

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

Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Conference Call Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of advisory board conference call meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting by conference call of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-127), has scheduled a conference call meeting on February 3, 1998. The meeting agenda will focus on development of preliminary priorities for agricultural research, extension, education, and economics. The following list of high priority initiatives has been suggested to date. These initiatives are: Education and Outreach Initiative, National Agricultural Genome Initiative; Emerging Animal and Plant Issues—Preparedness & Response Initiative; Precision Agriculture Initiative; Added Value and New Use Products Initiative; and Nutrition Research Initiative. The Advisory Board members will also discuss how public communication and environmental stewardship issues can be addressed as overarching priorities.

DATE OF CONFERENCE CALL: February 3, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

Type of Meeting: The conference call will be initiated by the Officers and

Executive Committee of the Advisory Board and will involve all available Advisory Board members.

Comments: The public may file written comments to the preliminary list of initiatives for research, extension, education, and economics by Friday, February 6, 1998, with the contact person listed below. Public written comments will be considered by the Advisory Board at the March 11-13, 1998, meeting in Washington, D.C. (to be announced soon in the **Federal Register**). Also, these written comments will be available in the Advisory Board minutes of the February 3 conference call meeting and will be maintained in the public file of the Office of the Advisory Board, REE, USDA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Office of the Advisory Board, Room 3918 South, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of January 22, 1998.

I. Miley Gonzalez,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 98-2415 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions for the Intermountain Region, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and Wyoming

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: This notice corrects the information previously published in a notice that appeared in the **Federal Register** of December 24, 1997 (62 FR 67327) listing the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Intermountain Region to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR Part 215 and 36 CFR 217. The earlier document listed the wrong effective dates. This notice gives a

corrected effective date for publication of legal notices.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers in the December 24, 1997, (62 FR 67327) notice will begin with decisions subject to appeal that are made on or after Feb. 1, 1998, and remain in effect until October 1998 when another notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: January 9, 1998.

Jack A. Blackwell,

Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 98-2424 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Diamond Lake Drawdown, Umpqua National Forest, Douglas County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that addresses the impacts associated with the temporary drawdown of Diamond Lake in 1999. Diamond Lake is approximately 80 air miles northeast of Medford, Oregon, on the Diamond Lake Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest. The proposed action, which was put forth by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), will lower the level of Diamond Lake approximately seven (7) feet. This drawdown will allow the ODFW to treat the Lake with rotenone in September of 1999 in order to remove an undesirable baitfish known as the tui chub. The chub, which is believed to have been illegally introduced into the lake within the past ten years, has populated the Lake to the extent that it is adversely affecting the favored rainbow trout. Prior to the introduction of the tui chub, Diamond Lake was recognized as a premier trout fishery in Southern Oregon.

The Forest Service began internal scoping of this proposal in November of 1997. The public was given notice of the proposal in January of 1998 through the Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions. An informational letter with a copy of the ODFW proposal was mailed to interested publics in January as part of

the agency's external scoping effort. Following the mailing, an Open House was held in Roseburg and Medford, Oregon, as a continuation of the scoping effort.

As a result of the scoping performed to date, a number of concerns have been identified. Those concerns are associated with the rate at which the ODF&W has proposed to lower the Lake, and the disposition of the dead fish after it is treated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. These concerns are likely to lead to the development of one or more alternatives to the proposed action.

Any alternatives to the Proposed Action must meet the need of lowering the level of Diamond Lake to a reasonably safe level by September 15 during the year the Lake is scheduled for treatment.

The agency invites written comments on this project. In addition, the agency gives notice of this analysis so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the decision making process.

DATES: Comment concerning this proposal must be received by March 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions to Don Ostby, Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest, P.O. Box 1008, Roseburg, Oregon 97470.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits each confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be re-submitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Direct questions concerning the proposed action and environmental analysis to

Jim Leoni, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Umpqua National Forest, P.O. Box 1008, Roseburg, Oregon 97470, phone (541) 957-3391.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The need for action is to lower the level of Diamond Lake to a reasonably safe level by September 15 during the year the lake is to be treated. The Purpose of lowering the Lake is to allow the ODF&W to treat the Lake with a fish toxicant known as rotenone. The ODF&W has proposed the use of four pumps to lower the Lake from its natural level of approximately 72,880 acre feet to a level of 53,000 acre feet, which is approximately seven (7) feet below the Lake's natural level. The proposed pumping period is July 1 to September 15 of 1999. A Lake level of approximately seven feet below the natural level is intended to prevent any treated water from escaping down Lake Creek where it could be harmful to non-target fish during the first 14 to 21 days following treatment. Diamond Lake is expected to refill in April of 2000 and resume its normal flow down Lake Creek.

The Forest Service is conducting this analysis as a basis for issuing a special use permit to the ODF&W allowing the Department to do the following: (a) Temporary placement of four (4) pumps, with a fifth pump as a backup, at the north end of Diamond Lake where the Lake empties into Lake Creek; (b) temporary use of Forest Service boat ramps and launch facilities during the storage and application of the rotenone; and (c) temporary drawdown of Diamond Lake.

The application of rotenone by the ODF&W is a connected action. The EIS will also disclose the effects of this connected action.

Diamond Lake is a natural lake situated at an elevation of 5,182 feet in the Cascade mountains of southern Oregon. The Lake has a surface of approximately 2,930 acres and is relatively shallow, with a maximum depth of just over 50 feet. Diamond Lake drains into Lake Creek, which empties into Lemolo Lake and two other impoundments before the water becomes free-flowing in the upper reaches of the North Umpqua River. The flow of water from Lemolo Lake and the other impoundments is regulated by Pacific Corp and is outside the scope of this analysis.

The ability of the tui chub to reproduce prolifically has interrupted the traditional food chain of the rainbow trout. As a result, there has been a severe decline in the survival of fingerling rainbow trout and the

subsequent growth of the surviving trout. The decline in the number of rainbow trout may be responsible for the perceived decline in bald eagles and osprey that inhabit or visit the Lake. These species rely heavily on the rainbow trout as a source of food, and the tui chub are not large enough to provide an alternative food source.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review July 1998. Your comments and suggestions are encouraged and should be in writing. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage as a result of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS 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. versus NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS, may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon versus Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir, 1986) and *Wisconsin heritages, Inc. versus 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the 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 September 1998. In the

final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses 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 a decision regarding the proposal. Don Ostby, Forest Supervisor for the Umpqua National Forest, is the responsible official. The Forest Supervisor will document the decision and rationale for the Diamond Lake Drawdown decision in the Record of Decision, which will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations 36 CFR part 215.

Dated: January 27, 1998.

Don Ostby,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-2439 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Arkansas (AR) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Memphis Grain Inspection Service (Memphis) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATES: March 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the October 1, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 63513), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Little Rock area, formerly assigned to Arkansas Grain Inspection Service, to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by October 30, 1997. There were two applicants: Memphis Grain Inspection Service, a currently designated official

agency, located at Memphis, Tennessee, and contiguous to the Little Rock area, applied for designation to provide official services in the Little Rock area; and the former Arkansas agency reorganized and applied for designation to provide official services in the Little Rock area.

GIPSA requested comments on the applicants for the Arkansas area in the December 1, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 63513). Comments were due by December 30, 1997. GIPSA received eight written comments by the deadline. Two oral comments in favor of Memphis were also received, one of which expressed concerns about the former Arkansas Agency. Four grain companies had been provided official services by the former Arkansas agency and supported designation of Memphis discussing favorably the quality of service received. Memphis has been providing official services in the Little Rock area on an interim basis.

Six commentors supported designation of Arkansas with one comment noting that their support was contingent upon the business being properly managed and staffed. Others indicated that having an official agency in Little Rock was of concern and expressed concern about timeliness of service. Some of the comments stated that they had received previously excellent services from the Arkansas agency.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Memphis is better able to provide official services in the Arkansas geographic area. Effective March 1, 1998, and ending May 31, 2000, concurrent with the termination of their current designation Memphis is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the October 1, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Memphis at 901-942-3216 or 501-372-5302.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 23, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-2121 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Frankfort (IN) and Indianapolis (IN) Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Frankfort Grain Inspection, Inc., (Frankfort) and Indianapolis Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc., (Indianapolis) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATES: March and April 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the September 2, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 46244), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Frankfort and Indianapolis to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by October 1, 1997. Frankfort and Indianapolis, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Frankfort and Indianapolis were the only applicants, GIPSA did not ask for comments on them.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Frankfort and Indianapolis are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective March 1, 1998, and ending February 28, 2001, Frankfort is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the September 2, 1997, **Federal Register**. Effective April 1, 1998, and ending February 28, 2001, Indianapolis is designated to provide official services in the geographic area