

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 141

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

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

Food and Nutrition Service

Food Distribution Program: Value of Donated Foods From July 1, 2003 Through June 30, 2004

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the national average value of donated foods or, where applicable, cash in lieu of donated foods, to be provided in school year 2004 for each lunch served by schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and for each lunch and supper served by institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). It also announces the national average value of donated foods to be provided in school year 2004 for each lunch served by commodity only schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne Rigby, Chief, Schools and Institutions Branch, Food Distribution Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, or telephone (703) 305-2644.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Nos. 10.550, 10.555, and 10.558 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

This notice imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are subject to Office of Management and Budget review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507). This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility

Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act. This notice has been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

National Average Minimum Value of Donated Foods for the Period July 1, 2003 Through June 30, 2004

This notice implements mandatory provisions of sections 6(c), 14(f) and 17(h)(1)(B) of the National School Lunch Act (the Act) (42 U.S.C. 1755(c), 1762a(f), and 1766(h)(1)(B)). Section 6(c)(1)(A) of the Act establishes the national average value of donated food assistance to be given to States for each lunch served in NSLP at 11.00 cents per meal. Pursuant to section 6(c)(1)(B), this amount is subject to annual adjustments as of July 1 of each year to reflect changes in a three-month average value of the Price Index for Foods Used in Schools and Institutions for March, April, and May each year (Price Index). Section 17(h)(1)(B) of the Act provides that the same value of donated foods (or cash in lieu of donated foods) for school lunches shall also be established for lunches and suppers served in CACFP. Notice is hereby given that the national average minimum value of donated foods, or cash in lieu thereof, per lunch under NSLP (7 CFR part 210) and per lunch and supper under CACFP (7 CFR part 226) shall be 15.75 cents for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

The Price Index is computed using five major food components in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index (cereal and bakery products; meats, poultry and fish; dairy products; processed fruits and vegetables; and fats and oils). Each component is weighted using the relative weight as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The value of food assistance is adjusted each July 1 by the annual percentage change in a three-month average value of the Price Index for March, April and May each year. The three-month average of the Price Index increased by 4 percent from 133.79 for March, April and May of 2002 to 139.09 for the same three months in 2003. When computed on the basis of unrounded data and rounded to the nearest one-quarter cent, the resulting national average for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 will be 15.75 cents per meal. This is an increase of 0.50 cents from the school year 2003 rate.

Section 14(f) of the Act provides that commodity only schools shall be eligible to receive donated foods equal in value to the sum of the national average value of donated foods established under section 6(c) of the Act and the national average payment established under section 4 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1753). Such schools are eligible to receive up to 5 cents per meal of this value in cash for processing and handling expenses related to the use of such commodities.

Commodity only schools are defined in section 12(d)(2) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d)(2)) as "schools that do not participate in the school lunch program under this Act, but which receive commodities made available by the Secretary for use by such schools in nonprofit lunch programs." For school year 2004, commodity only schools shall be eligible to receive donated food assistance valued at 36.75 cents for each free, reduced price, and paid lunch served. This amount is based on the sum of the section 6(c) level of assistance announced in this notice and the adjusted section 4 minimum national average payment factor for school year 2004. The section 4 factor for commodity only schools does not include the two cents per lunch increase for schools where 60 percent of the lunches served in the school lunch program in the second preceding school year were served free or at reduced prices, because that increase is applicable only to schools participating in NSLP.

Authority: Sections 6(c)(1)(A) and (B), 6(e)(1), 14(f) and 17(h)(1)(B) of the National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1755(c)(1)(A) and (B) and 6(e)(1), 1762a(f), and 1766(h)(1)(B)).

Dated: July 17, 2003.

Theodore O. Bell,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-18716 Filed 7-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Bridger-Teton National Forest; Pinedale Ranger District; WY; Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Green River Area Rangeland Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of domestic livestock grazing in the upper Green River area. The analysis contained in the EIS will be used by the Responsible Official to decide whether or not, and how, livestock grazing would be authorized on the grazing allotments within the project area. The project area is located in western Wyoming; approximately 30 miles northwest of Pinedale, Wyoming near the Green River Lakes. The majority of the project area lies within Sublette County, with small portions that extend into Teton and Fremont counties. The entire 162,800 acre project area lies within the boundaries of the Pinedale Ranger District. The project area is comprised on the following six grazing allotments: Badger Creek, Beaver-Twin Creeks, Noble Pastures, Roaring Fork, Upper Green River, and Wagon Creek.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 25, 2003. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in September of 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in January of 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Craig Turlock, District Ranger, Pinedale Ranger District, Box 220, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941. For further information, mail correspondence to mailroom_r4_bridger_teton@fs.fed.us and on the subject line, put only "Upper Green Grazing Allotments".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Turlock, District Ranger, Pinedale Ranger District, (see **ADDRESSES** above).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this analysis is to determine if livestock grazing is appropriate within the analysis area. If livestock grazing is appropriate, there may be a need to update and/or refine desired rangeland conditions and develop new management prescriptions to meet them. Integral to this is a need to confirm or attain compliance and consistency of this analysis and its resultant decision with legal mandates, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1976 (NEPA), as well as policy direction, including the Bridger-Teton National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). To date the Forest Service has identified three alternatives.

Alternative B: Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to authorize grazing use within the project area under updated grazing management direction, in order to move existing rangeland resource conditions toward the desired conditions that will be developed by an interdisciplinary team. The updated direction would be incorporated in respective allotment management plans (AMP's) to guide grazing management within the project area. New Allotment Management Plans (AMP's) would be developed for the Badger Creek, Beaver-Twin Creeks, Noble Pastures, and Wagon Creek allotments, and the existing AMP's for the Roaring Fork and Upper Green River allotments would be updated as a result of this action. Grazing management strategies would be developed or revised in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 36 CFR 222.1(b)(2), which describes allotment management planning provisions. Current grazing management strategies would be maintained where resource objectives are being achieved, and new management strategies would be implemented in areas where resource objectives have not been met. Rotational grazing systems would be initiated in the Badger Creek, Beaver-Twin Creeks, and Roaring Fork allotments and modified, as needed, in the remaining allotments to ensure desired conditions are reached.

Possible Alternatives

Alternative A—Grazing as Currently Permitted (No Action Alternative)

Although allotment management plans (AMP's) would be prepared for each of the six allotments, the grazing management practices specified for the allotments with existing AMP's would not be changed. The Upper Green River and Roaring Fork allotments would continue to operate under the guidelines specified in AMP's that are over 25 years old, and season-long grazing would persist in the Badger Creek and Beaver-Twin Creeks allotments. In addition, no new utilization standards would be initiated to move existing resource conditions in the project area toward the desired future conditions (DFC's) specified in the Forest Plan.

Alternative C—No Grazing by Domestic Livestock (No Grazing Alternative)

Alternative C would eliminate livestock grazing in the project area. This alternative was developed to demonstrate the effects that eliminating domestic cattle grazing would have on the environment and to more clearly illustrate the potential effects of

implementing either Alternative A or Alternative B. Under this alternative, domestic livestock grazing in all six allotments of the project area would be phased out over several years as existing Term Grazing Permits expire.

Responsible Official

Craig Turlock, District Ranger, Pinedale Ranger District, PO Box 220, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision, which is based on this analysis, will be to decide if livestock will be allowed to graze on the allotment complex, either through the implementation of the proposed action, or an alternative to the proposed action. The decision would include any mitigation measures needed in addition to those prescribed in the Forest Plan.

Scoping Process

The following methods were used to invite the public to participate in this project: A scoping letter was mailed to those listed on the Bridger-Teton National Forest's general mailing list on February 10, 2000. The mailing list included private landowners, term grazing permit holders, special interest groups, interested members of the public, and local, state, and federal agencies. The letter described the proposed action, the purpose and need for the project, the process that would be followed for completing the environmental analysis, and the scope of the decision to be made. Additionally, the letter solicited public participation in the process, specifically the submission of comments, concerns, and recommendations regarding management of the six allotments in the project area.

Term grazing permit holders, or their representatives, were contacted shortly after the project was initiated to solicit their input concerning management of the six allotments within the project area.

The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from individuals, organizations, tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies interested in or affected by this project. Comments submitted on the 2000 scoping effort and any new comments will be used to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Public participation will be solicited by notifying in person and/or by mail known interested and affected publics. News releases will be used to give the public general notice. Public participation activities would include requests for written comments. Scoping includes: (1) Identifying potential

issues, (2) narrowing the potential issues and identifying significant issues of those that have been covered by prior environmental review, (3) exploring alternatives in addition to No Action, and (4) identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Preliminary Issues

The Forest Service has identified the following potential issues. Through the 2000 scoping effort, issues have been refined. Public input is especially valuable here. It will help us determine which of these merit detailed analysis. It will also help identify additional issues related to the proposed action that may not be listed here.

Issue 1—Effects of livestock grazing on riparian and aquatic function.

Issue 2—Effects of livestock grazing on Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species.

Issue 3—The social and economic effects of authorizing livestock grazing in the area.

Issue 4—Effects of livestock grazing on rangeland function.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability 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 draft 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 impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact 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 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement 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 environmental impact statement 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.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: July 11, 2003

Craig P. Trulock,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 03-18685 Filed 7-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Olympic Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Olympic Provincial Advisory Committee (OPAC) will meet on Friday, August 15, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Forest Service Conference Room at the Forest Service Quinault office in Quinault, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at approximately 3 p.m. Agenda topics are: Current status of key Forest issues; Owl management update; Washington State Department of Natural Resources management on the Olympic Peninsula; Open forum; Public comments; and field trip to review two recently completed Secure Rural

Schools and Community Self-Determination Act—Title II projects.

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: July 17, 2003.

Dale Hom,

Forest Supervisor, Olympic National Forest.

[FR Doc. 03-18676 Filed 7-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Arkansas and Mississippi Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a conference call of the Arkansas and Mississippi Advisory Committees will convene at 1:30 p.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. (CDT) on Wednesday, August 20, 2003. The purpose of the conference call is to discuss the civil rights "Listening Tour" meeting to be held in November.

This conference call is available to the public through the following call-in number: 1-800-659-1109, access code #18042828. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls not initiated using the supplied call-in number or over wireless lines and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls using the call-in number over land-line connections. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-977-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and access code.

To ensure that the Commission secures an appropriate number of lines for the public, persons are asked to register by contacting Farella E. Robinson, Civil Rights Analyst of the Central Regional Office 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414), by 3 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2003.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.