

habitats. These MIS species include California wolverine, North American lynx, Rocky Mountain elk, marten, pileated woodpecker, goshawk, bald eagle and American peregrine falcon. Fish species within the planning area include native populations of inland redband/rainbow trout, brook trout; and other non-game species such as dace, reidside shiner, and sucker.

Preliminary issues include: (1) The effects of livestock grazing on riparian conditions (including water quality, water temperature and stream bank stability); (2) the ability to maintain ecological sustainability and continue watershed restoration with continued livestock grazing; (3) the effects of no grazing or reduced grazing on the local economy; (4) the reduction in soil productivity and in amounts of native bunchgrass forage due to the encroachment of juniper trees onto rangelands; and (5) the effects of livestock grazing on TES species.

A detailed public involvement plan has been developed, and an interdisciplinary team has been selected to do the environmental analysis, prepare and accomplish scoping and public involvement activities.

The proposed action is intended to provide the analysis needed to prepare new AMPs that meet all the Forest Plan amended requirements of Inland Native Strategies for Managing Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, Western Montana and Portions of Nevada (INFISH) and are consistent with the scientific findings of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Program (ICBEMP). Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), will be completed on all proposed activities.

Public involvement will be especially important at several points during the analysis, beginning with the scoping process. The Forest Service will be consulting with Indian Tribes and seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, tribes, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposals. The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying and clarifying issues.
2. Identifying key issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Exploring alternatives based on themes which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
4. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposals and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

5. Determining potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

6. Developing a list of interested people to keep apprised of opportunities to participate through meetings, personal contacts, or written comments.

7. Developing a means of informing the public through the media and/or written material (e.g., newsletters, correspondence, etc.).

Public comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for public review by September 1999. 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 final EIS is scheduled to be available March 2000.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of this early stage of public participation and of several court rulings related to public participation the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS 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 have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the court if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. *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). 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 substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on 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 statement. 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.)

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive 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. The Responsible Official is Karyn L. Wood, Forest Supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR Part 215.

Dated: February 9, 1999.

William R. Gast,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-3936 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Joseph Creek Range Planning on the Wallowa Valley Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Wallowa County, Oregon

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) to update range management planning on 11 livestock grazing allotments and 1 administrative horse pasture which will result in the development of new Allotment Management Plans. The grazing allotments are named Al-Cunningham, Cougar Creek, Crow Creek, Davis Creek, Fine, Hunting Camp, Swamp Creek, Table Mountain, Joseph Creek, Dobbins, and Elk Mountain and the administrative horse pasture is named Upper Chico. The allotments are located 70 miles north and east of LaGrande, Oregon. The allotments, combined, are called the Joseph Creek Range Planning Area. National Forest System lands within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, will be considered in the proposal. Management actions are planned to be implemented beginning in the year 2000. The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they may participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by March 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal to Jimmy Roberts, District Ranger, Wallowa Valley Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest 88401 Hwy 82, Enterprise, Oregon 97828.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the proposed action and EIS to Paul Bridges, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Baker Ranger District, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814, phone (541) 523-1950.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is to continue to permit livestock grazing on National Forest System lands. The proposed action is designed to continue the improving trends in vegetation, watershed conditions, and ecological sustainability relative to livestock grazing within the eleven allotments and one administrative horse pasture all located in the South Joseph Creek Watershed. The action is needed to develop new Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) which incorporate results of recent scientific research, analysis and documentation at the sub-basin level.

The Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plan as amended, recognized the continuing need for forage production from the Forest and recognized the 11 allotments and 1 administrative pasture within the Joseph Creek watershed as containing lands which are capable and suitable for grazing by domestic livestock. This action is needed to continue this historic use. The allotments encompass approximately 95,555 acres of National Forest System lands in the Joseph Creek Watershed. The Range Planning Area also contains private and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within its boundary.

Anadromous streams occur in all of the allotments and provide spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River Chinook salmon and Snake River summer steelhead. Chinook salmon were listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1992, and the summer steelhead in 1997. Range management practices within the allotments have been modified to address concerns for the listed fish species and their habitat. These modifications resulted in implementation of projects designed to protect streams such as fences, new water developments to draw cattle away from riparian areas, and adjustments in season of use to protect spawning populations of steelhead.

Within the Joseph Creek Range Planning Area, Joseph Creek is designated as a Wild and Scenic River and is managed under the Forest Plan to maintain the river's outstandingly remarkable values. The range planning area is used by recreationists for numerous activities, with several campgrounds, trailheads and dispersed recreation sites receiving use. Joseph Canyon Viewpoint, an interpretive site describing significant events in Nez Perce Tribal history, is located in Joseph Creek allotment.

The Joseph Creek Range Planning Area provides habitat for many wildlife species including management indicator species (MIS) and their habitats. These MIS species include California wolverine, North American lynx, Rocky Mountain elk, marten, pileated woodpecker, goshawk, bald eagle and American peregrine falcon.

Preliminary issues include: (1) The effects of livestock grazing on riparian conditions (including water quality, water temperature and stream bank stability); (2) the ability to maintain ecological sustainability and continue watershed restoration with continued livestock grazing; (3) the effects of no grazing or reduced grazing on the local economy; and (4) the effects of livestock grazing on TES species.

A detailed public involvement plan has been developed, and an interdisciplinary team has been selected to do the environmental analysis, prepare and accomplish scoping and public involvement activities.

The proposed action is intended to provide the analysis needed to prepare new AMPs that meet all the Forest Plan amended requirements of Interim strategies for managing Pacific anadromous fish-producing watersheds in eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and portions of California (PACFISH), Inland Native Strategies for Managing Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, Western Montana, and Portions of Nevada (INFISH) and are consistent with the scientific findings of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Program (ICBEMP). Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required under the ESA, will be completed for all proposed activities.

Public involvement will be especially important at several points during the analysis, beginning with the scoping process. The Forest Service will be consulting with Indian Tribes and seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, tribes, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested

in or affected by the proposals. The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying and clarifying issues.
2. Identifying key issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Exploring alternatives based on themes which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
4. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposals and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).
5. Determining potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.
6. Developing a list of interested people to keep apprised of opportunities to participate through meetings, personal contacts, or written comments.
7. Developing a means of informing the public through the media and/or written material (e.g., newsletters, correspondence, etc.).

Public comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for public review by September 1999. 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 final EIS is scheduled to be available March 2000.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of this early stage of public participation and of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS 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 have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the court if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334 (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 substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on 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 statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternative 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.)

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive 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. The Responsible Official is Karyn L. Wood, Forest Supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR Part 215.

Dated: February 9, 1999.

William R. Gast,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-3937 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation Amendment for Southern Illinois To Provide Official Services in the Alton, Illinois Area

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the United States Grain Standards Act, we have amended the designation of Southern Illinois Grain Inspection Services, Inc. (Southern Illinois), to include the former Alton, Illinois, area.

DATES: Effective on February 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 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.

In the September 2, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 46246), GIPSA announced the designation of Southern Illinois to provide official inspection services under the Act effective October 1, 1997, and ending September 30, 2000. Southern Illinois asked GIPSA to amend their geographic area to include the former Alton, Illinois, area, due to the purchase of the designated corporation, Alton Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Alton).

Section 7A(c)(2) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate an agency to provide official services within a specified geographic area, if such agency is qualified under Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act. GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act, and determined that Southern Illinois is qualified.

GIPSA announces designation of Southern Illinois to provide official inspection services under the Act, in the former Alton, Illinois, area effective February 2, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000, concurrently with the end of Southern Illinois' current designation.

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

Bounded on the East by the eastern Cumberland County line; the eastern Jasper County line south to State Route 33; State Route 33 east-southeast to the Indiana-Illinois State line; the Indiana-Illinois State line south to the southern Gallatin County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern Gallatin, Saline, and Williamson County lines; the southern Jackson County line west to U.S. Route 51; U.S. Route 51 north to State Route 13; State Route 13 northwest to State Route 149; State Route 149 west to State Route 3; State Route 3 northwest to State Route 51; State Route 51 south to the Mississippi River; and

Bounded on the West by the Mississippi River north to the northern Calhoun County line;

Bounded on the North by the northern and eastern Calhoun County lines; the northern and eastern Jersey County lines; the northern Madison County line; the western Montgomery County line north to a point on this line that intersects with a straight line, from the junction of State Route 111 and the northern Macoupin County line to the junction of Interstate 55 and State Route 16 (in Montgomery County); from this

point southeast along the straight line to the junction of Interstate 55 and State Route 16; State Route 16 east-northeast to a point approximately 1 mile northeast of Irving; a straight line from this point to the northern Fayette County line; the northern Fayette, Effingham, and Cumberland County lines.

Effective February 2, 1999, Southern Illinois' present geographic area is amended to include the area formerly assigned to Alton. Southern Illinois' designation to provide official inspection services ends September 30, 2000. Official services may be obtained by contacting Southern Illinois at 618-632-1921.

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

Dated: February 9, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 99-3960 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

The Director's Advisory Committee; Notice of Closed Meetings

February 5, 1999.

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2 section 10(a)(2) (1996), the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) announces the following Advisory Committee meetings:

Name: The Director's Advisory Committee (DirAC).

Dates and Places: February 22-23, 1999, State Department Building, 320 21st Street, NW., Room 5930, Washington, DC 20451; February 24, 1999, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri; March 11-12, 1999, State Department Building, 320 21st Street, NW., Room 5930, Washington, DC 20451.

Type of Meetings: Closed.

Contact: Robert Sherman, Executive Director, Director's Advisory Committee, Room 5844, Washington, DC 20451, (202) 647-4622.

Purpose of Advisory Committee: To advise the President, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with respect to scientific, technical, and policy matters affecting arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament.

Purpose of the Meetings: The Committee will review specific arms control, nonproliferation, and verification issues. Members will be briefed on current U.S. policy and issues regarding negotiations such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Members will also be briefed on issues regarding the Chemical and Biological