

Notices

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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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-047-1]

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases; Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

PLACE, DATES, AND TIME OF MEETING: The meeting will be held in Training Rooms 3 and 4 of the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. Sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 5-6, 1998, and from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 7, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Quita Bowman, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Emergency Programs Staff, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-8073; or e-mail: qbowman@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (the Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on actions necessary to prevent the introduction of foreign diseases of livestock and poultry into the United States. In addition, the Committee advises the Secretary on contingency planning and on maintaining a state of preparedness to deal with these diseases, if introduced.

The meeting will focus on the U.S. animal health emergency management system and the foreign animal disease situation worldwide and its relevance to the United States. The meeting will be open to the public. However, due to the time constraints, the public will not be

allowed to participate in the Committee's discussions. Written statements on meeting topics may be filed with the Committee before or after the meeting by sending them to Dr. Quita Bowman at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Written comments may also be filed at the time of the meeting. Please refer to Docket No. 98-047-1 when submitting your comments.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Done in Washington, DC, this 15th day of April 1998.

Charles P. Schwalbe,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-10464 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

East Beaver Creek Timber Sale and Prescribed Burning Project, Targhee National Forest, Clark County, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Supervisor of the Targhee National Forest gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the East Beaver Creek Timber Sale and Prescribed Burning Project. The proposed action would harvest 4.0 million feet of timber from 1,231 acres and prescribe burn 2,220 acres with 518 acres of the burning in the timber sale harvest units. The remaining 1,702 acres of burning would be in nonforest types. Two miles of temporary roads would be built and 2.6 miles of existing roads reconstructed. East Beaver Creek is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Dubois, Idaho. Alternatives will include the proposed action, no action, and any alternatives that respond to significant issues generated during the scoping process. A more detailed description is available from the Dubois Ranger District; see **ADDRESSES** below.

DATES: Send written comments and suggestions on the issues concerning the proposed action by May 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Clarence M. Murdock, District Ranger, Dubois Ranger District, P.O. Box 46, Dubois, ID 83423.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Councilman, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, phone (208) 558-7301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Targhee National Forest Revised Land Management Plan was approved in 1997. One of the decisions in the Revised Plan was to allow for the production and utilization of wood fiber from certain areas of the Forest. The geographic area where the proposed action would take place has primarily a prescription of timber management with emphasis on big game security (5.1.4b). Prescriptions for other lands in the area are described below.

Aquatic Influence Zones (2.8.3)—Management emphasis is directed at the application of ecological knowledge to restore and maintain the health of these areas in ways that also produce desired resource values, products, protection, restoration, enhancement, interpretation, and appreciation of these areas.

Visual Quality Maintenance (2.1.2)—This prescription emphasizes maintaining the existing visual quality within major travel corridors with quality natural vistas, while allowing livestock production, and other compatible commodity outputs. There is no scheduled timber harvesting. No scheduled harvests means timber removed from these areas does not contribute toward the Forests annual allowable sale quantity.

Initial public involvement will include mailing maps and a project description to interested parties to solicit comments on the proposal. Preliminary issues include: water quality, fisheries, elk habitat, and motorized access by the public.

Additional opportunity to comment on the project will occur on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS). The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in August 1998.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. At the same time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected

agencies, organizations, tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the proposed action participate at that time.

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 reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft 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*, (9th Circuit, 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 45 day 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. 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.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in November 1998. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decisions on this proposal.

Responsible Official

Jerry B. Reese, Forest Supervisor, is the responsible official. As responsible official, he will document the selected alternative for the East Beaver Creek Timber Sale and Prescribed Burning

Project EIS and his rationale in a Record of Decision.

The decision for the East Beaver Creek Timber Sale and Prescribed Burning Project will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: April 9, 1998.

Jerry B. Reese,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-10270 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on its intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection, "Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal." These guidelines provide instructions for submitting grant proposals requesting funds from GIPSA for research to develop procedures and equipment that may be used to measure grain quality.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 19, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Tanner, Director, Technical Services Division, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS Technical Service Center, 10383 N Executive Hills Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64153-1394; telephone (816-891-0401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Section 4a of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA; 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.), GIPSA is responsible for establishing grain standards which accurately describe the quality of grain being traded and for applying these standards uniformly in a nationwide inspection system. Section 16e of the USGSA authorizes the agency to conduct a continuing research program for the purpose of developing methods to improve accuracy and uniformity in grading grain. To carry out this authority, GIPSA maintains an external research program under which research

scientists are invited to submit research grant proposals that include the objectives of the proposed work; application of the proposed work to the grain inspection system; the procedures, equipment, personnel, etc., that will be used to reach the project objectives; the cost of the project; a schedule for completion; qualifications of the investigator and the grantee organization; and a listing of all other sources of financial support for the project. GIPSA utilizes the Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposals to assist grant applicants with preparation of grant proposals.

Title: Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal.

OMB Number: 0580-0014.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is interested in supporting research to develop procedures and equipment that may be used to measure grain quality. The Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal provides instructions for submitting grant proposals requesting funds from GIPSA for this purpose.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 hours per response.

Respondents: Organizations who employ scientists and engineers who do research and development on procedures and equipment which may be used to provide measurement of grain quality.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 60.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cathy McDuffie, the Agency Support Services Specialist, at (301) 734-5190.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information