

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

Forest Service

Pest Management Program at the R5 Genetic Resource Center, Chico in the Pacific Southwest Region, California, in Butte County

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare a draft and final environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposed action to develop an integrated pest management (IPM) program at the R5 Genetic Resource Center, Chico which is administered by the Mendocino National Forest. The Forest Service began an analysis for the nursery portion of the site in 1989; however, the project was canceled in the May 1, 1995 Federal Register Notice. The scope of the current proposed action includes the nursery and seed orchard operations, arboretums, and research areas. The administrative site is approximately 209 acres in size, and the analysis area is approximately 121 acres. Areas on the administrative site which are excluded from this analysis are the office buildings and work areas, residential buildings, boundary fence lines, Comanche Creek wildlife and recreation area, intermittent stream area in the northern portion of the site, the diversion channel, and other small wildlife habitat areas. The excluded area is estimated to be approximately 88 acres in size. The Forest Service invites written comments on the scope of the analysis. In addition, the Forest Service gives notice of the environmental analysis and decisionmaking process that will occur on the proposed action so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by July 1, 1996, to ensure timely consideration.

ADDRESS: Send written comments to: Lynné Hartman, Director, USDA Forest Service, R5 Genetic Resource Center, Chico, 2741 Cramer Lane, Chico, CA 95928.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Hank Switzer, Horticulturist, R5 Genetic Resource Center, Chico, CA 95928, (916) 895-1176.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The scope of the analysis will consist of a container nursery, approximately one acre in size, which has the capacity to grow 1.2 million seedlings a year, and 120 acres that are in production as seed orchards for restoration of forest ecosystems or arboretums that are active in growing plant material for a variety of biological, chemical and clinical research programs. Other areas on the site such as the administrative buildings, residential buildings, and the recreational and wildlife areas are not within the scope of this analysis.

The Forest Service will conduct an environmental analysis to determine what type of pest management program will be used at the center. The pest management practices that will be analyzed include, but are not limited to, control of unwanted vegetation by mechanical and chemical methods; control of diseases using sanitation, biological control organisms, and fungicides; control of insect pests with biological and chemical insecticides, and use of sanitation; and control of animal pests through mechanical, chemical, and preventative measures.

In preparing the environmental impact statement, the Forest Service will identify and consider a range of alternative pest management programs including an alternative that will be based on the principles of integrated pest management as required by the Forest Service Manual. The "no action" alternative will be described as the continuation of current pest management practices.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first point is during the scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which includes:

1. Defining the scope of the analysis and nature of the decision to be made.

2. Identifying the issues and determining the significant issues for consideration and analysis within the environmental impact statement.

3. Defining the proper make-up of the interdisciplinary team.

4. Exploring possible alternatives.

5. Identifying potential environmental effects.

6. Determining potential cooperating agencies.

7. Identifying groups or individuals interested or affected by the decision.

The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organizations interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Public participation will be solicited by personal notification of known interested and affected publics. In addition, news releases will be used to keep the public informed. Input from interested people and organizations will be used in preparation of the draft environmental impact statement.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by September 1996. At that time, EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement in the Federal Register.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the Federal Register. It is very important that those interested in the proposed action participate at that time. To be most helpful, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (see Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act 40 CFR 1503.3)

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that 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 reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that

could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure 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.

Following the comment period on the draft environmental impact statement, comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement. The final environmental impact statement is scheduled to be completed by July 1997.

The responsible official will consider the comments and responses; environmental consequences discussed in the environmental impact statement; and applicable laws, regulations and policies in making a decision regarding this proposal. The decision and reasons for the decision will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Daniel K. Chisholm, Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest, is the responsible official.

Dated May 22, 1996.

Daniel K. Chisholm,
Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Barton (KY) and North Dakota (ND) Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of J. W. Barton Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Barton), and North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (North Dakota), to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647 South Building, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, DC 20090-6454.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 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 December 27, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 66958), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Barton and North Dakota to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by January 30, 1996. Barton and North Dakota, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official inspection services in the entire areas currently assigned to them.

Since Barton and North Dakota were the only applicants, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

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 Barton and North Dakota are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective July 1, 1996, and ending June 30, 1999, Barton and North Dakota are designated to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the December 27, 1995, Federal Register.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Barton at 502-683-0616 and North Dakota 701-293-7420.

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

Dated: May 10, 1996

Neil E. Porter

Director, Compliance Division

[FR Doc. 96-13201 Filed 5-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

Opportunity for Designation in the Aberdeen (SD) Area and the State of Missouri

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designations of Aberdeen Grain Inspection, Inc. (Aberdeen), and the Missouri Department of Agriculture (Missouri) will end November 30, 1996, according to the Act, and GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Aberdeen and Missouri areas to submit an application for designation.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before June 29, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647 South Building, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, DC 20090-6454. Telecopier (FAX) users may send applications to the automatic telecopier machine at 202-690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart. If an application is submitted by telecopier, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications will be made available for public inspection at this address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 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.

Section 7(f)(1) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Aberdeen, main office located in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and Missouri, main office located in Jefferson City, Missouri, to provide official inspection services under the Act on December 1, 1993.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies shall end not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of the Act. The designations of Aberdeen and Missouri end on November 30, 1996.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the USGSA, the following geographic area, in the States of North Dakota and South Dakota, is assigned to Aberdeen.

Bounded on the North by U.S. Route 12 east to State Route 22; State Route 22 north to the Burlington-Northern (BN) line; the Burlington-Northern (BN) line east to State Route 21; State Route 21 east to State Route 49; State Route 49 south to the North Dakota-South Dakota State line; the North Dakota-South Dakota State line east to U.S. Route 83; U.S. Route 83 north to State Route 13; State Route 13 east and north to McIntosh County; the northern