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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

Forest Service

Helicopter Landing Tours on the Juneau Icefield EIS 2000, Tongass National Forest, Chatham Area, Juneau Ranger District, Juneau, Alaska

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 disclose the environmental impacts of authorizing helicopter landing tours on the icefield adjacent to Juneau, Alaska. The proposed action is to issue special use permits (2000–2004) authorizing helicopter tour companies to land on the Juneau Icefield at specified locations and conduct tours. In addition to the regular glacier tours, this EIS will also analyze the effects of dogsled tours, glacier trekking tours, and a combined fixed-wing/helicopter tour that would land at the lake at Antler Glacier. The majority of use would occur between May and September of each year. Tours would originate at private heliports and helicopter flight paths would transit a variety of private and municipal lands prior to entering the National Forest.

The proposed action would maintain the authorized helicopter landings on the Juneau Icefield at the 1999 level of 19,039 landings. The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by March 9, 1999. A public meeting will be held at the Juneau Ranger District on February 25 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. District staff will be available at this open house to

explain the project, accept your comments, and answer questions.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and suggestions concerning the analysis should be sent to Roger Birk, Environmental Coordinator, Juneau Ranger District Office, 8465 Old Dairy Road, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Birk, Environmental Coordinator, Juneau Ranger District Office, 8465 Old Dairy Road, Juneau, Alaska 99801, (907) 586–8800, fax number (907) 586–8808. Email may be sent to rbirk/r10@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose and need for the proposed action is to meet public demand for quality guided services which provide safe access to remote locations on the Juneau Icefield. Meeting this demand includes providing for visitor safety and an appropriate balance between commercial guided recreation opportunities and non-commercial, non-guided recreation opportunities without unacceptable impacts to other forest users and resources.

Peter Griffin, Juneau District Ranger, Tongass National Forest, Chatham Area, is the deciding official. The decision to be made is whether or not to issue special use permits for helicopter landing tours as requested, and if permits are issued, decide the levels to be authorized and the mitigation measures, if any, that will be required.

The no action and proposed action alternatives will be considered in the EIS as well as other alternatives which address significant issues and satisfy the purpose and need for the action.

Preliminary issues that have been identified include helicopter noise disturbance to residential areas, wildlife, and ground-based recreation users.

In 1992 an environmental assessment and in 1995 an environmental impact statement were prepared to analyze the effects of these tours. Comments from the EA and EIS were used to identify issues for this EIS. Comments will be accepted throughout the EIS process but, to be most useful, should be received by March 9, 1999.

The draft environmental impact statement should be available for review by August 1, 1999. The comment period of 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, #533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage that are not raised until after the 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. 1335, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate at 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.

The Final EIS and Record of Decision is expected to be released in November, 1999. The Juneau District Ranger, Chatham Area, Tongass National Forest will, as the responsible official for the EIS, make a decision regarding this proposal considering the comments, responses, and environmental consequences discussed in the Final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and

supporting reasons will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Dated: February 3, 1999.

John H. Favro,

Acting District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 99-4091 Filed 2-18-99; 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 commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 23, and November 16, 1998 and January 4, 1999, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (63 F.R. 56906, 63670 and 64 F.R. 76) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

The following comments pertain to Laundry Service, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Norfolk, New England Regional Requirements for the following locations: New London Naval Submarine Base, Connecticut; Newport Naval Education and Training Center, Rhode Island; and Winter Harbor Naval Security Group, Maine.

Comments were received from two of the three current contractors for the service and from the Congressional representatives of these two contractors. Both contractors objected to the possibility of losing their contracts, which they noted are an important part of their sales and a dependable source of revenue, in one case for almost nine years. The other contractor noted that its president has a disability, and the other indicated that some of its employees have disabilities. The latter contractor indicated that losing this contract would require it to terminate a number of its employees. The two Members of

Congress seconded the comments made by their respective constituents.

The Committee understands the concerns of the commenting contractors, but is also aware that it has a statutory mission to create jobs for people with severe disabilities. Such individuals have an unemployment rate well in excess of other groups, such as the contractor employees who may be displaced by the Committee's action, but can more easily find replacement employment than the people with disabilities which the Committee's action will employ. The percentage of sales which each contractor would lose is below the level which the Committee normally considers to be severe adverse impact, even taking into account the number of years the firms have been performing the laundry services.

With respect to one contractor's statement that his firm employs persons with disabilities, the Committee noted that those individuals do not meet the statutory definition of severe disabilities (other than blindness) used by the Committee. Under that definition, a person must not only have a disability, but be currently incapable of competitive employment as a result of the disability. Thus, the employees with disabilities whom the contractors mentioned are, like their fellow workers without disabilities, in a better position to find other employment than the individuals with severe disabilities who will benefit from the Committee's action. Accordingly, the Committee has concluded that the addition of this service to the Procurement List is not likely to have a severe adverse impact on the contractors or their employees.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities 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 commodities and services to the Government.

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

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities 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 commodities and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

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

Commodities

Odor Barrier Waste Storage Container
7240-00-NIB-0001
7240-00-NIB-0002

Services

Laundry Service, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Norfolk

New England Regional Requirements for the following locations:

New London Naval Submarine Base, Connecticut
Newport Naval Education and Training Center, Rhode Island
Winter Harbor Naval Security Group Activity, Maine

Mail and Messenger Service, US Army Test and Evaluation Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland

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. 99-4185 Filed 2-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Proposed Additions

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

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: March 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

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