

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board (Board) will meet in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Board is established consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C. App. II), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1612), and the Federal Public Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Pub. L. 108-447). The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to provide:

- (1) Update on Farm Bill
- (2) Briefing from U.S. Fish and Wildlife on Threatened and Endangered Species
- (3) Update from the Forest Health working group
- (4) Update from the Recreational Facility working group
- (5) Briefing on Bearlodge Project/Rare Element Resources proposed mine

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

All meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mystic Ranger District, 8221 South Highway 16, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses, when provided, are placed in the record and available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received

at the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office. Please call ahead to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Jacobson, Committee Coordinator, by phone at 605-673-9216, or by email at sjjacobson@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information concerning the Board, including the meeting summary/minutes, can be found by visiting the Board's Web site at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/blackhills/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should submit a request in writing by May 12, 2014 to be scheduled on the agenda. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and time requests for oral comments must be sent to Scott Jacobson, Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1019 North Fifth Street, Custer, South Dakota 57730; by email to sjjacobson@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 605-673-9208.

Meeting Accommodations: If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: April 29, 2014.

Dennis Jaeger,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2014-10328 Filed 5-5-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sitka Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sitka Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Silica, Alaska. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110-343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with the title II of the Act. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is discuss new project proposals and update on existing RAC projects.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 6, 2014 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sitka Ranger District, Katlian Conference Room, 204 Katlian Street, Sitka Alaska.

Written comments may be submitted as described under Supplementary Information. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Sitka Ranger District. Please call ahead to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Hirsch, RAC Coordinator, by phone at 907-747-4214 or via email at lisahirsch@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional RAC information, including the meeting agenda and the meeting summary/minutes can be found at the following Web site: https://fspaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure_rural_schools.nsf/RAC/07924D017A51AEC5882575440062EFB1?OpenDocument. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by June 2, 2014, to be scheduled on the agenda. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Lisa Hirsch, RAC Coordinator, Sitka Ranger District, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, Alaska 99835; or by email to lisahirsch@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 907-747-4253.

Meeting Accommodations: If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed in the section titled For Further Information Contact. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: April 22, 2014.

Don Martin,

Acting District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 2014-10074 Filed 5-5-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service**

RIN 0596-AC51

Proposed Directive on Groundwater Resource Management, Forest Service Manual 2560

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of proposed directive; request for comment; announcement of national informational webinars.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service proposes to amend its internal Agency directives for Watershed and Air Management to establish direction for management of groundwater resources on National Forest System (NFS) lands as an integral component of watershed management. Specifically, the proposed amendment would provide direction on the consideration of groundwater resources in agency activities, approvals, and

authorizations; encourage source water protection and water conservation; establish procedures for reviewing new proposals for groundwater withdrawals on NFS lands; require the evaluation of potential impacts from groundwater withdrawals on NFS resources; and provide for measurement and reporting for some larger groundwater withdrawals. This proposed amendment would supplement existing special uses and minerals and geology directives to address issues of groundwater resource management and would help ensure consistent and adequate analyses for evaluating potential uses of NFS lands that could affect groundwater resources. Public comment is invited and will be considered in development of the final directive. This proposed groundwater directive represents a change in the Forest Service's national policy on water management. The Forest Service wants to ensure that there is sufficient time for potentially affected parties, including States, to comment. Thus the Agency is providing an extended comment period for the proposed directive. In addition, the Forest Service will host a webinar on the proposed directive to present information and answer questions on the proposed policy and the comment process during the first half of the comment period. Additional meetings and/or webinars will be offered as needed. Specific information regarding the dates and times of the webinar will be announced by news release and at the following Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/geology/groundwater>. A recording of the webinar will also be posted on the Web site.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 4, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Send comments electronically by following the instructions at the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulation.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by electronic mail to fsm2500@fs.fed.us or by mail to Groundwater Directive Comments, USDA Forest Service, Attn: Elizabeth Berger—WFWARP, 201 14th Street SW., Washington, DC, 20250. If comments are sent electronically, the public is requested not to send duplicate comments by mail. Please confine comments to issues pertinent to the proposed directive; explain the reasons for any recommended changes; and, where possible, refer to the specific wording being addressed. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect the

comments received on the proposed directive at the USDA Forest Service Headquarters, located in the Yates Federal Building at 201 14th Street SW., Washington, DC, on regular business days between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Those wishing to inspect the comments are encouraged to call ahead at (202) 205-0967 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Gurrieri, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff and Minerals and Geology Management Staff, (303) 275-5101. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on regular business days.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background and Need for the Proposed Directive**

Despite concerns regarding water availability and quality across the country for ecosystem viability and new and existing human uses, the Forest Service does not have any comprehensive direction for management of groundwater resources on NFS lands. Ongoing climate and land use changes in combination with increasing societal water uses are resulting in substantial effects on the spatial and temporal distribution of water resources, including those on NFS lands. The proposed directives better position the Forest Service to identify and manage the consequences of those changes for the groundwater resources on NFS lands.

The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of Federal lands, much of which is located in the headwaters and recharge areas of the nation's streams and aquifers. NFS lands provide sources of drinking water for people in 42 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Thus, the Forest Service has a critical role in maintaining the integrity of the water resources associated with NFS lands and needs to take an active role, in cooperation with the States, in comprehensive management of water resources on those lands. The Washington Office Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants and the Minerals and Geology Management staffs propose Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2560 as a key component of this effort.

The Forest Service recognizes a need to establish a consistent approach for addressing both surface and groundwater issues that appropriately protects water resources, recognizes existing water uses, and responds to the