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Forest Conference-Schedules

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February 6, 1994

To: Distribution

From: Tom Tuchmann

Re: Outreach/Upcoming Meetings on Final EIS and ROD
(Note: this serves as a timeline for Feb. 23 -March 4)

As you are aware, we have two big events coming up in regards to the Forest Plan: one is rolling out the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement the weeks of February 21st and February 28th; and the other is a review of the draft Record of Decision, so we have time to make changes and meet the court deadline.

Previously, this office sent you a timeline regarding meetings for the Regional Interagency Executive Committee and the Interagency Steering Committee on some ROD events. Attached is a proposed schedule for the February 24th through March 4th that includes regional and Washington, D.C. briefings, and meetings on the Record of Decision (ROD).

While this is a difficult schedule to meet, and some of you have expressed concern about taking on the effort of doing briefings on the EIS, I believe this schedule best meets the needs of the majority of the ISC.

Please contact Lauri Hennessey at (503) 326-7608 if you have any serious concerns about the attached schedule. It will remain in draft form through this Thursday, Feb. 10th.

DISTRIBUTION:

White House: Katie McGinty, Will Stelle
Interior: Mike Dombeck, Don Barry, Dean Bibles, Tom Collier, David Cottingham, Ada Deer, Don Knowles, Marv Plenert, Mike Penfold, Les Ramirez, Stan Speaks, Mike Spear, Kevin Sweeney, Stephanie Hannah, Bob Rheiner, Chuck Hoyt, David Klinger
Agriculture: Mark Gaede, Jim Overbay, John Lowe, Jim Lyons, Jack Ward Thomas, Tom Amontree, Jim Sanders, Jennifer Pratt, Scott Duff, Laura McFarland, Sylvia Brucchi, Sherry Wagner, Tom Corcoran
NOAA: Kate Kimball, Gary Smith, Donna Wieting, Merritt Tuttle
EPA: Jerry Emission, Charles Findley, Robert Perciasepe
Justice: Ellen Athas
IIT Members
SEIS Team: Bob Jacobs, John Singlaub, Sharon Heywood
EIS Team: Gerry Bradford

EIS AND ROD OUTREACH FEB. 21 THROUGH MARCH 4

As you know, we are coming up fast on releasing the Final SEIS. It is scheduled to be going out to people approximately Feb. 22 or 23. The notice of availability will be made on Friday, February 25th. As we all know, even though the Record of Decision won't be released until March, there will be plenty of interest in the EIS. Because of that, we are going to do some outreach and get the message out from our perspective. Following is an outline of what kind of outreach we are arranging, the goal of each event, who is working on it, and who the players would be. (Note: the lead agencies on every task will work closely with all of the other agencies.)

In addition to these efforts, we will be getting copies of the EIS out to people in time for these events, with brief summaries attached.

All of these meetings will probably be somewhere at the Forest Service building, if we can arrange rooms. We will arrange that asap.

PREPARATION:

Hand-outs -- Sharon Heywood/EIS Team
Getting hand-outs and EIS's out to people in time for briefings -- Sharon Heywood/EIS Team
Update and improve Overhead show for briefings -- John Craig/BLM
Working on logistics of meetings and events -- Lauri Hennessey, with help from other agencies

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, EARLY MORNING

Tuchmann meets with Regional Execs, one or two EIS Team members, and anyone else who will participate in briefings in next two days to practice, do q and a, and address questions and concerns.

Coordination assigned to: Lauri Hennessey
Players: EIS Team members, execs, Tuchmann, etc.
Location: Somewhere in Forest Service building probably
WILL GET EXACT TIME DETERMINED EARLY WEEK OF FEB. 7TH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, MORNING
CONFERENCE CALL TO GOVERNORS AND DELEGATION CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

This will be our chance to do a quick rundown on the highlights of the EIS with our Governor's Offices and Congressionals. As you know, they usually get all of their information from leaks or rumors. This is the only event planned in which we would discuss only the EIS, and no other elements of the Forest Plan.

Coordination Assigned to: David Klinger -- Fish and Wildlife
Players: EIS team members, Tuchmann, regional execs
WILL GET EXACT TIME DETERMINED EARLY WEEK OF FEB. 7TH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, AFTERNOON
CONFERENCE CALL TO LINE MANAGERS

This would be the same day as the conference call to Congressionals. It would be a quick call with District Managers, Forest Supervisors, etc., to review the Final EIS, alert them to major changes, and answer questions. Tuchmann will participate in the call if needed, but this will be an agency event.

Assigned to: Tom Corcoran/Sherry Wagner -- Forest Service
Players: Regional Execs (need to get on their schedules)
WILL GET EXACT TIME DETERMINED EARLY WEEK OF FEB. 7TH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 9 A.M.
BRIEFING WITH LOCAL CONGRESSIONALS, GOVERNORS AND INTEREST GROUPS

This would be a 90-minute briefing for local interest groups etc., probably the morning of the 25th. It would be a quick review of the Final EIS included in a general update of the status of the Plan. We are preparing an overhead show and handouts for this now.
note: this will be in a different building than the 11 a.m press briefing that follows.

Assigned to: Tom Corcoran/Sherry Wagner -- Forest Service
Players: Tuchmann, Regional Executives (need to get on their schedules), EIS team expert or two, CERT Co-Chairs (need to schedule)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 11:00 A.M.
PRESS BRIEFING

This would be an 90-minute briefing on the Final EIS, as well as a general update on the plan. We probably don't want to do a long overhead show, but we could do a couple of quick highlights. Their interest, of course, will be in the Final EIS. We could have a couple of key Northwest reporters based in Washington call in to a conference line for early word on the EIS, but we need to save the rank and file reporters for the D.C. briefing in five days.

Assigned to: Lauri Hennessey?
Players: Same as above
Need to get time cleared on Execs, EIS schedule asap.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1 P.M.
MEETING OF TUCHMANN WITH EIS TEAM, EXECs TO DISCUSS ROD

This will be a meeting to discuss any lingering issues for consideration on the ROD, agree on changes, if any. If not agreement, development alternative language for consideration in D.C. the next week.

Assigned to: EIS Team, Hennessey helps set up meeting
Players: EIS Team, Execs

MARCH 1ST AND 2ND
TRIP TO D.C.

This would be much of the same briefing we had for interest groups on the 25th, but with more details. We would take an overhead show and handouts to

several places, and spend a lot of time answering questions. Here are the logistics as they now stand (these events are very tentative, and may be juggled around). These briefings will generally run 90 minutes.

Lauri Hennessey is arranging the Final EIS meetings unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 28th -- Travel Day for Execs and Tuchmann

Tuesday, March 1st --

8 a.m. -- briefing by Execs and Tuchmann for White House and ISC

Contact: Hennessey/OEP?

Location: to come

10 a.m. -- House Side Briefing

Contact: Hennessey w/Unsoeld and Speaker's Office?

Noon -- Senate Side Briefing

Contact: Hennessey w/Murray's Office

2 p.m. -- Briefing for agencies (DOI auditorium?)

Contact: Jim Sanders/Forest Service?

4 p.m. -- day over

Wednesday, March 2nd

10 a.m. -- briefing for Northwest and enviro. reporters, at Interior?

Contact: Hennessey w/Interior and Ag Public Affairs

Noon --- lunch briefing with industry groups

Contact: Mark Rey?

2 p.m. -- Briefing for conservation groups and professional associations

Contact: Andrea Yank at National Resources Conservation Association?

3:30 -- done

Thursday, March 3

Briefings on ROD for FS Chief, BLM Director, FWS, EPA, NMFS counterparts in DC by EIS Team and regional execs. More firm schedule to come.

Contact: Hennessey will schedule with help from agencies

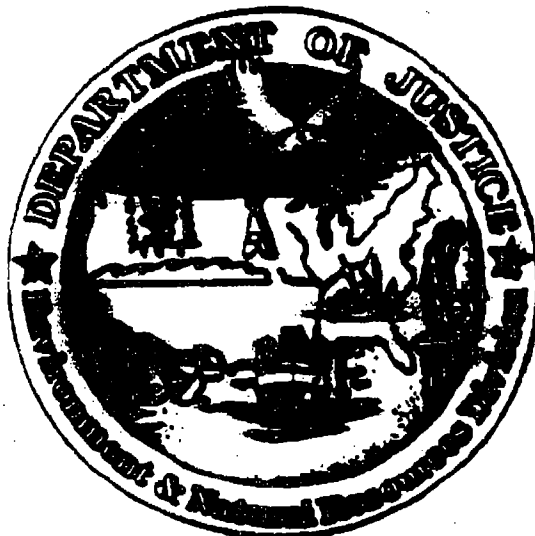
Friday, March 4

ISC meeting, plus Justice representatives. Briefing by EIS team and regional execs. More firm schedule to come. ISC considers all input and decides on ROD.

Contact: Hennessey with other agency help

More details on schedule March 4-31 on ROD (No outreach events planned right now) to come later

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION



GENERAL LITIGATION SECTION

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272-5775 (8th Floor)

724-5836 (5th Floor)

Confirmation # (202) 272-8056

DATE 10/28/93

PLEASE DELIVER TO: Will Skille

FROM: Steve Odell - (202) 272-6213

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 2

TELEFAX #: (202) 456-2710

CONFIRMATION #: (202) 456-6224

MESSAGE: Attached please find FYI a copy of the letter sent to NFRC via FAX transmission today denying its request for an extension of the public comment period - I also have forwarded to K. Sweeney & Stephanie S. via Kris Clark at DOI. The letter is from Lyons instead of Jacobs because former is responsible official for SEIS & desire to conflate two documents

SENT BY:

10-28-93 ; 5:50PM ;

USDA, OGC, NRD-

2027245836;# 2/ 2



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

October 28, 1993

John C. Hampton and Mark Rey
Northwest Forest Resource Council
Suite 770
1500 S.W. First Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201

BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Dear Messrs. Hampton and Rey:

This letter responds to your letter to Robert T. Jacobs, SEIS Team Leader, dated October 19, 1993. You asked for additional time in which to submit comments on the draft SEIS.

I am denying your request for two independent reasons. First, the SEIS Team is working under a schedule set by a court order in Seattle Audubon Society v. Lyons. The schedule calls for the public comment period on the draft SEIS to close October 28, 1993, and for the government to publish a final SEIS by November 29, 1993.

Second, the central purpose of the public comment period is to obtain comments from interested and affected parties on the environmental impacts likely to result from a proposed action and reasonable alternatives. This purpose is accomplished primarily by allowing the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft SEIS. The draft SEIS and its appendices, including the FEMAT Report, have been available for review for 90 days of the public comment period. The draft SEIS on its own, and especially in conjunction with the FEMAT Report, provides an ample basis to become apprised of the significant issues involved in assessing the likely environmental impacts and make informed comments on the alternatives within the 90-day comment period.

It is our policy to not disregard late comments. While late comments cannot be guaranteed a response in the final SEIS, their substance will be considered to the extent time and logistics permit. Thus, I encourage you to submit your comments as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Lyons", written over the typed name and title.

James R. Lyons
Assistant Secretary

MEMORANDUM TO: Tom Amontre
Mark Gaede
Kevin Sweeney
Stephanie Solein
Peter Hamm

FR: Will Stelle 

RE: Press and Congressional notifications
on Forest Plan extension

DATE: 29 October 93

Attached is the draft one pager explaining the extension that we will ask of Dwyer this afternoon. Also attached is the letter to the intervenors saying no to their request for an extension of the public comment period.

I have asked Tom Amontre to draft a press release, working with Kevin, that we can send out today.

Also, I have asked Mark Gaede to prepare a memo to the Members of the NW delegation informing them of the motion, with the idea that the memo would be faxed to their offices today as well.

One item: it may be institutionally appropriate for the memo to come from Lyons and Bob Armstrong. I will leave that to your better judgement.

Stephanie said she was swamped, so I thought that the faxing route for notifying the delegation was faster and easier.

Let me know if something is amiss; otherwise, I'll assume this is fine.

cc. K. McGinty
Tom tuchmann

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-1400

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Number of pages (including this page):

Date: October 29, 1993

From: Tim Obst
AttorneyPhone: (202) 720-9190
Fax: (202) 720-8666

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To:

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Will Stelle

OEP

456-2710

[40]

Marc Gaede -- hand delivered
Tom Amontre -- hand delivered

Message:

Attached is a draft letter to members of Congress, requested by Will Stelle, explaining the possible government's motion to be filed today to extend the Final SEIS schedule. This letter could be used to draft a press release.

FYI - See attached letter regarding late comments.

DRAFT --- DRAFT

October 29, 1993

Dear Member of Congress:

As you know, the Clinton Administration inherited several broad court injunctions against the awarding of federal timber sales throughout much of Washington, Oregon and northern California. From the beginning, the Clinton Administration has given unprecedented attention to untangling the gridlock that has both devastated many communities in the region and left many environmental problems unaddressed. The President's plan seeks to not only end the current gridlock over spotted owls, but also boldly addresses future environmental crises.

In its August 1992 injunction issued against the Forest Service, the court required a new plan to be adopted by August 1993. In light of the broad scope and complexity of the President's Forest Conference initiatives, the court extended the schedule until December 31, 1993. However, the court schedule allowed only two weeks between the close of the comment period on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and the submission of the Final SEIS to the printers.

Today we will file papers asking the court to allow three additional months to finalize a new plan. The additional time is necessary to respond to over 80,000 public comments expected to be post-marked before yesterday's end of the comment period, to respond to new information available since the Draft SEIS, and to better coordinate actions of the various agencies involved in federal land management.

Although we regret any delay, we believe the extension is necessary to prepare the best possible final SEIS document to withstand nearly-certain legal challenges. A little additional time now could avoid much longer delays in later litigation.

We remain committed to moving forward environmentally sound timber sales that are not enjoined by an injunction. In addition, we recently obtained the support of plaintiff environmental groups to allow certain new timber sales from enjoined lands to move forward.

We believe additional time to prepare this vital SEIS is a necessary step in ending the gridlock as quickly as possible -- a goal we all share.



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Assistant Secretary