

Done at Washington, DC, on April 28, 2004.

Barbara Masters,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04-10030 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Big Bar Ranger District of the Trinity River Management Unit; Shasta-Trinity National Forest; California; Trinity 1-8 Mining Operation

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: A Plan of Operation has been submitted by Master petroleum, Inc., for the purpose of mining for gold within the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim. The proposal is to mine within Trinity County from four sites totaling about 22 acres in the vicinity of Big East Fork and Canyon Creeks.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by May 20, 2004. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in February, 2005, and the final environmental impact statement is expected in May, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mike Mitchell, Supervisory Natural Resource Officer, c/o USFS, PO Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093. For further information, mail correspondence to Mike Mitchell, Supervisory Natural Resource Officer, c/o USFS, PO Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry McLean, USFS Minerals Officer, phone 530-623-1767.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to extract locatable minerals (valuable mineral deposits) while providing resource protection on National Forest System lands as authorized by the United States mining laws of May 10, 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 21-54), which confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to approve the Plan of Operations submitted by Master petroleum, Inc. to open pit mine about 22 acres of National Forest Lands on the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims, CAMC #605515. This is a high bench

placer mining operation. The plan is to remove vegetation, stockpile topsoil for reclamation, remove and process valuable placer deposits down to bedrock, replace processed waste in excavation, and reclaim the site. It is estimated that the operation will process approximately 1,138,478 tons of gold bearing placer gravels from about 22 acres over a 25-year period. The Project is located at the confluence of Canyon Creek and the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek off Canyon Creek Road. Legal description is; T.35N., R.10W., Section 30, Mount Diablo Meridian.

Responsible Official

Joyce Andersen, District Ranger, c/o USFS, PO Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The District Ranger will decide whether the proposed action will proceed as proposed or as modified by an alternative. Also, she will decide which recommended mitigation measures and monitoring requirements will be applied.

Scoping Process

The Forest Service will advertise the proposal in the Trinity Journal and Record Searchlight, newspapers of general distribution. The project will be listed in the Shasta-Trinity Forest Quarterly NEPA calendar. Adjacent landowners, known interested parties, and government agencies will be sent letters describing the project and identifying the project timeframe. Scoping comments are requested by May 20, 2004. A public meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2004, in the Weaverville Fire Hall.

Preliminary Issues

Issues will be identified as a result of scoping. At this time project planners expect removal of vegetative cover, visual quality, and water quality concerns to be voiced in the scoping process.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest Service is seeking information that planners may not be aware of, and/or issues (points of dispute, debate concern, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of the proposal to authorize mining on the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims.

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 45 days 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, 553 (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.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

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

Dated: April 23, 2004.

Joyce Andersen,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 04-10017 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Kalispell, Montana May 4th and May 19th. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss future RAC projects.

DATES: The meetings will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Flathead County Commissioner's Office, Commissioner's Conference Room, 800 South Main, Kalispell, Montana, 59901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kaaren Arnoux, Flathead National Forest, Administrative Assistant, (406) 785-5251.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Time will be available for public input on potential projects the committee may be discussing.

Denise Germann,
Public Affairs Specialist.

Cathy Barbouletos,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-10047 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Implementation of the National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement Act of 2003

AGENCY: USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of agency directives.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is revising its policy for assessing fees for organizational camps located on National Forest System lands. These revisions are necessary to conform agency policy with the requirements in the National Forest Organizational

Camp Fee Improvement Act of 2003. These revisions involve amendments and interim directives (IDs) to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2340 (Amendment 2300-2004-2); FSM 2700, zero code chapter (Amendment 2700-2004-3); FSM 2720 (Amendment 2700-2004-4); and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11, chapter 30 (ID 2709.11-2004-1), chapter 40 (ID 2709.11-2004-2), and chapter 50 (Amendment 2709.11-2004-2).

DATES: These amendments and IDs are effective May 4, 2004.

ADDRESSES: These amendments and IDs are available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>. A copy of the amendments and the IDs may also be obtained by contacting Kenneth Karkula, USDA, Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff (Mail Stop 1125), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1125 (202-205-1426).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Karkula, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff (202-205-1426), USDA, Forest Service.

Dated: April 25, 2004.

Sally Collins,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 04-10064 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lahaina Watershed Flood Control Project, County of Maui, Hawaii

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of record of decision.

SUMMARY: Lawrence T. Yamamoto, Responsible Federal Official for projects administered under the provisions of Public Law 83-566 in the State of Hawaii, is hereby providing notification that a record of decision to proceed with the installation of the Lahaina Watershed Flood Control project, signed April 20, 2004, is available.

The record of decision documents that the Lahaina Watershed Flood Control project used all practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to meet the goals established in the National Environmental Policy Act. The FEIS has been prepared, reviewed, and accepted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

For further information or single copies of this record of decision contact: Lawrence T. Yamamoto, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 4-118, P.O. Box 50004, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96850, telephone: (808) 541-2600 ext. 100.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Dated: April 20, 2004.

Lawrence T. Yamamoto,
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 04-10032 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Little Wood River Irrigation District, Gravity Pressurized Irrigation Delivery System, Blaine County, Idaho

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 012(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared and published for a proposed federally assisted project by the Little Wood River Irrigation District, Blaine County, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the Final EIS are available on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/> and Natural Resources Conservation Service, 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, Idaho 83709-1574. A limited number of copies of the EIS are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Richard Sims, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, Idaho 83709-1574; telephone: 208-378-5700.