

Docket No. 99-062N, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ronald Hicks, Deputy Administrator, Office of Management, Food Safety and Inspection Service at (202) 720-4425.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In early 1999, FSIS convened a Task Force to develop recommendations on the roles of veterinarians carrying out the Agency's Programs, particularly with the implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point systems and pathogen reduction requirements for meat and poultry products. Moreover, the Task Force was requested to look beyond current statutory and regulatory limitations. The Task Force included a diverse group of individuals, including veterinarians from inside and outside of FSIS, a variety of FSIS management personnel, and individuals affiliated with academia, non-government organizations, and foreign governments. The Task Force developed a draft report, *The Future of FSIS Veterinarians: Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century*. This report makes recommendations concerning issues such as the future roles of the FSIS veterinarians; training programs; animal identification; and international credibility.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this public meeting notice, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that

have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC, on January 11, 2000.

**Thomas J. Billy,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-930 Filed 1-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### South Bend Weigh and Safety Station, Deschutes National Forest, Deschutes County, OR

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate a request by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to construct and operate a vehicle weigh and safety inspection station on Deschutes National Forest under authority of a Special Use Permit. The proposed area is located on the northbound lane of Highway 97, south of Bend, Oregon, between milepost 145 and 148. The legal location is Township 19S, Range 11E, Section 1, NE¼, Willamette Meridian.

**DATES:** Issues and comments concerning the scope of analysis of the Proposed Action should be received by February 14, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments regarding the Proposed Action to Mollie Chaudet, Project Team Leader, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3rd Street, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon 97701.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions about the Proposed Action and EIS to Chris Mickle, Attention: South Bend Weigh and Safety Station, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3rd Street, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon 97701, phone 541-383-4721.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Forest Service Proposed Action would include clearing of approximately one acre of brush and trees to accommodate construction of a building, bypass lanes for vehicle acceleration and deceleration, and related areas for parking and inspections. The size of the trees to be removed would average 14

inches diameter at chest height. The building is approximately 210 square feet and 12 feet high. The bypass lanes would measure 16 feet by 3,800 feet. The maximum width of the asphalt lanes, building, and gravel shoulder would be 60 feet, tapering to 16 feet on both the approach and exit lanes. A fuel break would be created east of the cleared area for a perimeter of 10 feet around the facility where dead fuels would be removed, trees would be pruned of limbs to at least eight feet in height. Brush would be mechanically treated as needed. Noxious weed control would emphasize early prevention and detection.

A Weigh in Motion (WIM)/Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) system would be sited within one mile of the weigh station facility. Equipment would include in-road sensors, a roadside computer cabinet (77 inches × 44 inches × 26 inches), two overhead detectors (10 inches × 10 inches × 10 inches) mounted on two overhead detector poles (14 feet 2 inches high × 4 inches diameter), an AVI cabinet (24 inches × 2 inches × 10 inches) mounted on a 5 foot tall AVI cabinet pole (10 inches diameter), and two AVI poles that overhang the highway spaced 600 feet apart from each other. Power would be supplied by extending less than two miles of underground service in the existing right-of-way along the east side of Highway 97. Highway signing would include information about distances to the upcoming weigh station and whether the facility is open, or not.

The Forest Service has agreed to consider a weigh station on National Forest System lands based on the public need for the facility. The facility cannot reasonably be served by the development on non-National Forest System land. Analysis has indicated a high violation rate in Central Oregon, especially trucks with a Bend and/or Redmond destination that originate locally. The proposed location of the weigh station and WIM sensors are within the Deschutes National Forest boundary and cannot be easily bypassed via other routes. The Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) presently allocates the proposed location to a management area that emphasizes Scenic Views (Retention). The location is outside the boundary of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument.

Alternatives to be considered will include the no action alternative plus action alternatives that may include a modification of the design or location of the proposed site. The selected alternative may result in an amendment to the LRMP (Forest Plan).

Preliminary issues that have been identified include: (1) Placement of a truck scale at this location could unnecessarily subject nearby property owners and the High Desert Museum to an increased risk of fire. (2) The proposed site could introduce hazardous traffic weaving movements and speed differentials, and could promote traffic congestion. (3) The truck scale could be contrary to Forest Plan Visual Quality Objectives under the current land allocation (scenic views) and could be an eyesore.

Public scoping will include a 30 day comment period in response to a scoping letter mailed to interested people and posted on the Deschutes National Forest website ([www.fs.fed.us/r6/dechutes](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/dechutes)), and open house, and additional public meetings as needed.

The public is invited to offer suggestions and comments in writing. Comments received in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available to public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The draft EIS is expected to be completed in September, 2000. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS 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.)

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by January, 2001. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding the South Bend Weigh and Safety Station.

The Forest Service is the lead agency. Sally Collins, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official. The Responsible Official will determine which alternative best meets the purpose and need for this project and addresses the key issues raised about this project. The decision and rationale will be documented in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: January 6, 2000.

**Rebecca Heath,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99-914 Filed 1-13-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council will meet in Chattanooga, Tennessee, February 24-26, 2000. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss emerging issues in urban and community forestry.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held February 24-26, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Chattanooga Choo Choo, 1400 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Individuals who wish to speak at the meeting or to propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Suzanne M. del Villar, Executive Assistant, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, 20628 Diane Drive, Sonoma, CA 95370.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne M. del Villar, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (209) 536-9201.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. A tour of local projects will be held on February 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Persons who wish to bring urban and community forestry matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided, and individuals who have made written requests by February 18 will have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members.

Dated: January 7, 2000.

**Robin L. Thompson,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.*

[FR Doc 00-891 Filed 1-13-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

#### COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

#### Procurement List, Proposed Additions and Deletions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to and deletions from procurement list.