

Secretary of Agriculture's Cotton Import Quota Announcement	HTS sub-heading	News release date	Quota start date	90-Day purchase date	180-Day import date	Quota amount (kilograms)	3-Month consumption base period
Number 15 .....	9903.52.15	6/03/99	6/10/99	9/07/99	12/06/99	42,690,963	February–April 1999.
Number 16 .....	9903.52.16	6/10/99	6/17/99	9/14/99	12/13/99	42,690,963	February–April 1999.
Number 17 .....	9903.52.17	6/17/99	6/24/99	9/21/99	12/20/99	42,690,963	February–April 1999.
Number 18 .....	9903.52.18	6/24/99	7/1/99	9/28/99	12/27/99	42,388,357	March–May 1999.
Number 19 .....	9903.52.19	7/1/99	7/8/99	10/5/99	1/3/00	42,388,357	March–May 1999.
Number 20 .....	9903.52.20	7/8/99	7/15/99	10/12/99	1/10/004	42,388,357	March–May 1999.

Each special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to extra long staple cotton.

**Authority:** Sec. 136, P.L. 104–127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on July 26, 1999.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 99–19673 Filed 7–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Mining Activities on Piru Creek, Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, CA; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for approval of proposed Plans of Operation for mining activities along Piru Creek from Lockwood Flat to Pyramid Lake on the Mount Pinos Ranger District. Management emphases in the Los Padres National Forest Land Resources Management Plan (1988) are to improve water quality, vegetative diversity, and to protect property and cultural resources. Management emphasis for the project area is to manage as a potential Wild and Scenic River candidate.

Potential resource issues which may affect alternative development include the presence of riparian-dependent sensitive amphibians and reptiles; the presence of an amphibian species which is listed as endangered; sensitive heritage resources; water quality; conflicts in recreational uses of Piru Creek; inclusion of Piru Creek into the

Wild and Scenic River System; maintaining biodiversity; and protecting the sensitive riparian ecosystem.

The California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are invited to participate as cooperative agencies to evaluate potential impacts on threatened and endangered species habitat. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board are invited to participate in resolving issues that deal with water quality. Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as industry; and other individual and organizations who may be interested in or affected by the decision, were invited to participate in the scoping process that was initiated during the fall of 1993 and completed in the spring of 1994. This process included:

1. Identification of potential issues and/or concerns.
2. Identification of issues to be identified in depth.
3. Identification of issues which may be eliminated from further analysis.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review and comment by October of 1999. EPA will publish a notice of availability for the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period will be 45 days from the date of the EPA's published notice of availability. All persons interested in the proposed project are urged to participate at that time. Comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the EIS or the merits of the alternatives considered. In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's positions and contentions. Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft EIS review stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. The reason for this is to ensure that

substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service in a timely manner so that the agency can respond to them in the final EIS.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by April, 2000. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received from the public and consulted agencies. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, laws, regulations and policies in making a decision regarding these project proposals. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to appeal.

Jeanine Derby, Forest Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest, Goleta, CA, is the responsible official. Written comments, questions, and suggestions concerning the analysis should be sent to Mark Bethke, District Ranger, Mount Pinos Ranger District, 34580 Lockwood Valley road, Frazier Park, California 93225, (phone 661–245–3731).

Dated: June 25, 1999.

**Jeanine A. Derby,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99–19645 Filed 7–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of additional public meetings related to the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement each month, September through December 1999.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Regions 4 and 5 announce additional public meetings at the Sacramento, California office of the Sierra Nevada Framework Project on the first Wednesday of each month, September through December,

1999. Previously scheduled meetings included those held each month from May through July, 1999 and the upcoming meeting scheduled for August 4, 1999, 1:00–3:00 p.m. The Forest Service scheduled these public meetings to inform interested people about its progress in the development of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement and to provide information about other Sierra Nevada Framework activities.

In response to continued public interest in the Sierra Nevada Framework Project activities, additional meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month, September through December 1999. *Public meetings* will be held at the Sierra Nevada Framework Project Office, 801 I Street, Sacramento, California, 95814, Room 484 as follows: *Wednesday, September 1, 1999, 1:00–4:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, October 6, 1999, 1:00–4:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999, 1:00–4:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, December 1, 1999, 1:00–4:00 p.m.*

In response to public interest, the September public meeting will conclude with a discussion of the modeling design of fire behavior, fuel loading and fire effects.

In addition to the public meetings, the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region and Research Station are convening “science workshops” in which the public is invited to hear diverse science perspectives on the condition and management of Sierra Nevada ecosystems. Along with hearing from scientists, the public will be provided an opportunity to dialogue with scientists about concerns and possible approaches to management practices in Sierra Nevada ecosystems.

The first science workshop to discuss Sierra Nevada old-forest ecosystems is scheduled for *August 24 and 25, 1999, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.* each day, in *Freeborn Hall, University of California, Davis*. Additional science workshops are tentatively planned for aquatic, riparian and meadow ecosystems, September, 1999, Fresno, California; and assessment of environmental consequences of proposed management activities, October, 1999, Reno, Nevada.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please see the USDA Forest Service Region 5 World Wide Web site [www.r5.fs.fed.us](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us) or contact USDA Forest Service, Sierra Nevada Framework Project, Room 419, 801 “I” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; phone number 916–492–7554; TTY via PacBell relay (800) 735–2929.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region and the Pacific Southwest Research Station are integrating new science into management of the national forests of California. The effort is called the Sierra Nevada Framework Project. One objective of the Framework Project is to amend forest plans in conformance with the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will amend national forest plans for the Humboldt-Toiyabe, Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, Eldorado, Stanislaus, Sierra, Sequoia, and Inyo National Forest, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Other activities of the Framework Project involve improving long-term cooperation and coordination among the Forest Service, tribes, local governments, state and federal agencies.

On November 20, 1998, the Region published a Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** identifying five problem areas to address in an Environmental Impact Statement: old forest ecosystems; aquatic, riparian and meadow ecosystems; fire and fuels management; noxious weeds; and, lower westside hardwood ecosystems. Prior to drafting the Notice of Intent, the Pacific Southwest Region and Pacific Southwest Research Station reviewed recent science and gathered public comment and related information during a series of 37 community workshops throughout the Sierra and other locations in California and Nevada. Publication of the Notice of Intent initiated a 60-day opportunity for public comment, including 27 additional community workshops. To date, the Forest Service has received nearly 3500 comments via letters, postcards, and e-mail. Response to these comments is integrated into the alternatives being developed to address the five problem areas.

In response to the significant public interest in the development of alternatives, the Forest Service is making available summary descriptions of alternatives that may appear in the draft EIS. The Forest Service is not soliciting public comment on these preliminary drafts, but is making them available so people may be better prepared to comment on the draft EIS when it is published.

At present, several alternatives are being developed by the Forest Service. These alternatives reflect extensive public comment and suggestions, as well as recent scientific information. To view summaries of these draft alternatives, please see the USDA Forest

Service Region 5 World Wide Web site [www.r5.fs.fed.us](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us) or contact USDA Forest Service, Sierra Nevada Framework Project, 801 I Street, Room 419, Sacramento, CA 95814 to receive a copy by mail.

Dated: July 26, 1999.

**Kent P. Connaughton,**  
*Deputy Regional Forester.*

[FR Doc. 99–19631 Filed 7–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Squirrel Meadows-Grand Targhee Resort Land Exchange Targhee National Forest, Teton County, WY**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Revision of the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Squirrel Meadows-Grand Targhee Resort Land Exchange as published in the **Federal Register** page 54039 to 54040 on October 17, 1997 (Vol. 62, No. 200). This revision includes a change of the Responsible Official, acres of land to be exchanged by both parties, and project schedule.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposed land exchange with Booth Creek, Inc., dba Grant Targhee Resort.

This revised Notice of Intent is to document some minor changes in the process.

- In the original NOI, the tentative date for filing the Draft EIS was May of 1998 and the Final EIS was scheduled for December, 1998. Due to the gathering of additional social and economic information and the creation of additional design concepts, the Draft EIS is not scheduled to be filed in August, 1999, and the final EIS about April of 2000.

- The original Responsible Official was the Regional Forester, Intermountain Region. The Responsible Official now is Jerry B. Reese, Forest Supervisor, Targhee and Caribou National Forests, 420 N. Bridge St, St. Anthony, Idaho 83445.

- The original NOI proposed exchanging up to 265 acres of NFS lands for 330 acres of private ground. The alternatives now is considered in the analysis propose exchanging up to 195 acres of NFS land for approximately 385 acres of private land.

**DATES:** These changes are minor and no formal comment period will be initiated.