

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 Environment Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: December 15, 1998.

Mark J. Madrid,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-33695 Filed 12-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rio Sabana Day Use Picnic Area, Caribbean National Forest, Naguabo, Puerto Rico; Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice; extension of time for submitting scoping comments.

SUMMARY: Due to the passing of Hurricane Georges over the island of Puerto Rico, on September 21st, 1998, the Forest Service is extending the time for submitting scoping comments concerning the environmental analysis for the Rio Sabana Day Use Picnic Area, on the Caribbean National Forest. Additionally, this notice corrects the location of the proposed project site, as published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, September 18th, 1998, Vol. 63, No. 181. The location of project site should read as follows: from entrance gate at Highway #191, Km. 21.3 to project site, Km. 20.0, in the Cubuy sector of the Municipality of Naguabo. **DATES:** (a) Comments to be incorporated into the draft environmental impact statement should be received by January 8th 1999 to ensure timely consideration. (b) Comments to be incorporated into the final environmental impact statement should be received 45 days following the publication of Notice of Availability of the draft environmental impact statement, approximately the first week of March 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Abigail Rivera, Team Leader; Caribbean National Forest, P.O. Box 490, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Abigail Rivera, Rio Sabana Picnic Area EIS Team Leader, 787 888-5643.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Caribbean National Forest is proposing: (a) to develop a day use picnic area located in the vicinity of the Rio Sabana Bridge, on the southern end of Highway #191, at Km. 20.0, in the Cubuy Sector of the Municipality of Naguabo; (b) the rehabilitation of 2.5 miles of the Rio Sabana Trail #6 and trailhead; (c) repair and reconstruction of 0.8 miles of entrance road, located on Hwy. #191, Km. 21.3, to project site. Km. 20.0; Currently, the area has not been developed for recreation but receives heavy use. This use, coupled with a sensitive ecosystem in which it is located, gives rise to a potential conflict between the need to protect and conserve natural resources and the need to provide a well managed natural setting where our customers can enjoy a satisfying recreational experience.

On April 13, 1992, U.S. District Judge Guierbolini permanently enjoined and restrained the U.S. Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration from proceeding with construction activities on the closed portion of Highway P.R. #191, from Km. 13.5 to Km. 20, until completion of an environmental impact statement. The proposed project is located on a segment of Hwy. #191 that is outside of the area under court order.

The proposed action would meet the objectives of: (a) correcting the current managerial situation and social settings in relation to the physical setting and actual use; (b) protect the natural resources in the vicinity; (c) increase Forest Service presence on the southern end of the Forest, which currently is minimal.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The U.S. Forest Service will be the lead agency and the Puerto Rico Department of Public Transportation (DTOP) will be a cooperating agency.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during analysis. The first point is when scoping officially begins (40 dCFR 1501.7). The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by

the proposed action. Comments must be received by *January 8th, 1999*. This input will be used in preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The scoping process will include: (1) Identifying potential issues; (2) Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth; (3) Eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process; (4) Exploring additional alternatives; (5) Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions). Public participation will include notifying interested and affected publics of the proposed action in person and/or by mail. News releases will be used to provide general notice to the public.

The following preliminary issues have been identified through internal scoping: (1) Possible effects of development of picnic area and reconstruction of Rd. #191 on the threatened and endangered species identified in the project area; (2) Possible effects on natural resources due to an increase in visitors to picnic area and trail; (3) Reconstruction of the historic CCC Rio Sabana Trail, which connects with the Tradewinds/El Toro Trail, may generate greater use than is allowed in the proposed Wilderness Management Area; (4) Security issues in the area in relation to 24-hour presence of Forest Service hosts of volunteers; (5) Potential hazards to Forest users caused by a nearby water impoundment and transmission facility, located on private land.

A draft environmental impact statement is expected to be available for public review, for 45 days, in *February 1999*.

It is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate at that time. Upon release of the draft environmental impact statement, project for *February 1999* reviewers should 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, (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). 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.)

After the comment period on the draft environmental impact statement ends, the 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 May 1999. The Responsible Official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final environmental impact statement, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in a Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 215.

The Responsible Official is: Pablo Cruz, Forest Supervisor, Caribbean National Forest, P.O. Box 490, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721.

Dated: November 23, 1998.

Pablo Cruz,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-33650 Filed 12-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Cancellation of Designation Issued to Patricia A. Walker and Stephen A. Walker d.b.a. Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection and Opportunity for Designation in the Northeast Indiana Area

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection (Northeast Indiana), asked GIPSA to end their designation as soon as possible. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Northeast Indiana area to submit an application for designation.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before January 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M.

Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604.

Applications may be submitted by FAX on 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, 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, SW, during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 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 the GIPSA Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that such applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Northeast Indiana, main office located in Hoagland, Indiana, to provide official inspection services, under the Act on January 1, 1997.

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 designation of Northeast Indiana is scheduled to end on December 31, 2000. However, Northeast Indiana asked GIPSA to end its designation as soon as possible.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Indiana, is assigned to Northeast Indiana.

Bounded on the North by the northern Lagrange and Steuben County lines;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Steuben, De Kalb, Allen, and Adams County lines;

Bounded on the South by the southern Adams and Wells County lines; and

Bounded on the West by the western Wells County line; the southern Huntington and Wabash County lines; the western Wabash County line north to State Route 114; State Route 114 northwest to State Route 19; State Route 19 north to Kosciusko County; the western and northern Kosciusko County lines; the western Noble and Lagrange County lines.

The following grain elevator, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, is part of this

geographic area assignment: E. M. P. Grain, Payne, Paulding County, Ohio (located inside Michigan Grain Inspection Services, Inc.'s, area).

Interested persons are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic area specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder.

Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

Applications and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

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

Dated: December 11, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-33683 Filed 12-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Meeting

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has scheduled its regular business meetings to take place in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 12-13, 1999, at the times and location noted below.

DATES: The schedule of events is as follows:

Tuesday, January 12, 1999

9:00-Noon and 1:30-3:30 p.m.—Committee of the Whole—Accessibility Guidelines (Closed Meeting).

3:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.—Planning and Budget Committee.

Wednesday, January 13, 1999

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.—Technical Programs Committee.

10:30 a.m.—Noon—Executive Committee.

1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.—Board Meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at: Washington Renaissance, 999 9th Street, NW., Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the meetings, please contact Lawrence W.