

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.052471 hours per response.

Respondents: Owners and shippers of slaughter horses and owners/operators of slaughtering facilities.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 200.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 401.

Estimated annual number of responses: 80,100.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 4,203 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 8th day of October, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-25883 Filed 10-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Oregon Coast Province Advisory Committee will meet in

Newport, OR, October 23, 2003. The theme of the meeting is Introduction/Overview/Business Planning. The agenda includes: Payments to Counties Update, Monitoring Trip Update, Coho Recovery Plan, PAC Subcommittee Presentation, BLM/Forest Service Settlement Agreement, Public Comment and Round Robin.

DATES: The meeting will be held October 23, 2003, beginning at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the La Quinta Inn and Suites, 45 SE 32nd Street, Newport, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joni Quarnstrom, Public Affairs Specialist, Siuslaw National Forest, 541-750-7075, or write to Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor, P.O. Box 1148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Council Discussion is limited to Forest Service/BLM staff and Council Members. Lunch will be on your own. A public input session will be at 2:30 p.m. for fifteen minutes. The meeting is expected to adjourn around 3:30 p.m.

Dated: October 7, 2003.

Carl Frounfelker,

Wildlife Biologist.

[FR Doc. 03-25863 Filed 10-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Procedures Involving Hydropower Licensing on National Forest System Lands

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of agency directive.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is issuing an amendment to Forest Service Manual (FSM) chapter 2770 to guide its employees regarding certain procedures for hydropower licensing on National Forest System lands. The amendment addresses internal agency procedures and provides for increased efficiency in processing hydropower applications for licensing. The amendment also clarifies the roles of the Forest Service and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in licensing hydropower projects affecting National Forest System lands and resources. The procedures established in the amendment streamline the application process, but they do not limit or preclude the opportunity for interested parties and the general public to be involved during

the analysis for project-specific licensing by FERC.

DATES: This amendment is effective October 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: This amendment (Amendment No. 2700-2003-2) is available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>. Single paper copies of the amendment are also available by contacting Robert Cunningham, Lands Staff (Mail Stop 1124), Forest Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1124, telephone: (202) 205-2494.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Cunningham, Lands Staff (202) 205-2494.

Dated: October 7, 2003.

Dale N. Bosworth,

Chief.

[FR Doc. 03-25923 Filed 10-10-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Finding of No Significant Impact for Upper Salt Creek 10-A Rehabilitation, Lancaster County, NE

Introduction

The Upper Salt Creek 10-A Rehabilitation is a federally assisted action authorized for planning under Pub. L. 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act as amended by Section 313 of Pub. L. 106-472 The Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000. An environmental assessment was undertaken in conjunction with the development of the watershed plan. This assessment was conducted in consultation with local, State, and Federal agencies as well as with interested organizations and individuals. Data developed during the assessment are available for public review at the following location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3866.

Recommended Action

Proposed is the rehabilitation of one floodwater retarding structure, Upper Salt Creek 10-A on an unnamed tributary of Hickman Branch. The Upper Salt Creek 10-A structure controls the drainage of 2,052 acres.

Effect of Recommended Action

Rehabilitation of the structure will meet state dam safety requirements and prolong the life of the structure and pool for 100 years. The permanent pool will not change in size but the temporary flood pool will increase from 86 acres to 117 acres. Ten acres will be converted from cropland to a grassed auxiliary spillway.

Sediment delivery to downstream areas will continue to be held back. Recreation will still be available on and around the pool and structure.

Significant cultural resources identified during implementation will be avoided or otherwise preserved in place to the fullest practical extent. If significant cultural resources cannot be avoided or preserved, pertinent information will be recovered before construction. If there is a significant cultural resource discovery during construction, appropriate notice will be made by NRCS to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the National Park Service. Consultation and coordination have been and will continue to be used to ensure the provisions of Section 106 Pub. L. 89-665 have been met and to include provisions of Pub. L. 89-523, as amended by Pub. L. 93-291. NRCS will take action as prescribed in NRCS GM 420, Part 401, to protect or recover any significant cultural resources discovered during construction.

No threatened or endangered species in the watershed will be adversely affected by the project.

No significant adverse environmental impacts will result from installations except for temporary draining of the pool and minor inconveniences to local residents during construction.

Alternatives

Four alternatives were analyzed in this plan.

No Action alternative, the structure is breached by the sponsor in approximately four years. The structure will continue to be out of compliance with state dam safety regulations until it is breached. Flood protection provided by the structure would end and increased flooding and associated problems would increase. Recreational opportunities provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area which are owned by the state Game and Parks would be virtually eliminated.

Decommissioning alternative, the structure would be removed and would therefore not be out of compliance with the state dam safety regulations. Flood protection provided by the structure would end and increased flooding and

associated problems would increase. Recreational opportunities provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area which are owned by the state Game and Parks would be virtually eliminated.

Home Relocation alternative, the structure would be rehabilitated to current Low Hazard Criteria and the downstream homes in the breach area would be removed. The structure would then be in compliance with state dam safety regulations and flood protection and recreational opportunities would continue to be provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area.

Rehabilitation to High Hazard Criteria alternative, the structure would be rehabilitated to current High Hazard Criteria and would be brought into compliance with state dam safety regulations for high hazard structures. Flood protection and recreational opportunities would continue to be provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area.

Consultation-Public Participation

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District submitted an application for assistance January 2001. The request was a result of local concern and interest in addressing dam safety and flood protection.

A scoping meeting was held June 6, 2002 involving interdisciplinary efforts. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lancaster County Roads, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Resource Conservation and Development, University of Nebraska Extension Service, and local residents were in attendance.

The environmental assessment was transmitted to all participating and interested agencies, groups, and individuals for review and comment in July 2003. Public meetings were held throughout the planning process to keep all interested parties informed of the study progress and to obtain public input to the plan and environmental evaluation.

Agency consultation and public participation to date have shown no unresolved conflicts with the implementation of the selected plan.

Conclusion

The Environmental Assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant local, regional or national impacts on the environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement for the Upper Salt Creek 10-A Rehabilitation is not required.

Dated:

Stephen K. Chick,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 03-25857 Filed 10-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Public Meeting With All Interested Parties To Comment on the Activities of the Resource Conservation and Development Program.

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a meeting to solicit comments on the activities of the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D). Section 2504 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171) requires that the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NAR&DC), evaluate the RC&D Program to determine whether it is effectively meeting the needs of, and purposes identified by, States, units of Government, Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations, and councils participating in, or served by the program. The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through NRCS, will conduct this evaluation, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the results of the evaluation, together with any recommendations of the Secretary for continuing, terminating, or modifying the program, by June 30, 2005.

As part of this evaluation, NRCS is conducting public meetings with all interested parties to solicit comments on the activities of the program. Comments will be solicited on, and should be limited to, the following topics: (1) RC&D Program effectiveness in meeting the needs of the States, units of Government, Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations and RC&D councils served by the program; (2) RC&D Program effectiveness in developing community leadership conservation; (3) RC&D Program elements that best serve regional conservation and development needs; and (4) RC&D Program elements that can be strengthened to better serve