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Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken in account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

JoLynn Anderson,
Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Hood-Willamette Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hood-Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a public meeting according to the details shown below. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (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 Title II of the Act, as well as make recommendations on recreation fee proposals for sites on the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests within Clackamas, Douglas, Hood River, Jefferson, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, and Wasco Counties, consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

DATES: An in-person and virtual meeting will be held on December 2, 2024, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Standard Time.

Written and Oral Comments: Anyone wishing to provide in-person or virtual oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on November 25, 2024. Written public comments will be accepted by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on November 25, 2024. Comments submitted after this date will be provided by the Forest Service to the committee, but the committee may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to the meeting.

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

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held in person at the Keizer Civic Center, located at 930 Chemawa Road Northeast, Keizer, Oregon 97303. The public may also join the meeting virtually via teleconference or videoconference online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/willamette/workingtogether/advisorycommittees/?cid=stelprdb5048434>. RAC information and meeting details can be found at the website link provided above or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Written Comments: Written comments must be sent by email to eileen.kitayama@usda.gov or via mail (postmarked) to Eileen Kitayama, 3106 Pierce Pkwy., Suite D, Springfield, Oregon 97477. The Forest Service strongly prefers comments be submitted electronically.

Oral Comments: Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on November 25, 2024, and speakers can only register for one speaking slot. Oral comments must be sent by email to eileen.kitayama@usda.gov or via mail (postmarked) to Eileen Kitayama, 3106

Pierce Pkwy., Suite D, Springfield, Oregon 97477.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Meta Loftsgaarden, Designated Federal Officer, by phone at (971) 378-9704 or email at meta.loftsgaarden@usda.gov; or Eileen Kitayama, RAC Coordinator, by phone at (458) 245-0170 or email at eileen.kitayama@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Elect a Chairperson;
2. Hear from Title II project proponents and discuss Title II project proposals;
3. Make funding recommendations on Title II projects;
4. Approve meeting minutes; and
5. Schedule the next meeting

The agenda will include time for individuals to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should make a request in writing at least three days prior to the meeting date to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments may be submitted to the Forest Service up to 14 days after the meeting date listed under **DATES**.

Please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, by or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. 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 upon request.

Meeting Accommodations: The meeting location is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpretation, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation to the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, or contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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Dated: October 16, 2024.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

West Fork Kickapoo Watershed; Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of availability; record of decision.

SUMMARY: This notice of availability presents the Record of Decision (ROD) on a Watershed Project Plan—Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-PEIS) for the West Fork Kickapoo (WFK) Watershed prepared in partnership with Monroe and Vernon Counties, Wisconsin (Sponsors). This notice announces the plan to proceed with the implementation of Alternative 7—Proposed Action—Decommission All Dams and Replace Jersey Valley County Park Dam (WFK-1) with a high hazard, multi-purpose dam, identified in the Plan-PEIS. Alternative 7 proposes to decommission dams by excavating a notch to pass the 100-year flood without impounding water. It also proposes to replace WFK-1 with a high hazard, multi-purpose dam approximately 1,000 feet downstream of the existing dam. This action will avoid environmental impacts to the extent possible and mitigate impacts that are unavoidable.

ADDRESSES: You may request a copy of the ROD from: Steve Becker, NRCS State

Conservation Engineer, 8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53717.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Becker; telephone: (608) 400-6176; or email: steve.becker@usda.gov. Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Decision

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has prepared a ROD following completion of the Plan-PEIS. The Plan-PEIS provides a retrospective analysis of the existing flood control project and then evaluates alternatives for the final disposition of 9 flood control dams constructed between 1956 and 1971. The purpose of the Plan-PEIS is to ensure agencies consider the environmental impacts of their action in decision making. NRCS involvement is through Public Law 83-566, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended. The ROD is available for viewing at the following link: <https://www.wfkandccwatersheds.com/2023>. NRCS has decided to assist the Sponsors with implementing Alternative 7 which proposes to decommission all 9 dams in the watershed and replace WFK-1 about 1,000 feet downstream of the existing dam.

Background

The WFK Watershed has an area of 75,387 acres (117.8 square miles) to the confluence with the Kickapoo River. The focused planning area for the Plan-PEIS is 63,761 acres (99.6 square miles). The Plan-PEIS follows an original Watershed Work Plan developed in 1961 to reduce flood damages in the WFK valley under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954.

The major problems in the watershed between 1956 and 1961 were floodwater damages to: crops and pasture, fences, farmsteads, machinery, buildings, livestock, county, township roads and bridges, and the village of Liberty. Project measures implemented under the 1961 Watershed Work Plan include a multitude of land treatment practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation behind the dams and 7 flood control dams with a total capacity of 3,652 acre-feet to regulate flood flows from 30.73 square miles, or 31 percent of the watershed above the village of Liberty. With the addition of two dams built

under the Pilot Watershed Program in 1956, the runoff from 34.6 square miles or 35 percent of the watershed above the village of Liberty is controlled. The dams have now completed their Federal interest or original economic evaluation period of 50 years.

On the night of August 27, 2018, two watershed dams over-topped and two dams failed, including the WFK-1 and Mlsna Dams. Rainfall amounts up to 11 inches were reported on the night of August 27 and early morning of August 28. Additional rainfall amounts up to 7 inches were reported in the afternoon of August 28 after the dam failures.

The dams failed (breached) along the interface between the earthfill and highly jointed sandstone abutments. Each breach extended full depth to the valley floor. No one was injured or killed. Large debris fields were observed downstream of the dams for about 1/4 mile. Agricultural lands and road crossings were damaged. Engineering investigations concluded that flow through the fractured sandstone during high pool stage caused internal erosion and piping of the earthfill dam and contributed to the failures. The Sponsors and NRCS are concerned that a similar vulnerability exists in the remaining 7 dams.

Environmental Review

The ROD summarizes the findings of the Plan-PEIS and provides the basis for a decision to decommission 9 flood control dams in the WFK watershed and replace WFK-1 with a high hazard, multi-purpose dam. The watershed project plan and the environmental document were combined in the single Plan-PEIS document. NRCS is the lead Federal agency responsible for the content and quality of the Plan-EIS for the purposes of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&G) for Federal Investments in Water Resources and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance.

The ROD is issued as specified by the NEPA process (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) which follows the NRCS NEPA regulations in 7 CFR part 650, subpart A, and 7 CFR part 622. The NRCS NEPA regulations adopt the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) in total.

Alternatives

Considered alternatives included: no action, repair, rehabilitation, relocation, replacement, removal, and construction of additional dams. Considered alternatives also include the substitution of large watershed dams