavenly Valley Creek where a TMDL is in place for suspended sediment and Daggett Creek watersheds where a majority of the projects are sited.

**Biological Resources**. The EIS/EIS/IS will evaluate potential impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species (e.g., American marten, Tahoe draba, Whitebark pine) known to occupy

habitat within the Heavenly special use permit boundary. The evaluation will also address potential effects to migratory birds, noxious weeds/invasive species, and Forest Service management indicator species.

**Scenic Resources**. The EIS/EIS/IS will evaluate potential impacts to designated TRPA and Forest Service scenic resources and from viewpoints within adjacent recreational sites (e.g., Van Sickle State Park).

**Transportation and Parking**. Using trip generation methodology developed for the Project, the EIS/EIS/IS will evaluate potential impacts to US Highway 50, local roadways and intersections during peak hour traffic conditions. The analysis will discuss the Project's parking needs and identify strategies to accommodate new demand.

**Air Quality and Climate Change**. Using results from the transportation analysis, the EIS/EIS/IS will evaluate potential impacts to applicable air quality standards and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Recreation**. The EIS/EIS/IS will evaluate potential impacts to existing recreation resources that may occur from the expansion of summer uses at Heavenly. Specifically, the analysis will identify whether the Project may affect recreational quality and opportunities (including changes to person at one time capacity) available on National Forest System lands.

#### Scoping Process

This NOP/NOI initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIS/EIS/IS. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a manner that they are useful in the lead agency's preparation of this EIS/EIS/IS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. However, comments submitted anonymously will also be accepted and considered. If applicable, responses should include the name of a contact person at your agency or organization.

Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 20, 2013. The draft EIS/EIS/IS is expected in August 2014 and the final EIS/EIS/IS in January 2015. Two public scoping meetings are being held to provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the proposed action

and to express oral comments about the content of the EIS/EIS/IS, in addition to providing opportunity to submit written comments. The scoping meetings will be held at the times and locations listed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** section above.

This project will follow the new objection procedures as directed by 36 CFR 218. The objection process provides an opportunity for members of the public who have participated in opportunities for public participation provided throughout the planning process to have any unresolved concerns receive an independent review by the Forest Service prior to a final decision being made by the responsible official. Only those who provided specific written comments during opportunities for public comment are eligible to file an objection.

Dated: November 12, 2013.

**Jeff Marsolais,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2013-0006]

#### Notice of Meeting of the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) will meet to continue discussions on critical air quality issues in relation to agriculture. Special emphasis will be placed on obtaining a greater understanding about the relationship between agricultural production and air quality. The meeting is open to the public, and a draft agenda is included in this notice.

**DATES:** The AAQTF meeting will convene at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, December 4-5, 2013, and conclude at 5:00 p.m. each day. A public comment period will be held on December 5. Individuals wishing to make oral presentations should contact Greg Johnson at (503) 273-2424 or email: [greg.johnson@por.usda.gov](mailto:greg.johnson@por.usda.gov) no later than November 22 and bring 35 copies of any material they would like distributed to the meeting.

Written material intended for AAQTF member consideration prior to the

meeting must be received by Greg Johnson, Designated Federal Official, USDA, NRCS, 1201 Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1000, Portland Oregon 97232 no later than November 26, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at USDA Log Lodge, 302 Log Lodge Road, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions and comments should be directed to Dr. Greg Johnson, Designated Federal Official, USDA, NRCS, 1201 Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1000, Portland, Oregon 97232; telephone: (503) 273-2424; fax: (503) 273-2401; or email: [greg.johnson@por.usda.gov](mailto:greg.johnson@por.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 AAQTF, including any revised agendas for the December 4-5, 2013, meeting that occurs after this **Federal Register** Notice is published, may be found at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/air/taskforce](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/air/taskforce).

#### Draft Agenda

##### Meeting of the AAQTF

December 4-5, 2013

- A. Welcome remarks and introductions
- B. Review of AAQTF history and purpose
- C. USDA Climate Change Program Office update
- D. Update on agricultural air quality regulatory issues at EPA
- E. AAQTF strategies and goals for 2013-2015
- F. AAQTF subcommittee formation and meetings
- G. Updates from USDA agencies (FS, NRCS, NIFA, and ARS)
- H. Selected agricultural air quality research presentations
- I. Public Input (time will be reserved, most likely on the second day, to receive public comments. Individual presentations will be limited to 5 minutes).

The timing of events in the agenda is subject to change to accommodate changing schedules of expected speakers or extended discussions.

#### Procedural

This meeting is open to the public. At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may provide oral presentations during the meeting. Those persons wishing to make oral presentations should notify Greg Johnson no later than November 22, 2013. Those wishing to distribute written materials at the meeting (in conjunction with spoken comments) must bring 35 copies of the materials

with them. Written materials for distribution to AAQTF members prior to the meeting must be received by Dr. Johnson no later than November 26, 2013.

#### Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, please contact Greg Johnson. USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Additionally, discrimination on the basis of political beliefs and marital or family status is also prohibited by statutes enforced by USDA. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2000 (voice and TDD).

Signed this 8th day of November 2013, in Washington, DC.

**Jason A. Weller,**

*Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Rural Utilities Service

##### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by January 21, 2014.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1522, Room 5162-South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078, FAX: (202) 720-8435 or email: [michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to:

Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078, FAX: (202) 720-8435 or email [michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov).

*Title:* Assistance to High Energy Cost Rural Communities.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0136.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act) (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) was amended in November 2000 to create a new program to help rural communities with extremely high energy costs (Pub. L. 106-472). Under the new section 19 of the RE Act (7 U.S.C. 918a), the Secretary of Agriculture through RUS, is authorized to provide financial assistance through the following three funding streams:

- *High Energy Cost Grants and Loans.* RUS may provide grants and loans for energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities serving communities with average home energy costs in excess of 275 percent of the national average. Many of the communities are in rural Alaska, but there are other eligible areas nationwide. Eligible applicants include persons, State agencies (including Territories), entities organized under