

Plan). The site specific actions are designed based on Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines to promote existing resource conditions in the Prairie Project Area toward meeting Forest Plan Goals and Objectives. The project area lies along the east side of the Black Hills National Forest and directly west of Rapid City, South Dakota. Anticipated issues include: fire and fuels hazard in the wildland-urban interface; support and opposition to vegetation treatment such as timber harvest; impacts of vegetation treatment and multiple forest uses on wildlife habitat; conflicting motorized and non-motorized use and travel management issues; maintaining and improving developed and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of and need for the actions proposed in the Prairie Project is to: Reduce the potential for large-scale intense wildfire, reduce fuel loads and assure access for fire protection; Protect big game winter range and provide habitat for a variety of plant and animal species; and provide for a variety of recreation opportunities including motorized and non-motorized uses while moving toward or meeting related Forest Plan Goals and Objectives, consistent with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

Proposed Action

Proposed actions include the following:

- Reduce the potential for large-scale, intense wildfire by developing and maintaining natural fuel breaks. This action includes thinning the forest, removing conifers from hardwood stands such as aspen, bur oak and birch and by expanding and/or creating meadows.
- Reduce the amount of fuel that currently exists and fuel created by vegetation treatment activities. Treatment could include lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning; construction of up to 30 miles of constructed fuel breaks adjacent to private property, particularly those properties with houses and subdivisions; and prescribed burning of up to 4,000 acres to reduce fuels and benefit wildlife habitat.
- Manage big game winter range by providing opening for forage and protecting game animals during the critical winter period over a large portion of the area by expanding area closures to off-road motorized use seasonally or year-round.
- Support the preceding actions by treating up to 8,000 acres of vegetation

to reduce the density of pine trees. This may be done by using commercial timber harvest to thin out commercial size trees and using other methods to thin small, non-commercial size trees. Thinning trees will reduce the potential for spreading crown fires by providing fuel breaks, lessening the risk from insects and disease, improving stand growth and vigor, and providing wood-fiber products for the local economy.

- Provide a mix of motorized and non-motorized opportunities in the area by designating some areas for off-road ATV/4-wheeler use and other areas for non-motorized uses such as hiking, mountain biking and walk-in hunting.

Responsible Official

John C. Twiss, Forest Supervisor,
Black Hills National Forest, Highway
385 North RR 2, Box 200, Custer, SD
57730.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to implement the proposed action or alternatives at this time.

Scoping Process

Comments and input regarding the proposal will be requested via direct mailing from the public, other groups and agencies during the 30-day (plus) public comment period in July and August 2002. Also, response to the draft EIS will be sought from the interested public in November-December 2002.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. It is our desire to involve interested parties and especially adjacent landowners in identifying the issues related to proposed activities. Comments will assist the planning team identify key issues and opportunities used to develop project alternatives and mitigation measures.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be for 45 days (beginning around November 1, 2002) from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of 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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final 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 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statement 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.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 21)

Dated: July 8, 2002.

John C. Twiss,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-17506 Filed 7-11-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Glenn/Colusa County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 29, 2002, and will begin at 1:30 p.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, P.O. Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail: ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Approve the Minutes from Last Meeting, (2) Proposed By-Laws- Action, (3) Draft Selection Criteria/Operating Guidelines- Action, (4) Title II Submission Form— Action, (5) Update on RAC Projects, (6) Scramblers Presentations, (7) Public Comment, and (8) Next Agenda. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: July 8, 2002.

James F. Giachino,
Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-17507 Filed 7-11-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 8, 2002, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lake County Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie McIntosh, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Upper Lake Ranger District, 10025 Elk Mountain Road, Upper Lake, CA 95485. (707) 275-2361; e-mail dmcintosh@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Roll Call/Establish Quorum; (2) Review and Approval of the Minutes of the June 27, 2002 Meeting; (3) Discuss the Prioritization of 2002 Project Proposals; (4) Discussion of the Elk Mountain Road

Grading Project; (5) Recommend and submit Projects; and (6) Public Comment period. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: July 1, 2002.

Blaine P. Baker,
Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-17511 Filed 7-11-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Library

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Collect Information

AGENCY: National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, this notice announces the National Agricultural Library's intent to request approval for a new information collection form related to the Animal Welfare Information Center's (AWIC) workshop, *Meeting the Information Requirements of The Animal Welfare Act*. This workshop registration form requests contact, affiliation, and database searching experience information from participants. Participants include principal investigators, members of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, information providers, administrators of animal use programs, and veterinarians.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 16, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Barbara Buchanan Biological Sciences Librarian, USDA, ARS, NAL, Animal Welfare Information Center, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, 4th Floor, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351. Submit electronic comments to bbuchana@nal.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Buchanan, Biological Sciences Librarian, Phone: 301-504-7048, or Fax: 301-504-7125

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Workshop Registration Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: Approval for new data collection form.

Abstract: This web-based form collects information to register respondents in the workshop, *Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act*. Information collected includes: workshop date preference, signature, name, title, organization name, mailing address, phone and fax numbers, and email address. Five questions are asked regarding: database searching experience, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee membership, and what they would like to learn from their participation in the workshop

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response.

Respondents: principal investigators, members of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, information providers, administrators of animal use programs, and veterinarians.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100 per year.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 8.33 hours.

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 the 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 respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technology. Comments should be sent to the address in the preamble. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 25, 2002.

Caird E. Rexroad,
Acting Associate Administrator

[FR Doc. 02-17487 Filed 7-11-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Reinstate a Previously Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.