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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture

ACTION: Notice of public listening sessions.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), notice is hereby given of three public listening sessions in August of the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. The purpose of these sessions is to gather public input on the future role of the Federal Government in support of production agriculture. These sessions will be open to the public.

PLACE, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETINGS:

These sessions will be held on August 12, 1999, at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Room, 2233 Ventura Street, Fresno, California 93721, from 9:00 PDT—5:00 PDT; August 14, 1999, at the Spokane Center, 334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201, from 9:00 PDT—5:00 PDT; and August 16, 1999, at the Holiday Inn Denver Southeast, 3200 South Parker Road, Aurora, Colorado, 80014, from 9:00—5:00 PDT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Timothy M. Peters (202-720-4860), Assistant Director, Room 3702 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0524.

Dated: July 30, 1999.

Keith J. Collins,

Chief Economist.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Availability of Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the White River National Forest and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Availability of the proposed revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the White River National Forest and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The proposed revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and associated documents are being released for public review and comment on August 6, 1999.

Six separate documents, and a set of maps have been prepared in conjunction with the proposed revised Forest Plan. These documents are:

- Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement Appendices A–M.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement Appendix N—Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement Appendix O—Travel Management.
- Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Map packet.

DATES: Public comment will be 90 calendar days from August 6, 1999, ending on November 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to send written comments regarding the proposed revised Forest Plan and Draft EIS to the address below: Forest Supervisor, Forest Plan Revision Comments, White River National Forest, PO Box 948, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about this action or requests for the documents listed above should be addressed to: Carolyn Upton, Team Leader, White River National Forest, PO Box 948, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602, Telephone Number: (970) 945-3226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement identifies alternative D as the preferred

alternative. This is a draft document that may change between now and the final decision. Any changes may be based, in part, on public comments received during the 90-day comment period.

When the Final Environmental Impact Statement is completed, there will be three decisions associated with it. These three decisions are listed below with the corresponding deciding officer:

1. Final EIS selected alternative and associated Forest Plan decision—Lyle Lavery, Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service.
2. Travel Management Plan—Martha Kettle, Forest Supervisor for the White River National Forest.
3. Management decisions on vacant range allotments—Martha Kettle, Forest Supervisor for the White River National Forest.

Comments on all three decisions will be received during the comment period identified above.

The Forest Interdisciplinary team prepared the DEIS and the proposed revised Forest Plan with continuous public involvement. Public involvement included people within the vicinity of the Forest as well as extensive mailings to keep people informed and to allow dialogue with the public. A collaborative work group process was held in the winter of 1997/1998 to receive input on a variety of forest plan issues.

The DEIS and proposed revised Forest Plan were formulated around resolution of 6 revision topics. They are:

1. Biological diversity
2. Recreation
3. Travel management
4. Recommended wilderness and roadless areas
5. Special interest areas
6. Timber harvest/allowable sale quantity

Public open houses are scheduled in various communities within and adjacent to the Forest. Dates, locations and times of meetings will be published in the Glenwood Post, and sent to recipients of the proposed revised Forest Plan documents.

The documents may be revised in response to public comments prior to the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Revised Land and Resource Management Plan in 2000.