

- Which new connector travel corridors would be included for future site-specific analysis, and
- Whether or not Forest Plan amendment(s) would be required?

### Scoping Process

- Pre-scoping contacts—February 6, 2003.
- Scoping package (mailing)—February 10, 2003.
- NOI—February 14, 2003.
- Post on website—February 14, 2003.
- DEIS Public Meetings—May/June 2003.
- DEIS Comment Period—April through September of 2003.
- FEIS and ROD—April 2004.

### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments are due by March 14, 2003.

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft EIS is expected to be from mid-April through September of 2003. This date will be established when 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 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: February 6, 2003.

**Al Christophersen,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Giant Sequoia National Monument Scientific Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Giant Sequoia National Monument Scientific Advisory Board (Scientific Advisory Board) will meet at the Visalia Convention Center in Visalia, California, March 12 and 13, 2003. The purpose of the meeting is to hear comments from the public, and to provide Forest personnel with comments on the Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 12 and 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Avenue, Visalia, California, in the Sequoia room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To receive further information, contact Arthur L. Gaffrey, 559-784-1500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. If you are planning to attend, please contact Arthur L. Gaffrey to ensure adequate seating. Guidelines for the public participation portion of the Scientific

Advisory Board's meeting are as follows: The public will be allowed to address the Scientific Advisory Board during the first 30 minutes of the meeting on March 12; when registering, participants must provide 9 written copies of their presentation, one copy for each member of the Board and one copy to be included in the meeting minutes; oral presentations may be no more than 5 minutes in length, depending on the number of people wishing to address the Scientific Advisory Board; priority for presentations will be given to persons who did not make a presentation at a previous meeting; and all presentations must be related to the science surrounding the development of the Management Plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Written comments for the Scientific Advisory Board may be submitted to Forest Supervisor Arthur L. Gaffrey, Sequoia National Forest, 900 West Grand Avenue, Porterville, California 93257.

A final agenda can be obtained by contacting Arthur L. Gaffrey or by visiting the Giant Sequoia National Monument Web site at [http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/giant\\_sequoia](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/giant_sequoia).

Dated: February 10, 2003.

**Arthur L. Gaffrey,**

*Sequoia National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 03-3666 Filed 2-13-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on March 4, 2003 in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 4, 2003 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Del Norte County Unified School District Board Room, 301 West Washington Boulevard, Crescent City, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Chapman, Committee