Notices

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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

Office of the Secretary

Modification of Total Amount of Tariff-rate Quota for Imported Raw Cane Sugar

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice modifies the aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar that may be entered under subheading 1701.11.10 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) during fiscal year 1996 (FY 96). As modified, such aggregate quantity is 2,167,195 metric tons, raw value.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries may be mailed or delivered to the Sugar Team Leader, Import Policy and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5531, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250–1000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Hammond (Sugar Team Leader); telephone: 202–720–1061.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Paragraph (a)(i) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS provides, in part, that ''* * * the aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, under subheading 1701.11.10, during any fiscal year, shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount (expressed in terms of raw value), not less than, 1,117,195 metric tons, as shall be established by the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as 'the Secretary'), and the aggregate quantity of sugars, syrups, and molasses entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, under subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10 and 2106.90.44, during any fiscal year, shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount (expressed in terms of raw value), not less than 22,000 metric tons, as shall be established by the Secretary.'' On August 3, 1995, the Secretary established the aggregate quantity of 1,117,195 metric tons, raw value, of raw cane sugar that may be entered under subheading 1701.11.10 of the HTS and the aggregate quantity of 22,000 metric tons (raw value basis) for certain sugars, syrups, and molasses that may be entered under subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10, and 2106.90.44 of the HTS during FY 96. (60 FR 42142.) On November 9, 1995, the Secretary increased the aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar that may be entered under subheading 1701.11.10 to 1,417,195 metric tons. On January 17, 1996, the Secretary increased the aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar that may be entered under subheading 1701.11.10 to 1,817,195 metric tons. Again on April 1, 1996, the Secretary increased the aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar that may be entered under subheading 1701.11.10 to 2,017,195 metric tons.

Paragraph (a)(ii) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS provides that ''[w]henever the Secretary believes that domestic supplies of sugars may be inadequate to meet domestic demand at reasonable prices, the Secretary may modify any quantitative limitations which have previously been established * * *.'' The U.S. sugar production estimate for FY 96, released on June 12, 1996, in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE), was reduced by 130,000 short tons raw value (STRV) to 7.34 million STRV from the WASDE production forecast released on April 11, 1996. During this same period, the U.S. sugar ending stocks estimate declined by 344,000 STRV, to 1.31 million STRV. Both the current season-to-date (October 1 through June 11) average domestic wholesale refined sugar price (28.75 cents per pound), and the raw cane sugar price (22.62 cents per pound) are at their highest average in over five years.

Paragraph (b)(i) of U.S. additional note 5 proves that ''[t]he quota amounts established [by the Secretary] may be allocated among supplying countries and areas by the United States Trade Representative.''

Notice

Notice is hereby given that I have determined, in accordance with paragraph (a)(ii) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS, that an aggregate quantity of up to 2,167,195 metric tons, raw value, of raw cane sugar described in subheading 1701.11.10 of the HTS may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during the period from October 1, 1995 through September 30, 1996.

This modified quota amount will be allocated among supplying countries and areas by the United States Trade Representative.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on July 10, 1996.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 96–18089 Filed 7–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–M

Forest Service

Long Draw Salvage Timber Sale, Okanogan National Forest, Okanogan County, Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposal to salvage dead and dying timber in the Long Draw analysis area. The Long Draw Salvage project includes: A salvage timber sale of dead, dying and live trees in stands at risk to insect caused mortality; closure of a road; construction and reconstruction of roads; and a prescribed burn of shrub and grass lands to decrease shrub cover and invigorate native species. The EIS will develop and evaluate a range of alternatives for management of the resources in the project area. the alternatives will include the No Action alternative, involving no timber harvest or road construction, and alternatives in response to issues identified during the scoping process. The proposed action in consistent with the direction in the 1989 Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), as amended, which provides the overall guidance for management of the area. The majority of the project area lies within the Long Draw and Long Swamp Roadless Areas. Implementation of the proposal is scheduled for Fiscal Year 1997. The agency invites written comments on this project. In addition,

the agency gives notice of this environmental analysis so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the decision making process.

DATES: Comments concerning this proposal must be received by August 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to John Townsley, Project Coordinator, Okanogan National Forest Supervisors Office, 1240 S. Second Avenue, Okanogan, Washington 98840, telephone: 509–826–3568.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Direct questions about the proposed action and environmental analysis to John Townsley, Project Coordinator, Okanogan National Forest Supervisors Office, 1240 S. Second Avenue, Okanogan, Washington 98840, telephone: 509–826–3568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Long Draw analysis area consists of approximately 13,300 acres of primarily forested lands. The area is located 25 miles west of Tonasket, Washington, in the Toats Coulee watershed. Forest types include: Lodgepole pine; Englemann spruce; subalpine fir; mixed aspen/conifer; and mixed Douglas-fir/western larch forest. Since the late 1980s, lodgepole pine stands have experienced increasing tree mortality from a mountain pine beetle epidemic. It is estimated that of the 13,300 acres within the Long Draw analysis area boundary, over 9,000 acres have been attacked by the mountain pine beetle, throughout the project area, and have differing amounts of mortality. Mountain pine beetle attacks and kills lodgepole pine trees generally six inches in diameter or larger. Trees of this size, growing in crowded, overstocked conditions, are most at risk. The epidemic is expected to continue until all or most of the suitable host trees are killed.

The Analysis Area is allocated to the following Management Areas:

—Approximately 56 percent is in Management Area 5 which is designed to provide opportunities for recreation and viewing scenery in a roaded natural setting with a retention or partial retention scenic quality objective.

—Approximately 44 percent is in Management Area 12 which is designed to provide habitat to support a stable lynx population over the long term while accessing the area for the purpose of growing and producing merchantable wood fiber.

—Less than 1 percent is in Management Area 17 which is designed to provide a variety of developed recreation opportunities in a roaded setting.

Scoping for this project began in November 1995, and continued throughout development of an environmental assessment (EA) which was issued on June 21, 1996. In November 1995, a proposed action was mailed to interested individuals. This proposed action was based on preliminary information, with no detailed analysis. As a result of scoping and detailed analysis, a revised proposed action was developed. An EA was sent to the public on June 21, 1996. The Forest also hosted an open house in Seattle and a field trip to the analysis area to discuss the proposed action.

On July 2, 1996, Secretary of Agriculture Glickman issued direction that ‘‘No salvage sale in inventoried roadless areas may go forward using authorities in section 2001(b) of Public Law 104–19, except * * * [where] trees ‘imminently susceptible to fire’ are located in areas with high fuel loading or where there is a high fire risk rating for a specific habitat type, and near local communities or occupied structures.’’ Since the Long Draw area does not meet all of these elements and the Long Draw Salvage Timber Sale project is expected to have significant effects on the roadless character in the Long Draw and Long Swamp Roadless Areas, this environmental analysis will be documented in an EIS.

This EIS will tier to the Forest Plan as amended. The amended Forest Plan provides forest-wide standards and guidelines, management area standards and guidelines, and desired future conditions for the various lands on the Forest. This direction is provided for management practices that will be utilized during the implementation of the Forest Plan.

The Long Draw Salvage Timber Sale would salvage 1,129 acres of dead, dying, and live trees at risk of insect caused mortality, while maintaining adequate connectivity for lynx. Salvage would be done with regeneration and commercial thinning harvest methods, and would use ground-based logging systems. Approximately 15.7 miles of new road would be constructed, approximately 10.6 miles of road would be reconstructed, and approximately 0.4 miles of road would be closed.

The following issues have been identified in this proposed project: unroaded and undeveloped character of the area; salvage of dead and dying timber; economics; soils; inland fisheries, existing and future fire risk; wilderness; recreational opportunities; wildlife; forest health; and the cumulative effects of Federal and non-Federal actions.

The analysis will develop a range of alternatives from the No Action alternative to alternatives with varying degrees of timber harvest and road construction.

Public participation has been an important part of this analysis process, and will continue to be. The Forest Service has sought and will continue to seek information, comments, and assistance from other Federal, State and local agencies, and tribes, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed project. This input has been and will be used in the preparation of the draft and final EISs.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in August, 1996. Your comments and suggestions are encouraged and should be in writing. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of their opportunity to participate, and of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EISs 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 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 F2d. 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 be meaningfully considered and responded to in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues about 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.

The final EIS is scheduled for completion in January 1997. 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 a decision regarding the proposal. Sam Gehr, Forest Supervisor, Okanogan National Forest, is the responsible official. The responsible official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in the Record of Decision, which will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: July 10, 1996.

Maureen T. Hyzer,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96–18103 Filed 7–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

Notice; Solicitation of Business Development Center Applications for Boston

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate the Boston Minority Business Development Center (MBDC).

The purpose of the MBDC Program is to provide business development assistance to persons who are members of groups determined by MBDA to be socially or economically disadvantaged, and to business concerns owned and controlled by such individuals. To this end, MBDA funds organizations to identify and coordinate public and private sector resources on behalf of minority individuals and firms; to offer a full range of client services to minority entrepreneurs; and to serve as a conduit of information and assistance regarding minority business. The MBDC will provide service in the Boston, Massachusetts Metropolitan Area. The award number of the MBDC will be 01–10–96002–01.

DATES: The closing date for applications is August 21, 1996. Applications must be received in the MBDA Headquarters' Executive Secretariat on or before August 21, 1996. A pre-application conference will he held on Tuesday, July 23, 1996, at 11:00 a.m., at the New York Regional Office, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 3720, New York, New York.

Proper identification is required for entrance into any Federal Building.

ADDRESSES: Completed application packages should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, MBDA Executive Secretariat, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 5073, Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION PACKAGE, CONTACT: Heyward Davenport, Regional Director, at (212) 264–3262

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Interim Final Policy published in the Federal Register on May 31, 1996, the cost-share requirement for the MBDCs listed in this notice has been increased to 40%. The Department of Commerce will fund up to 60% of the total cost of operating an MBDC on an annual basis. The MBDC operator is required to contribute at least 40% of the total project cost (the "cost-share requirement").

Cost-sharing contributions may be in the form of cash, client fees, third party in-kind contributions, non-cash applicant contributions or combinations thereof. In addition to the traditional sources of an MBDC's cost-share contribution, the 40% may be contributed by local, state and private sector organizations. It is anticipated that some organizations may apply jointly for an award to operate the center. For administrative purposes, one organization must be designated as the recipient organization.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first budget period (13 months) from October 1, 1996 to October 31, 1997, is estimated at $314,778. The total Federal amount is $188,867 and is composed of $184,260 plus the Audit Fee amount of $4,607. The application must include a minimum cost share of 40%, $125,911 in non-federal (cost-sharing) contributions for a total project cost of $314,778.

The funding instrument for this project will be a cooperative agreement. If the recommended applicant is the current incumbent organization, the award will be for 12 months. For those applicants who are not incumbent organizations or who are incumbents that have experienced closure due to a break in service, a 30-day start-up period will be added to their first budget period, making it a 13-month award. Competition is open to individuals, non-profit and for-profit organizations, state and local governments, American Indian tribes and educational institutions.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria: the knowledge, background and/or capabilities of the firm and its staff in addressing the needs of the business community in general and, specifically, the special needs of minority businesses, individuals and organizations (45 points), the resources available to the firm in providing business development services (10 points); the firm's approach (techniques and methodologies) to performing the work requirements included in the application (25 points); and the firm's estimated cost for providing such assistance (20 points). In accordance with Interim Final Policy published in the Federal Register on May 31, 1996, the scoring system will be revised to add ten (10) bonus points to the application of community-based organizations. Each qualifying application will receive the full ten points. Community-based applicant organizations are those organizations whose headquarters and/or principal place of business within the last five years have been located within the geographic service area designated in the solicitation for the award. Where an applicant organization has been in existence for fewer than five years or has been present in the geographic service area for few than five years, the individual years of experience of the applicant organization's principals may be applied toward the requirement of five years of organization experience. The individual years of experience must have been acquired in the geographic service area which is the subject of the solicitation. An application must receive at least 70% of the points assigned to each evaluation criteria category to be considered programmatically acceptable and responsive. Those applications determined to be acceptable and responsive will then be evaluated by the Director of MBDA. Final award selections shall be based on the number of points received, the demonstrated responsibility of the applicant, and the determination of those most likely to further the purpose of the MBDA program. Negative audit findings and recommendations and unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for award. The applicant