

Number 17, effective December 21, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.17 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 17, effective June 24, 1996, through December 20, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on December 21, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 17 ends.

The quota amount, 44,983,440 kilograms (99,171,591 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—June 1996 through August 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, P.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on November 18, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-30171 Filed 11-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 16

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 44,403,388 kilograms (97,892,793 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import

Quota Announcement Number 16, effective December 14, 1996, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.16, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of December 14, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 13, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered into the United States not later than June 11, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended September 19, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 16, effective December 14, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.16 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 16, effective June 17, 1996, through December 13, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on December 14, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 16 ends.

The quota amount, 44,403,388 kilograms (97,892,793 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the

seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—May 1996 through July 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Pub. L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on November 18, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-30172 Filed 11-25-96; 8:45 am]

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Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 44,403,388 kilograms (97,892,793 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective December 7, 1996, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.15, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of December 7, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 6, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered into the United States not later than June 4, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1³/₃₂

inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended September 12, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective December 7, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.15 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective June 10, 1996, through December 6, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on December 7, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 15 ends.

The quota amount, 44,403,388 kilograms (97,892,793 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—May 1996 through July 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Pub. L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on November 18, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-30173 Filed 11-25-96; 8:45 am]

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Kootenai National Forest, Northern Region

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to revise the Land and Resource Management Plan

(Forest Plan) for the Kootenai National Forest.

SUMMARY: this notice announces the beginning of the efforts to revise the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Kootenai National Forest. This is not the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will accompany the Revised Forest Plan. That NOI will be issued at a later date.

The beginning efforts are to prepare the "Analysis of the Management Situation" (AMS) per 36 CFR 219.12(e). This includes analysis of local conditions and consideration of broad scale information from the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) EIS. The AMS and ICBEMP EIS will be used to determine the Kootenai National Forest's Need for Change. This information will then provide a basis for the NOI to prepare the EIS, which will begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process associated with Forest Plan revision.

Public involvement is critical and will be requested throughout this effort. The forest is developing a communication strategy to document how the public and government entities may participate in the AMS and revision of the forest Plan. Formal public involvement, associated with the Forest Plan revision, will also be conducted through scoping following the issuance of the EIS Notice of Intent.

DATES: A supplemental notice will be placed in the Federal Register announcing the beginning of formal scoping for the Forest Plan revision DEIS. The notice will provide an opportunity to comment and the expected completion dates. This notice is anticipated to be issued in the winter/spring of 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning this notice, communication strategy and requests to be added to the Forest Plan revision mailing list to Robert L. Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest, 506 Highway 2 West, Libby, Montana 59923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan Dickerson, Forest Planner, Kootenai National Forest, phone (406) 293-6211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Plan for the Kootenai National Forest was completed in September, 1987 and has guided the management of the Forest since then. Forest Plans are revised on a 10-year cycle or at least every 15 years. It also may be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that conditions or demands

in the area have significantly changed (36 CFR 219.10(g)).

On November 20, 1995 the Chief of the Forest Service issued a decision on an appeal by the Cabinet Resource Group and Montana Wilderness Association regarding the Kootenai Forest Plan. The Chief directed the Regional Forester to:

(a) Incorporate through Forest Plan amendment or revision the terms and conditions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) July 27, 1995 amended Biological Opinion on the Forest Plan relating to road management;

(b) Incorporate through Forest Plan amendment or revision the terms and conditions of the amended Biological Opinion relating to grizzly bear management and incorporate the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines in their entirety;

(c) Amend or revise the Forest Plan if a review determines that it is not in compliance with new regulations for oil and gas resources.

(d) Amend or revise the Forest Plan to correct the ASQ calculation, based on a more accurate method of summarizing the timber inventory data, to bring the analysis into technical compliance.

In addition to the Chief's direction, monitoring and evaluation of the Forest Plan has shown that many factors affecting land management have changed since the time the Forest Plan was prepared. Therefore, the agency has chosen to revise, rather than amend the Kootenai Forest Plan. Revision will provide opportunity to update the Plan to more adequately account for such changing factors. The Forest's annual monitoring reports describe these factors.

The Forest Plan, as approved September 14, 1987 and amended through project specific or programmatic amendments, will remain in effect and continue to be implemented as modified by the Chief's November 27, 1995 decision (to limit average annual program sales to 150 MMBF).

(1) Preparation of the ICBEMP

In addition, another planning effort is currently ongoing that involves the Kootenai National Forest. This effort is the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) EIS, which will address issues relevant to the Kootenai National Forest and likely result in changes in the Forest Plan. Notice of this effort and supporting information was previously published in the Federal Register on December 4, 1994. The purpose of the ICBEMP is to " * * * develop and analyze a