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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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-099-1]

Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the issuance of a permit to allow the field testing of genetically engineered organisms. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that the field testing of the genetically engineered organisms will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest and will not have a significant impact on the quality

of the human environment. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact is available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect the document are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Arnold Foudin, Deputy Director, Biotechnology Evaluation, BSS, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. For a copy of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Mr. Clayton Givens at (301) 734-7612; e-mail: cgivens@aphis.usda.gov. Please refer to the permit number listed below when ordering the document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340 (referred to below as the regulations) regulate the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment) of genetically engineered organisms and products that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe

are plant pests (regulated articles). A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

In the course of reviewing the permit application, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) assessed the impact on the environment that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit application would have. APHIS has issued a permit for the field testing of the organisms listed below after concluding that the organisms will not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, which is based on data submitted by the applicant and on a review of other relevant literature, provides the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field test.

An environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of a permit to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms:

PERMIT NUMBER	PERMITTEE	DATE ISSUED	ORGANISMS	FIELD TEST LOCATION
96-256-01	Sanford Scientific, Inc.	11-20-96	Geranium plants genetically engineered to express resistance to plant pathogenic bacteria and fungi.	California.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) Regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 13th day of January 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-1225 Filed 1-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Forest Service

Clearwater National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho Spruce Moose and Moose Lake Right-of-way

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: On October 30, 1995, the Powell Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, began public scoping for the Spruce Moose project, a proposed salvage timber sale and private land access request. During 1996, the environmental effects of the proposed action were analyzed. During the course of this analysis, it was determined that potential effects on steelhead trout (proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act), Bull

Trout (listing under ESA is warranted, but precluded), spring chinook and westslope cutthroat trout (both Sensitive Species) may be significant enough to require an Environmental Impact Statement.

During the summer of 1996, additional field information was gathered and used to update the proposed action as follows.

The Clearwater National Forest is planning to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of a proposal to harvest 2.4 million board feet of timber, construct 4.1 miles of new forest roads, and reconstruct 0.4 miles of existing forest road. Included in the proposed road construction is a request from Plum Creek Timber Company for easements across one mile of National Forest System Land to access privately owned timberland. A joint sediment reduction plan to repair existing sediment sources on existing roads is also included in the proposal.

The Spruce Moose Planning Area is located northeast of the Powell Ranger Station, Powell Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho. Proposed activities are located in the Spruce Creek drainage. The proposal's actions are being considered together because they represent either connected or cumulative actions as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.25).

The purposes of the project are (1) to design and implement vegetation treatments using ecosystem management principles within the forest stands that are at high risk of change in the next decade, (2) to design and implement a cost share road system with Plum Creek Timber Company to provide a single road system that serves both landowners, and (3) to restore and maintain aquatic ecosystem structure and function to provide historic habitat conditions for aquatic species.

This project level EIS will tier to the Clearwater National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Final EIS (September, 1987), which provides overall guidance of all land management activities on the Clearwater National Forest.

Analysis will be conducted in compliance with the Clearwater Forest Plan lawsuit settlement agreement between the Forest Service and the Sierra Club, et al (signed September 13, 1993).

DATES: Comments in response to this Notice of Intent concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing on or before March 3, 1997 to

receive timely consideration in the preparation of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in March, 1997. The Final EIS and the Record of Decision are expected to be issued in December, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions on the proposed action or requests for a map of the proposed action or to be placed on the project mailing list to Margaret Gorski, District Ranger, Powell Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, Lolo, Montana 59847.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: The Forest Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest, will be the responsible official and decide on the harvest and road construction alternatives and whether to issue access easements to Plum Creek Timber Company.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: District Ranger, Powell Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, (208) 942-3113.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) requested right-of-way access across National Forest System land in Sections 20 and 30, T38N, R17E, Boise Meridian. The purpose of this request was for Plum Creek Timber Company to access the private land in Sections 19 and 29 for their use and enjoyment.

Access to non-Federal inholdings in governed by Section 1323(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Implementing direction for this authority is found in regulation at 36 CFR 251.110.

The Forest Service and Plum Creek Timber Company are cooperators in a jointly constructed and maintained road system on the Powell Ranger District. The purpose of this joint road system is to serve the access needs of both cooperators with a single network of permanent roads within the checkerboard land ownership portion of the Powell Ranger District.

In 1995, the Powell District conducted an Integrated Resource Analysis for a portion of the Spruce Creek watershed and proposed management actions which were linked to Plum Creek Timber Company's proposed road and request for access. This was documented in an Integrated Resource Assessment and Position Statement.

On October 10, 1995, Plum Creek Timber Company updated its request for access to include an easement across 200 feet of section 26, T38N, R16E to access private land in Section 25. This new request was included in the proposed action to properly assess the

cumulative effects of road construction and timber harvest on National Forest resources.

Preliminary issues include the effects on timber growth and yield, effects on old growth and snag habitat, effects on elk habitat security, and effects on water quality and fish habitat. These issues will be refined and developed in detail as scoping proceeds. Comments on the issues and suggestions for additional issues are welcome in response to this Notice of Intent.

Preliminary scoping and public involvement began on October 30, 1995, when an Integrated Resource Analysis and Position Statement was mailed to about 100 individuals asking for comment. The interdisciplinary team worked with the comments from this early scoping effort to identify preliminary issues and to refine the proposed action.

The interdisciplinary team will be working to develop a range of alternatives to the proposed action and to assess the environmental effects of the alternatives. One of the alternatives will be the "No Action" alternative. Other alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes, as well as to respond to the environmental issues and other resource values. Comments concerning the range of alternatives or possible environmental effects would be useful to the team in completing their analysis.

It is anticipated that the environmental analysis and preparation of the draft and final environmental impact statements will take about one year. The draft environmental impact statement can be expected in March, 1997 and a final environmental impact statement can be expected in December, 1997.

A 45 day comment period will be provided for the public to make comments on the draft environmental impact statement. This comment period will be in addition to scoping and will begin when the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS appears in the Federal Register. A Record of Decision will be prepared and filed with the final environmental impact statement. A forty-five day appeal period will be applicable.

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. 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 at 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 US 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*, (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.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Clearwater National Forest, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

Dated: December 31, 1997.

James L. Caswell,

Forest Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest.
[FR Doc. 97-1186 Filed 1-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 18, 1997.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 27 and November 22, 1996, the Committee for Purchase From

People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (61 F.R. 50805 and 59401) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodity and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodity and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodity and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodity and services are hereby added to the Procurement List:

Commodity

Head Harness, Skull Cap
4240-01-390-3057

Services

Grounds Maintenance, Camp Lejeune, Main Gate and Holcomb Boulevard, Jacksonville, North Carolina
Janitorial/Custodial, VA Connecticut Healthcare System, Newington Campus, Newington, Connecticut

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Beverly L. Milkman,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-1244 Filed 1-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

Procurement list; Proposed Addition

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed addition to procurement list.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a proposal to add to the Procurement List a commodity to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: February 18, 1997.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed action.

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodity listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity to the Government.

2. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following commodity has been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Paper, Tabulating Machine