

# 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. 97-015-1]

#### Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** New information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request approval of an information collection which it utilizes in regulating the interstate movement of horses that have tested positive for equine infectious anemia.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 10, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 97-015-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket 97-015-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** For information regarding regulations for the interstate movement of horses that

have tested positive for equine infectious anemia, contact Dr. Tim Cordes, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-3279; or e-mail: tcordes@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Cheryl Jenkins, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5360.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Communicable Diseases in Horses.

*Type of Request:* Approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* APHIS regulates the interstate movement of horses that have tested positive for equine infectious anemia (EIA) in order to prevent the spread of this disease (9 CFR 75.4). Enforcing these regulations requires us to engage in a number of information gathering activities that enable us to accurately identify and track EIA reactors as they move interstate.

Specifically, this regulatory program requires the use of an official EIA test, a certificate allowing the interstate movement of an EIA reactor, and identification of the reactor. The program also involves the services of accredited veterinarians, State veterinary officials, laboratory/diagnostic/research facility personnel, and stockyard personnel, all of whom must engage in various recordkeeping and information collection activities.

We are seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to use these forms and other information collection tools that make our EIA program possible.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection activity. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed 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 proposed collection of information, 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 collection of information 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:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0905 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State and Federal veterinarians, accredited veterinarians, laboratory/diagnostic/research facility personnel, stockyard personnel.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10,053.

*Estimated Numbers of Responses per Respondent:* 101.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 91,925 hours.

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 7th day of April 1997.

**Donald W. Luchsinger,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-9359 Filed 4-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Sandpoint Ranger District Packsaddle Final Environmental Impact Statement—Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to supplement an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service (Sandpoint Ranger District) will supplement the Packsaddle Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to disclose the potential environmental effects of a new alternative (Alternative 8) based on new information. The Project Area is within the Pend Oreille Ecosystem, Sandpoint Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County, Idaho and includes the Packsaddle Inventoried Roadless Area.

The new alternative would treat high severity root disease areas and begin converting timber stands away from root disease susceptible tree species (such as Douglas-fir and grand fir) to re-establish western white pine, western larch, and ponderosa pine. Alternative 8 also proposes to use prescribed burning to reduce fuel loadings and restore natural processes (such as fire) that are currently lacking in the Project Area. Alternative 8 would treat 1,703 acres (1,165 acres group and irregular group shelterwood, 369 acres group and modified group selection, 96 acres sanitation/salvage, and 73 acres visual improvement). This alternative also proposes to treat eight units over 40 acres in size (ranging from 45 to 240 acres). A combination of prescribed underburning, grapple piling, and limbing/lopping would be used to control fuel levels. This alternative would construct 3.4 miles of temporary roads which would be built for logging and post-harvest activities (such as prescribed burning and planting) access. These roads would be recontoured after these activities are complete. Additionally, Alternative 8 proposes to decommission 2.1 miles and totally close 4.0 miles of existing roads.

This supplement will tie to Idaho Panhandle National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), September 1987 and reference the Integrated Scientific Assessment from the Upper Columbia River Basin study.

**DATES:** Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before June 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities to Tony Erba, Project Leader, Sandpoint Ranger District, 1500 Hwy 2, Suite 110, Sandpoint, ID 83864.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tony Erba, Team Leader, Sandpoint Ranger District, phone number (208) 263-5111.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Packsaddle Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued for public review and comment in June, 1994. The Final Environmental Impact Statement was completed in March, 1995. The Record of Decision was signed on May 3, 1996 under the authority of section 2001 of Public Law 104-19 (otherwise known as the Salvage Amendment). On July 2, 1996, Secretary of Agriculture Glickman issued a directive that salvage timber sale decisions in inventoried roadless areas were to be withdrawn from consideration until the Salvage Bill authority had expired. Thus, the

Packsaddle Record of Decision was withdrawn.

Since that time, numerous field visits to the Project Area have been conducted to verify the root disease conditions discussed in the FEIS. We have discovered that the proposal of using group and modified group selection methods to treat the root disease problem (as described in the FEIS' Alternative 7) is not desirable because of:

- (1) The need for continued access for treatment,
- (2) The high potential for regeneration damage while removing future mortality,
- (3) The threat to established regeneration with future prescribed burning opportunities, and
- (4) The expected mortality level would predispose the stand to a catastrophic wildfire since there would be greater amounts of dead and down material created to carry a fire from the ground into the tree crowns.

Additionally, these treatments would essentially postpone treatment on the remaining stands while allowing the root disease situation to continually worsen.

On National Forest lands, the Forest Service is responsible for promoting healthy ecosystems and restoring deteriorated ecosystems to provide for diversity of plant and animal communities, long-term resource sustainability, and future management options. This must be done in the context of meeting people's needs. Re-establishing appropriate tree species composition, and the processes that maintain it (i.e., fire), are important steps towards the goal of restoring ecosystems in the Packsaddle Project Area. Focusing the proposed timber harvest and associated prescribed burning activities in the highest severity root disease areas are critical to achieve this goal. These high severity areas represent clear examples where timber stand dynamics are operating well outside their natural potential (low tree densities and shortened life cycles for natural regeneration). Our analysis shows that conditions will continue to worsen, resulting in a further decline of ecosystem health and increased wildfire hazard if no action is taken. Given our mission to sustain healthy ecosystems into the future, it would be irresponsible of me to let these problems continue.

We have looked at a variety of alternatives that address the root disease problem at varying levels and consider this project to be the first of a multi-step process to address ecosystem needs in the Packsaddle Project Area. We have developed Alternative 8 to effectively

address the root disease problem while protecting other resource values in the Project Area. Alternative 8 proposes to use more intensive harvest methods (i.e., irregular group shelterwood) in large-sized units to begin converting these affected stands to tree species less susceptible to root disease infection. Several of these units would exceed 40 acres (combined areas ranging from 45 to 255 acres). By focusing on using a landscape scale management approach, Alternative 8 best approaches the level of disturbance that typically occurred prior to when fires were suppressed on a regular basis. It would also minimize the impacts on other affected resources. I consider Alternative 8 to be a responsible approach to addressing the root disease problem in light of the public comments submitted on this project and our recent field visits.

The Record of Decision is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in June, 1997. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the final environmental impact statement 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 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 statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental 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 60-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 regarding the new alternative, comments should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages of the

supplement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the supplement or the merits of the new alternative formulated and discussed in the supplement. 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.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Sandpoint Ranger District, 1500 Hwy 2, Suite 110, Sandpoint, ID, 83864.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

**David S. Dillard,**  
*District Ranger.*

[FR Doc. 97-9357 Filed 4-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Olympic Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Olympic PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on May 30, 1997 at the Snider Work Center 553, W. Snider Road, Forks, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. The agenda topics for this meeting are (1) Update on local projects; (2) Adaptive Management Area discussion; (3) flood damage and its effects on roads and restoration projects; (4) open public forum. All Olympic Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kathy Snow, Province Liaison, USDA, Quilcene Ranger District, P.O. Box 280, Quilcene, WA 98376, (360) 765-2211 or Ronald R. Humphrey, Forest Supervisor, at (360) 956-2301.

Dated April 3, 1997.

**Ronald R. Humphrey,**  
*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 97-9308 Filed 4-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Upper Nanticoke River Watershed, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Upper Nanticoke River Watershed Land Treatment Supplement No. 1, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elesa K. Cottrell, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1203 College Park Drive, Suite 101, Dover, Delaware 19904-8713, telephone (302) 678-4160.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Elesa K. Cottrell, State Conservationist, has determined that an environmental impact statement is not needed for this project.

The measure concerns a plan for watershed protection. The planned works of improvement include waste management systems, wetland wildlife habitat enhancement, forest management practices, and accelerated technical assistance for land treatment.

The Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental evaluation are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Elesa K. Cottrell.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Upper Nanticoke River Watershed, Delaware Finding of No Significant Impact

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Under No. 10.901, Resource Conservation and Development, and is subject to the provision of Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials.)

**Elesa K. Cottrell,**

*State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 97-9312 Filed 4-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Proposed Addition

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed addition to procurement list.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee has received a proposal to add to the Procurement List a service to be furnished by a nonprofit agency employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:** May 12, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman, (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed action.

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the service listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the service to the Government.