

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 EIS. 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.)

At this early stage, the Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice 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. v. 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 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 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.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in March 2000. 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 the decision regarding this proposal. The Forest Service is the lead agency for this environmental analysis. The responsible official is the Chelan District Ranger. The responsible official will document the Upper North Fork 25 Fire Restoration decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: September 14, 1999.

**Al Murphy,**

*Chelan District Ranger.*

[FR Doc. 99-24890 Filed 9-23-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Transfer of Jurisdiction

**AGENCY:** USDA—Forest Service.

**ACTION:** Transfer of jurisdiction of the Townsite of Dutch John, Utah, to the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

**SUMMARY:** On June 24, 1999, Jeanne A. Evenden, Director of Lands, Regional Office, Intermountain Region, signed a Transfer Order transferring jurisdiction of 2,432.73 acres of land within the Townsite of Dutch John, Utah, Ashley National Forest, to the USDI Bureau of Reclamation.

This action is in compliance with Section 6 of the Dutch John Federal Property Disposition and Assistance Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-326).

Copies of the Transfer Order are available for public inspection at the Chief's Office, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Auditors Building, 210 14th Street, SW at Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250, or the Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078.

Dated: September 10, 1999.

**Jack A. Blackwell,**

*Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401, (801) 625-5605.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

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

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of field trip and meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Olympic PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on October 20 & 21, 1999. The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, October 20 which will be spent in the field visiting Special Forest Product's facilities and sites. The committee will assemble at the Forest's Headquarters office in Olympia before traveling to the field. The field trip will conclude

approximately 4:00 PM. On Thursday the 21st, the meeting will be held in the Olympic National Forest Headquarter's office at 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia, Washington. The meeting will be in the Willaby Conference room and will begin at 8:00 AM and end at approximately 2:30 PM. Agenda topics are: (1) Update on Survey & Manage; (2) Bull trout listing; (3) Regional Ecosystems Office update; (4) Topics for future committee discussion; (5) Open forum; and (8) Public comments.

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 Ken Eldredge, Province Liaison, USDA, Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. Olympia, WA 98512-5623, (360) 956-2323 or Dale Hom, Forest Supervisor, at (360) 956-2301.

Dated: September 17, 1999.

**Dale Hom,**

*Forest Supervisor, Olympic National Forest.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Notice of Request for New Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) intent to request approval for a new information collection related to the delivery of services conducted under the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs authorized under the United States Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. This voluntary survey would give customers of the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs, who are primarily in the grain, oilseed, rice, lentil, dry pea, edible bean, and related agricultural commodity markets, an opportunity to provide feedback on the quality of services they receive and will provide information on new services that they would like to receive. This feedback would assist GIPSA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to

improve services and service delivery provided by the official inspection, grading, and weighing system.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before November 23, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments must be submitted to Sharon Vassiliades, USDA, GIPSA, ART, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 3649, Washington, DC 20250-3649, or faxed to (202) 720-4628. Comments may also be sent by electronic mail or Internet to: comments@gipsadc.usda.gov. All comments received will be made available for public inspection during regular business hours in Room 0623, South Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3649 (7 CFR 1.27 (b)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marianne Plaus at (202) 720-0292.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71-87) (USGSA), and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) (AMA), authorize the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to establish official inspection, grading, and weighing programs for grains and other agricultural commodities. Under the USGSA and AMA, GIPSA's FGIS offers inspecting, weighing, grading, quality assurance, and certification services for a user-fee, to facilitate the efficient marketing of grain, oilseeds, rice, lentils, dry peas, edible beans, and related agricultural commodities in the global marketplace. Under FGIS oversight, the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs is a public-private partnership including Federal, State, and private agencies and provides official inspection, grading, and weighing services to the domestic and export trade.

There are approximately 2,500 current users of the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs. These customers are located nationwide and represent a diverse mixture of small, medium, and large producers, merchandisers, processors, exporters, and other financially interested parties. These customers request official services from an FGIS Field Office; delegated, designated, or cooperating State office; or designated private agency office.

The goal of FGIS and the official inspection, grading, and weighing system is to provide timely, high-quality, accurate, consistent, and professional service that facilitates the orderly marketing of grain and related commodities. To accomplish this goal

and in accordance with E.O. 12862, FGIS is seeking feedback from customers to evaluate the services provided by the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs.

**Title:** Survey of Customers of the Official Inspection, Grading, and Weighing Programs (Grain and Related Commodities).

**OMB Number:** New collection, a number will be assigned after approval.

**Expiration Date of Approval:** New collection.

**Type of Request:** New information collection.

**Abstract:** The collection of information using a voluntary customer service survey will provide all paying customers of FGIS and the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs an opportunity to evaluate, on a scale of one to five, the timeliness, cost-effectiveness, accuracy, consistency, and usefulness of services and results, and the professionalism of employees. Customers will also have an opportunity to indicate what new or existing services they would use if such services were offered or available.

FGIS needs to have a more formal means of determining customers' expectations or the quality of service that is delivered. To collect this information, FGIS proposes to distribute, over a 3-year period, a voluntary customer service survey. The initial survey instrument will consist of nine questions. Subsequent survey instruments will be tailored to earlier responses. The information collected from the survey will allow FGIS to ascertain customers' satisfaction with existing services, compare results from year to year, and determine what new services customers desire.

The customer service survey consists of one document comprised of nine questions where customers assess the timeliness, cost-effectiveness, accuracy, consistency, and usefulness of services and results, and the professionalism of employees. Some examples of survey questions include the following: "I receive results in a timely manner," "Official results are accurate," and "Inspection personnel are knowledgeable." These survey questions will be assessed using a rating scale ranging from "strongly disagrees" to "strongly agrees" or "no opinion." Customers are also asked for which product they primarily request service, and what percentage of their product is officially inspected. There is also space available on the survey for the customer to provide a response to the following statement: "I would use the following new/existing service if they were offered/available."

By obtaining information from customers through a voluntary customer service survey, FGIS could continue to improve services and service delivery provided by the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs in order to meet or exceed customer expectations.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes (i.e., 0.167 hours) per response.

**Respondents:** The primary respondents will be the direct paying customers of FGIS and the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs.

**FY 2000: Estimated Number of Respondents:** 1,874 (i.e., 2,498 total customers  $\times$  75% response rate = 1,874).

**Frequency of Responses:** 1.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 313 hours (1,874 responses  $\times$  0.167 hours/response = 313 hours).

**FY 2001: Estimated Number of Respondents:** 1,874.

**Frequency of Responses:** 1.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 313 hours.

**FY 2002: Estimated Number of Respondents:** 1,874.

**Frequency of Responses:** 1.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 313 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Sharon Vassiliades, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, FGIS, at (202) 720-1738.

**Comments:** Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of FGIS, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FGIS' estimate of the burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments should be addressed to Sharon Vassiliades, as referenced above. All responses to this notice will be summarized and include in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 20, 1999.

**James R. Baker,**

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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