

nonparticipation to be administered to both FSP participants and FSP-eligible nonparticipants who are working poor or poor elderly. Eight questionnaire versions and a screening interview will be pre-tested through this study; the refined instruments may be fielded under a separate, later effort.

Affected Public: Working poor and elderly poor food stamp participants and nonparticipants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: Two hundred sixty-eight (268) FSP-eligible nonparticipants who are either working poor or elderly poor will be identified through telephone screening of a random-digit-dialing sample of households with phones, and half will be administered a short version of the eligible nonparticipant questionnaire and half will be administered a long version. To identify these 268 eligible nonparticipants, a screening interview will be administered to an estimated 8,375 people. A sample of 132 current program participants who are either working poor or poor elderly will be identified from program administrative records or random-digit-dialing screening, and half will be administered a short version of the participant questionnaire and half will be administered a long version. Brief screening interviews will be administered to an estimated 155 people to identify the sample of 132 participants. The total number of respondents to screening interviews will be 8,530 and the total number of respondents to questionnaires will be 400.

Estimated Time per Response: The screening interview for eligible nonparticipants averages 5 minutes each, and the screening interview for participants averages 1.5 minutes each. Long questionnaires average 30 minutes each, and short questionnaires average 15 minutes each.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 853 hours.

Dated: May 21, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-039N]

Exemption for Retail Stores; Adjustment of Dollar Limitations

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: FSIS has increased the limitation on annual sales of meat and poultry products by retail stores exempt from Federal inspection. The dollar limitation for poultry products has been increased from \$35,700 to \$37,900 for calendar year 1997; the dollar limitation for meat products has been increased from \$38,900 to \$40,300 for calendar year 1997. These increases conform with price changes for meat and poultry products indicated by the Consumer Price Index.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Food Safety and Inspection Service, (202) 205-0699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in 9 CFR 303.1(d) and 381.10(d), FSIS exempts certain retail stores from routine Federal inspection of meat and poultry products. Whether a retail store qualifies for an exemption depends, in part, upon the percentage and volume of trade in meat and poultry products it conducts with non-household consumers (hotels, restaurants, or similar institutions). The regulations state in dollars the maximum amount of meat and poultry products a retail store may sell to non-household consumers if that store is to remain exempt from inspection.

FSIS adjusts the dollar limitation during the first quarter of each calendar year if the Consumer Price Index, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicates at least a \$500 increase or decrease in the price of the same volume of product during the previous year. FSIS publishes a notice of the adjusted dollar limitation in the **Federal Register**.

The Consumer Price Index for 1996 indicates an average annual price increase in meat products of 3.5 percent and an average annual price increase in poultry products of 6.2 percent. When rounded off to the nearest \$100, the price increase for meat products amounts to \$1,400 and the price increase for poultry products amounts to \$2,200. Prices of meat and poultry, therefore, have changed in excess of \$500. Accordingly, in accordance with §§ 303.1(d)(2)(iii)(b) and 381.10(d)(2)(iii)(b) of the regulations, FSIS has increased the dollar limitation of permitted sales of meat products from \$38,900 to \$40,300 and raised the dollar

limitation of permitted sales for poultry products from \$35,700 to \$37,900.

Done in Washington, DC, May 28, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator, Food Safety Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-040N]

Codex Alimentarius: Sessions of the Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA); the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are sponsoring a public meeting on June 4, 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items to be discussed at the Forty-fourth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the Twenty-second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 19-20, 1997, and June 23-28, 1997, respectively.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 1997, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Franklin Square, 1155 14th Street, NW (at Massachusetts Avenue) Washington, DC 20005; telephone (202) 737-1200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Patrick J. Clerkin, Director, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, Room 311 West End Court, 1255 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20250-3700; telephone (202) 418-8852; Fax: (202) 418-8865.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards,

codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and informatively labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and EPA coordinate the domestic agenda of U.S. Codex as the U.S. representative to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Commission meets biennially. The Executive Committee serves as the executive organ of Codex between meetings of the Commission.

Issues to be Discussed at the Meeting

The following specific agenda items for the Commission will be discussed during the public meeting on June 4, 1997:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers of the Commission and appointment of regional coordinators.
3. Report by the chairperson on the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions of the Executive Committee.
4. Reports by coordinators on regional activities.
5. Report on the financial situation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1996/97 and 1998/99.
6. Consideration of amendments to the procedural manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
7. Consideration of draft standards and related texts.
8. Consideration of proposals to elaborate new standards and or related texts and other matters arising from reports of Codex Committees.
9. Involvement of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
10. The application of risk analysis principles in Codex.
11. Matters relating to the implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.
12. Consideration of the draft medium-term plan for 1998 to 2002.
13. Designation of host governments for Codex Committees.
14. Other business.
15. Adoption of report.

Work of the Executive Committee relates to the same matters that will be deliberated by the Commission. This work will also be discussed in the June 4, 1997, meeting. Draft U.S. positions on agenda items in these Codex sessions will be available at the June 4, 1997 meeting.

Done at Washington, DC on: May 28, 1997.
Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.
 [FR Doc. 97-14312 Filed 5-28-97; 3:44 pm]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Giant Multi-Resource Management Project, Placer County, CA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for proposed timber harvest, plantation thinning, wildlife habitat improvement projects, creation of an interpretive trail, planting riparian vegetation, closing of dispersed camping sites, decommissioning of roads, creation of scenic overlooks, and seasonal road closures for wildlife protection within the North Shitrtail Canyon watershed in accordance with the requirements of 36 CFR 219.19. It is located in all or part of section 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18, TSN, R11E and portions of sections 12, 13, and 24, T15N, R10E, Placer County, MDM, CA. The agency invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. In addition, the agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments should be made in writing and received by June 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the project should be directed to Rich Johnson, District Ranger, Foresthill Ranger District, 22830 Foresthill Road, Foresthill CA 95631.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Bradford, Environmental Coordinator, Foresthill Ranger District, Foresthill, CA 95631, telephone (916) 478-6254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Giant Analysis Area is located in the North Shitrtail Canyon watershed. It lies primarily east of Sugar Pine Reservoir, west of Humbug Canyon, north of Big Reservoir, and south of the North Fork American River.

In preparing the environmental impact statement, the Forest Service will identify and analyze a range of alternatives that address the issues developed for this area. One of the

alternatives will be no treatment. Another alternative will implement all of the actions being proposed. It also means that the needs of people and environmental values will be considered in a such way that this area will represent a diverse, healthy, productive, and sustainable ecosystem.

The proposed actions include:

(1) Commercial timber harvesting on approximately 1100 acres of plantations and natural stands.

(2) Creation of two scenic overlooks, one near Sugar Pine Reservoir and one near the North Fork American River.

(3) Wildlife habitat improvement through thinning of black oak clumps and through burning or masticating of shrubfields.

(4) Closing six dispersed camping sites to restore riparian habitat and restore potential red-legged frog habitat.

(5) Protect deer winter range by installing gates and implementing a seasonal road closure.

(6) Restore native riparian vegetation in conifer plantations through planting riparian species.

(7) Establish a 1/4 mile long interpretive trail along North Shitrtail Canyon.

(8) Precommercial thin in conifer plantations using chain saw and track-laying masticating machines on approximately 580 acres.

(9) Prune plantation trees on approximately 350 acres. Public participation will be important during the analysis, especially during the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
 2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.

3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.

4. Exploring additional alternatives.

5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The following list of issues has been identified through initial scoping:

(1) to what extent will harvesting affect water quality?

(2) What affect will timber harvesting have on the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trail system in the project area?