Section 156 and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act (Pub. L. 80–806). The loans to processors are made available through CCC and implemented by regulations at 7 CFR 1435. The 1996 Act provides the Secretary shall make available recourse or nonrecourse marketing assistance loans on 1996 through 2002 crops of sugar beets and sugarcane. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of CCC, administers recourse and nonrecourse loans for sugar. The type of loan, recourse or nonrecourse, is determined by the level of tariff rate quotas for sugar imports. CCC makes loans available to processors on eligible sugar pledged as loan collateral. The sugar may be stored in approved farm storage. Processors obtain loans on sugar processed from sugar beets and sugar cane grown by eligible producers in the United States and Puerto Rico. An eligible producer on a farm must have: (1) complied with the highly erodible land requirements; (2) reported planted acres for commodities applicable to loan requests; (3) met the applicable crop insurance requirements; and (4) share in the risk of producing the commodity. Eligible sugar must be processed and owned by the eligible processor and stored in suitable storage. May not have been processed from imported sugarcane, sugar beets, or molasses, and must have been processed in the United States or Puerto Rico and must have processor certification in the loan application that the sugar is eligible and available to be pledged as collateral. FSA will collect information using form SU–2, Application for Sugar Loan.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information on the total capacity, storage location, crop years, commodity lienholders, quantity, lot number and where the sugar was produced. The information is used to determine the eligibility of the sugar and is used to establish the quantity to be pledged as collateral for the certified loan. Furnishing the data is voluntary, however, without it, assistance under the CCC loan program cannot be provided.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 43.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Monthly.

Total Burden Hours: 15.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–30122 Filed 11–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Northern Sierra Forest Plan Amendment EIS; Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest; Carson City, Douglas, and Washoe Counties, Nevada; Alpine, Eldorado, Nevada, Sierra, Lassen, and Toulumne Counties, California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to consider amending the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The amendment will be comprehensive, covering a wide variety of issues needed to update the Forest Plan for the Northern Sierra area.

DECISION TO BE MADE: The Forest Service will decide whether or not to amend the Forest Plan for the Northern Sierra area, which coincides with the Carson Ranger District. The amendment will consider improving the management direction of portions of the Forest Plan and affirm continuation of other aspects of the Forest Plan's management direction for the next 10–15 years. No irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources (site specific actions) will be taken as a result of this decision.

DATES: The public is asked to provide any information they believe the Forest Service should consider and to submit any issues regarding alternatives or potential impacts by January 23, 1999. The agency expects to file the draft EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency and make it available for public comment in November, 1999. The agency expects to file the final EIS in June, 2000.

MEETINGS: The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will hold four public meetings to present information gained from the implementation of the current Forest Plan and discuss the proposed Forest Plan amendment. Comments from the public, other agencies and tribal councils are welcomed. Tentative dates and locations for these meetings are: December 11, 1998, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm at the Sierra Room, Carson City Community Center, Carson City, NV; December 15, 1998, 4:00 pm–7:00 pm at the Old Schoolhouse, Bartley Regional Park, 6000 Bartley Ranch Drive, Reno, NV; Dec. 17, 1998, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm at Turtle Rock Park, Markleeville, CA; and January 12, 1999 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the Douglas County Administration Building Courtroom, 1616 8th St., Minden, NV.

COMMENTS: Written comments on the information presented here should be submitted to the Northern Sierra Planning Team, Attn. Dave Loomis, USDA Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1536 South Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. Comments should be received by January 23, 1999.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information contact Dave Loomis, Forest Planner, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1536 South Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701, (702) 884–8132.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: The Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region located at 324 25th Street, Odgen Utah 84401 is the responsible official for this action.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed amendment will address management of National Forest System lands in the Northern Sierra area, which includes portions of Lassen, Sierra, Nevada, Eldorado, and Alpine Counties in California and portions of Washoe, Carson City, and Douglas Counties in Nevada. This area is part of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. A framework for conservation and collaboration for National Forest System lands in the Sierra Nevada is currently under development. The EIS for the Northern Sierra Plan Amendment will be developed in coordination with the EIS for the Sierra Framework.

The substantive changes that will be addressed in the amendment of the Forest Plan are described in the regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). The amendment process begins with monitoring and evaluation of Forest Plan implementation (36 CFR 219.12(k)). It includes public involvement in monitoring and identification of opportunities for improvements to improve management.

This NOI signals the development of an EIS for the amendment of the Forest Plan. Based upon monitoring and evaluation results and the information obtained in the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS), the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is proposing to make several improvements to the long-term management direction for the Northern Sierra area. The public is invited to comment on the preliminary alternatives which have been identified.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to amend the Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan to improve management direction. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide long

term management direction for the Northern Sierra area. The proposed action is needed because existing guidance is more than a decade old. That guidance does not reflect the substantial additions to the National Forest System in the area, the rapidly growing and diversifying population, or the advances in science that have occurred over the last decade. Four alternatives have been prepared to address the topics outlined below. A preferred alternative will be selected during the preparation of the drafts EIS based on public comments from this scoping process and the analysis of environmental impacts of the alternatives.

Amendment Topics

Based on the analysis of the existing direction, monitoring and evaluation of resource conditions, and public comments, the following topics have been identified as having a need for change in management direction. Heritage Resources, American Indian Religious and Cultural Use, Watershed Protection, Species and Ecosystem Viability, Roadless/Wilderness Area Management, Wild and Scenic River Suitability, Access, Transportation, Recreation, Visual Resources, Fire and Smoke Management, Forest Products Management, Livestock Grazing Management, Mining, and Land Adjustment.

Potential Alternatives

These alternatives are preliminary only and will be refined through the public scoping process. While alternatives may vary in emphases, management activities would occur within the framework of the Forest Service Natural Resources Agenda. The agenda emphasizes watershed protection, ecosystem management, recreation and road management.

Alternative A emphasizes public recreational access to Forest System lands. It protects scenic quality as a backdrop that enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors. Alternative B emphasizes public access, commercial services, and high diversity of multiple uses. It provides for local economic diversity through forest product development, forage utilization, outfitter guides, recreational facilities, and motorized recreational opportunities. Alternative C emphasizes ecological restoration including the protection, maintenance, and restoration of watershed, riparian areas, and ecosystem viability. Alternative D emphasizes sustainable multiple use to meet current and future needs and expectations of local communities and the American public. It encourages cooperative partnerships and collaborative stewardship of the National Forest.

Public Comments on the Draft EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available for public review and comment in November, 1999. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be at least 90 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register.**

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. 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.

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. 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).* 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 important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the comment period so that substantive comments are made available to the Forest Service 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 specific and refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft statement or the merits of the alternatives 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.

Dated: November 4, 1998.

Gloria E. Flora,

Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

[FR Doc. 98–30062 Filed 11–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Keystone Resort, Jones Gulch Development; White River National Forest, Summit County, Colorado

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 disclose the environmental effects from the development of the Jones Gulch ski pod at Keystone Resort. Development will be confined to Keystone Resort's existing Special Use Permit boundary. The proposed actions to construct lifts, trails, snowmaking, and associated service roads are being considered together because they represent either connected or cumulative actions as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.25).

The Forest Service is evaluating a proposal, submitted by Keystone Resort, which is consistent with forest management direction for ski areas. The purposes of the project are to address the following needs: (1) To improve skier/snowboarder distribution and reduce trail densities on the front side of Keystone Mountain by providing additional intermediate and advanced terrain on the front side of Keystone Mountain; (2) to improve ingress and egress and reduce out-of-base congestion by adding another portal at