

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

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Revised Environmental Impact Statement, Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Timber Sale(s), Tongass National Forest, Stikine Area and Chatham Area, Petersburg and Sitka, Alaska

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Timber Sale(s) located on the Stikine Area and the Chatham Area of the Tongass National Forest. This notice of intent revises the notice of intent published September 12, 1994, (page 48619) and the Notice of Intent published August 14, 1995, (page 41872) by describing changes to the purpose and need, proposed action and the schedule for the decision. A Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared to respond to the new land use designations, management direction, and standards and guidelines of the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) released in May 1997.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis or significant issues regarding the proposal to build roads and harvest timber in the Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Project Area should be received in writing by October 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Michael J. Weber, USDA Forest Service, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions concerning the proposed action and Environmental Impact Statement should be directed to Michael J. Weber, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, phone: (907) 747-6671, fax: (907) 747-4331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Project Area includes Value Comparison Units 79 through 89 on the mainland in Southeast Alaska approximately 30 miles north of Petersburg, Alaska, and 80 miles south of Juneau, Alaska.

The Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of May 1997 provides the overall guidance (land use designations, goals, objectives, management prescriptions, standards and guidelines) to achieve the desired future condition for the area in which this project is proposed. This revised Forest Plan allocates portions of the project area to six management prescriptions (Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed, Old-growth Habitat, Semi-remote Recreation, and Research Natural Area). Furthermore, the new standards and guidelines in the revised Forest Plan provide increased protection for riparian areas, wolves, and wetlands which conflict with activities proposed and analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement published in December 1995. The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Timber Sale(s) will now tier to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Tongass Land Management Plan Revision of May 1997 and be consistent with the revised Forest Plan.

The purpose and need for the project is to respond to the goals and objectives identified by the Forest Plan for the timber resource and to move the Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Project Area toward the desired future condition. The Forest Plan identified the following goals and objectives: (1) Manage the timber resource for production of saw timber and other wood product from suitable timber lands made available for timber harvest, on an even-flow, long-term sustained yield basis and in an economically efficient manner (Forest Plan page 2-4); (2) seek to provide a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual market demand for Tongass National Forest timber, and the demand for the planning cycle (page 2-4); and (3) maintain and promote industrial wood production from suitable timber lands, providing a continuous supply of wood to meet society's needs (page 3-144). The Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Project will be designed to produce

desired resource values, products, and conditions in ways that also sustain the diversity and productivity of ecosystems (page 2-1).

The Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Project is now expected to provide a range of volume to the timber industry in three or more timber sales. The actual range of alternatives considered in the Environmental Impact Statement will be determined during analysis and will reflect issues raised during scoping.

The Proposed Action provides for: (1) Construction of approximately 80 miles of road; (2) harvest of approximately 6,000 acres of timber in several timber sales; and, (3) construction of a long transfer facility in Little Lagoon and use of the existing log transfer facility in Hobart Bay. This level of development would result in the harvest of approximately 120 million board feet of sawlog and utility timber volume.

A number of public comments have been received on this project. Based on comments from the public and other agencies during the original scoping effort and the public comment period on the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the following significant issues have been identified:

(1) What changes may be anticipated in the character of the timber resource?

(2) To what extent are alternative silvicultural treatments proposed, and what are the benefits?

(3) What will be the effect of log transfer facility development on marine resource values?

(4) What change in wildlife habitat capability would occur with implementation of the project?

(5) What changes will occur in habitat and plant and animal diversity?

(6) What will be the effect of timber harvest and transportation system development on the fish habitat?

(7) What effect will timber harvest have on soil stability?

(8) How will timber harvest affect subsistence fishing, hunting and gathering opportunities?

(9) What visual and recreational changes will affect both local and tourist use and enjoyment?

(10) What are the basic economic values that can be expected with the project?

These issues are being used to design alternatives to the proposed action and to identify the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and

alternatives. The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for publication in March 1998 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is scheduled for publication in August 1998.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to alert reviewers about 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 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 important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement 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.

Dated: September 11, 1997.

Patricia A. Grantham,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Stikine Area.

Dated: September 12, 1997.

Gary A. Morrison,

Forest Supervisor, Chatham Area.

[FR Doc. 97-25176 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Olympic Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Olympic PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on October 17, 1997 at the Olympic Forest Headquarters Building located at 1835 Black Lake Blvd., SW., Olympia, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review and discussion of revised Olympic Adaptive Management Area

Guide; (2) Province Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Update from Committee; (3) Potential timber harvest from non-regulated areas; (4) Review and Validation of Implementation Monitoring Report; (5) Open Forum and (6) future agenda topics. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kathy Snow, Province Liaison, USDA, Quilcene Ranger District, P.O. Box 280, Quilcene, WA 98376, (360) 765-2211, or Ronald R. Humphrey, Forest Supervisor, at (360) 956-2300.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

Ronald R. Humphrey,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-25172 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on October 7 at the Oregon State Extension Office, on Hanley Road, Central Point Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Marbled Murrelet habitat; (2) Monitoring (3) Regional Ecosystem Office presentation; (4) Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management local issues; and (5) Mining/riparian issues. All Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chuck Anderson, Province Advisory Committee staff, USDA, Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 333 W. 8th Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, phone 541-858-2322.

Dated: September 16, 1997.

James T. Gladen,

Forest Supervisor, Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 97-25205 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

National Employers Survey—4 (NES-4)

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Michael Hartz, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Room 2538-3—EPCD, Washington, DC 20233-6100; (301-457-2633).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau conducted three earlier National Employers Surveys (1994, 1995 and 1997) for the National Center on the Educational Quality of the Workforce (EQW), a nonprofit research group. This group's focus is discovering relationships among employment, hiring, training, education, and business success. This information collection seeks to build upon the results of the previous surveys.

This information collection seeks to gather information on employees' histories and to identify employees' perceptions regarding employer-provided training and job-related educational requirements. The collection will relate these employees' responses to similar information collected previously from employers in the 1997 National Employers Survey (NES-3). The purpose is to identify those areas where employee and employer views are similar and where they are different. This information then would be used to suggest areas where additional emphasis regarding employer job requirements are needed to enable potential employees to qualify for employment.