

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

GRIFFON Project; Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, White Pine County, Nevada

AGENCY: Forest Service.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will be directing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed development of an open pit gold mining project in the White Pine Range northwest of Ellison Guard Station in White Pine County, Nevada (T14N, R58N, sec 24 & 25). This EIS will be prepared by contract and funded by the proponent, Alta Gold Company. (Alta).

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received by May 31, 1996 to ensure timely consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: David Valenzuela, Project Team Leader, Ely Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, PO Box 539, Ely, Nevada 89301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the proposed project and preparation of the EIS to David Valenzuela, Project Team Leader, at the same address, Telephone: 702-289-3031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Alta has submitted to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, a Proposed Plan of Operations (POO) for a new mine in White Pine County, Nevada. The POO describes the proposed mining development activities and operational and reclamation procedures for the GRIFFON Project. The proposal includes developing two open pits. Waste rock dumps, soil stockpiles, ore stockpile, haul roads and support facilities would also be developed. Ore

would be processed at a proposed mill-site located on the project site.

The proposal would affect approximately 161 acres of public lands. Preliminary internal scoping has identified several issues which would be addressed in the analysis process. The following list of issues is not intended to be all inclusive. They are: impacts to ground and surface water resources; impacts to grazing resources; impacts to Waters of the United States including wetlands; mine economics; threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and wildlife species; and visual resources. These issues and any others identified during the scoping process may be used to develop alternatives to the proposed action. In addition, the No Action alternative will be considered in the analysis.

Public participation is important during the EIS scoping process. As part of the scoping process, the Forest Service will be seeking information and comments from Federal, State, County and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions. This input will be used in the preparation of the draft EIS and Final EIS.

Several government agencies will be invited to participate in this project as cooperating or participating agencies. These agencies include, but are not limited to, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and White Pine County Board of Commissioners. In addition to the Plan of Operations, various Federal, State, and local permits and licenses may be required to implement the proposed action. These may include, but are not limited to, a Section 404 permit, Water Pollution Control Permit, Reclamation Permit for Mining Operations, and a General Discharge Permit for Stormwater.

The Forest Service is the lead agency for this project and Monica J. Schwalbach, Assistant Forest Supervisor for the Central Nevada Ecosystem of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests is the responsible official. She will make a decision to approve the proposed Plan of Operations or one of the alternatives analyzed. Alta's rights under the 1872

Mining Law as amended, applicable Forest Service regulations and the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) will be taken into account throughout the analysis.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for review in November 1996. At that time, EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be at least 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears 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, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact 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 or 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.

Pursuant to 7 CFR, Part 1, Subpart B, Section 1.27, all written submissions in response to this notice shall be made available for public inspection including the submitter's name, unless the submitter specifically requests confidentiality. Anonymous comments will be not accepted. All written submissions from business entities and organizations, submitted on official letterhead, in response to this notice shall be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: April 22, 1996.

Monica J. Schwalbach

Assistant Forest Supervisor, Central Nevada Ecosystem, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests.

[FR Doc. 96-10847 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on May 6 and May 7, 1996 at the Best Western Miner's Inn Conference Room, 122 East Miner Street, Yreka, California. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on May 6 and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will reconvene at 8 a.m. on May 7 and continue until 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Monitoring (both President's Forest Plan and Forest Plan); (2) salvage timber sale monitoring; (3) Trinity County proposed special legislation; (4) land management services contracting and existing timber contract authorities; (5) standing committee reports; and (6) public comment periods. All PAC meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, California 96097; telephone 916-842-6131, (FTS) 700-467-1309.

Dated April 26, 1996.

Barbara Holder,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 96-10883 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on May 21, 1996, at the Visiting Nursing Bingo Hall (near the SW Washington Fairgrounds), in Chehalis, Washington. The purpose of the meeting is to review the Advisory Committee vision, role and function. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Determine actions on Advisory Committee recommendations, (2) Develop "Vision" for the Southwest Washington Province, (3) Reassess Watershed Restoration Priorities, (4) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presentation on watershed restoration activities on non-Federal lands, (5) Presentation on Forest Plan Allocations and their relationship to timber harvest levels, and (6) Public Open Forum.

All Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The "open forum" provides opportunity for the public to bring issues, concerns, and discussion topics to the Advisory Committee. The open forum is scheduled as part of agenda item (1) for this meeting. Interested speakers will need to register prior to the open forum period. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Sue Lampe, Public Affairs, at (360) 750-5091, or write Forest Headquarters Office, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, P.O. Box 8944, Vancouver, WA 98668-8944.

Dated: April 25, 1996.

Robert L. Yoder,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 96-10912 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Rural Telephone Bank

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Staff briefing for the Board of Directors.

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, 1996.

PLACE: Room 5066, South Building, Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED: General discussion involving privatization

planning; update on legislative issues affecting the Bank and RUS telecommunications loan programs; retirement of Class A stock; draft Annual Report of the Board for FY 1995; status of State Telecommunications Modernization Plans; and schedule of events for upcoming election of Board Directors.

ACTION: Regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m., Thursday, May 9, 1996.

PLACE: Williamsburg Room, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters have been placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting:

1. Call to Order.
2. Action on Minutes of February 2, 1996, Board meeting.
3. Report on loans approved second quarter FY 1996.
4. Summary of financial activity for second quarter FY 1996.
5. Report of ad hoc committee on privatization of the Bank.
6. Board direction to the RUS staff as to future actions the staff should be taking regarding privatization planning.
7. Consideration of resolution to adopt schedule for various actions in connection with the November 1996 Board of Directors election.
8. Consideration of resolution to appoint Tellers for the November 1996 Board of Directors election.
9. Action on the Bank's Annual Report for FY 1995.
10. Establish date and location of next regular Board meeting.
11. Adjournment.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Barbara L. Eddy, Deputy Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, (202) 720-9554.

Dated: April 29, 1996.

Wally Beyer,

Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 96-11098 Filed 4-30-96; 2:21 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATES: May 13-14, 1996.

PLACE: ARRB, 600 E Street, NW, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: