

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 62, No. 5

Wednesday, January 8, 1997

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

Coconino National Forest, Arizona; Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Windmill Range Allotment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Coconino National Forest of the Forest Service is planning to prepare an environmental impact statement on proposals to change cattle management on the 248,792 acre Windmill Allotment planning area.

DATES: This analysis has been ongoing and public participation has occurred at various stages. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be published in February of 1997. Preliminary comments can be made on this Notice of Intent before January 31, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Hwy 89, Flagstaff, Arizona 86004, Reference: Windmill EIS.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Fred Trevey, Coconino Forest Supervisor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peaks District Range Staff, Mike Hannemann, (520) 526-0866.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Windmill Allotment Management Plan was updated in 1982 to improve the distribution of areas scheduled for cattle use. In 1988 the Allotment plan for the Winter Division was updated to change the grazing system to improve the growth of cool-season *Stipa* grasses and overall range conditions.

In 1994, the Peaks, Mormon Lake and Sedona Ranger Districts in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department initiated the comprehensive analysis for the Windmill Allotment to update the Allotment Management Plan. The Allotment was selected for this update for the following reasons: Large,

open meadows are in poor condition indicating an imbalance between plant growth and use of plants throughout the meadows; riparian conditions could be improved on the Allotment; a need exists to address threatened, endangered and sensitive species; an opportunity exists to increase administrative efficiency by consolidating the three portions of the Allotment under one Allotment Management Plan; an opportunity exists to examine the forest floor on a broad landscape scale; the Arizona Game and Fish Department can help describe existing conditions on the Allotment by combining the Department's information on elk with that obtained from joint-agency utilization monitoring.

Under the 1995 Range Permit Issuance effort, a Burns amendment permit was issued for 10 years for the Windmill Allotment. As required by the Burns amendment the Allotment was than scheduled for comprehensive analysis within the 10 year period. The Burns decision for Windmill included some mitigating measures which included fencing riparian and sensitive plant habitats, sweeping cattle from driveways and shipping culled cows. Public participation occurred prior to issuance of the Burns Amendment decision in the form of public response to a proposed action.

In 1996, the comprehensive analysis was re-initiated and will result in publication of an Environmental Impact Statement. This analysis attempts to gain more understanding about the relationship of the lands forage production which is affected by soils, tree densities, climatic conditions and past grazing and the dietary needs of cattle and elk. We had the opportunity to judge where forage dietary needs and grazing use were out of balance with the lands ability to produce forage in upward trends. We then had the opportunity to determine management actions which responded to what we found. A 10-year adaptive management plan will be developed which strives to take advantage of future opportunities, adapt to changing landscape conditions and progress toward a better balance between the landscape and forage grazers.

A new Allotment management plan will be developed to guide grazing practices and a new permit may be issued. The option of eliminating cattle

grazing from this Allotment will also be considered.

Tentative alternatives are,

1. Alternative A is designed to meet all the current grazing management issues while maintaining a viable ranching operation. This alternative uses permittee and range conservationist knowledge to determine proper livestock numbers, graze periods, graze rotations, and pasture splits. Total livestock numbers are 1,252 to 1,257.

2. Alternative B is the no action alternative as required by the National Environmental Policy Act regulations. Selection of this alternative would mean that no cattle grazing would occur on this allotment for the next 10 years.

3. Alternative C is the management system currently in place. This alternative permits a total of 1,252 to 1,257 cattle to graze year-round on the Windmill Range Allotment.

4. Alternative D is designed to respond to grazing capacity and proper use guideline issues. This alternative uses timber stand data base and Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey data to project total yearly forage production for each pasture. Total livestock numbers are 635.

5. Alternative F is the same as Alternative A except for adjusting the Luke Mountain pasture of the Foxboro Herd from a two-way pasture split to a three-way pasture split. This third pasture reduces graze periods in Little T-Six from 20 to 10 days and Highway Camp from 14-20 days to 10 days. This responds to concerns over poor and declining range conditions in the Foxboro summer range area. Total livestock numbers are 1,252 to 1,257.

6. Alternative G is designed to better meet resource concerns of poor and declining range conditions in parts of Munds-Pocket and Foxboro Herd areas. This alternative improves on Alternative A in these areas by reducing livestock numbers, adjusting graze periods and providing additional pasture splits. Total livestock numbers are 1,090 to 1,125.

Items common to alternatives include fencing some riparian areas to exclude livestock. The areas chosen for fencing are easily accessed by cattle, are fairly large and have adjacent wet meadows and are estimated to have high potential for improvement. Not all riparian springs located on the Allotment are fenced. Those not chosen for fencing are

less accessible to cattle, are not associated with wet meadows and are very small. Major creeks and rivers will not have direct cattle access under any of the alternatives. Other items common to all alternatives include tank relocation and/or waterlot construction where tanks occur in dry meadows. Pastures that will not be used in the 10 year management plan period are also identified.

Environmental analysis has been ongoing. It is anticipated that a draft environmental impact statement will be published in February of 1997. A ninety day comment period pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(b) will be provided for the public to make comments on the draft environmental impact statement. A record of decision will be prepared and filed with the final environmental impact statement. A ninety day appeal period pursuant to 36 CFR 217.8(a) will be applicable. The ninety day comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will begin when the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability appears in the Federal Register.

To be most helpful, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (see Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3).

Fred Trevey,

Cocoino Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-353 Filed 1-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 0521-00-M

Rural Utilities Service

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative; Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request by Central Virginia Electric Cooperative for financing assistance to construct a headquarters office facility in Nelson County, Virginia. The FONSI is based on a borrower's environmental report (BER) submitted to RUS by Central Virginia Electric Cooperative. RUS conducted an independent evaluation of the report and concurs with its scope and content. In accordance with RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures,

7 CFR part 1794.61, RUS has adopted the BER as its environmental assessment for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-1784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The headquarters office facility is proposed to be located west of the unincorporated community of Colleen, Virginia, south of the intersection of State Routes 56/158 and 665. The size of the proposed site for the headquarters office facility is approximately 170 acres of which approximately 40 acres would be developed.

The headquarters office facility would consist of a 23,000 square foot headquarters office building, a 15,000 square foot combination warehouse/division office building, a 6,500 foot mechanics garage and electrical equipment maintenance shop, a 4,000 square foot open sided covered truck shed, a 1-acre pole storage yard, a 2-acre electrical equipment storage area, a 50 foot, self-supporting steel pole to support microwave and radio communications equipment, a 100 kilowatt diesel electric generator, a 200 gallon fuel storage tank, and parking for 100 employee vehicles, 10 visitor vehicles, and 50 service vehicles.

RUS considered the alternatives of no action, expansion of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative's existing facilities, renovation of an existing commercial building, and four alternative site locations. Under the no action alternative, RUS would not approve financing assistance for construction of the headquarters office facility. Since RUS believes that Central Virginia Electric Cooperative has a need to expand its headquarters facility to adequately accommodate employees, vehicles, and equipment, RUS considered the no action alternative unacceptable.

Copies of the BER and FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Darryl Mawyer, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, Front Street, P.O. Box 247, Lovingston, Virginia, 22949, telephone (804) 263-8336.

Dated: January 3, 1997.

Blain D. Stockton,

Assistant Administrator, Electric Program.

[FR Doc. 97-00389 Filed 1-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) gives notice of the dates and location of the meetings of the Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee.

DATES: The Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee will meet on January 13 and 14, 1997 beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at 1331 F Street, NW., Washington, DC in the 8th floor conference room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the meetings, please contact Dennis Cannon, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-5434 extension 35 (voice); (202) 272-5449 (TTY). Electronic mail address: cannon@access-board.gov. This document is available in alternate formats (cassette tape, braille, large print, or computer disk) upon request. It is also available on the Internet at <http://www.access-board.gov/notices/taacmtg.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 24, 1996, the Access Board published a notice appointing members to its Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee (Committee). 61 FR 26155 (May 24, 1996). The Committee will make recommendations to the Access Board on accessibility guidelines for telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment. These recommendations will be used by the Access Board to develop accessibility guidelines in conjunction with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under section 255(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Committee is composed of representatives of manufacturers of telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment; organizations representing the access needs of individuals with disabilities; telecommunications providers and carriers; and other persons affected by the guidelines.