

(3) To what extent can forest health be improved within the project area? In addition, what level of timber commodities could result from forest health improvement projects?

(4) To what extent will the view from Sugar Pine Reservoir be affected? What will the visual character be resulting from the proposed activities?

(5) What affect will the proposed activities have on long-term soil productivity?

(6) to what extent will air quality in the Sacramento Valley be affected by proposed activities?

(7) What affect will including harvest of <10" diameter trees have on the potential to sell harvested trees in a commercial timber sale?

Comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals who may be interested in, or affected by the decision, are encouraged to identify other significant issues. Public participation will be solicited through mailing letters to potentially interested or affected mining claim owners, private land owners, and special use permittees on the Foresthill Ranger District; posting information in local towns; and mailing letters to local timber industries, politicians, school boards, county supervisors, and environmental groups. Continued participation will be emphasized through individual contacts. Public meetings used as a method of public involvement during preparation and review of the draft environmental impact statement will be announced in newspapers of general circulation in the geographic area of such meetings well in advance of scheduled dates.

The comment period on the draft EIS 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, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS 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 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980).

Because of the 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 meaningfully consider them 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 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 draft EIS is expected to be available for public review by the end of July, 1997. The final EIS is expected to be available by the end of September, 1997.

The responsible official is John H. Skinner, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, PO Box 6003, Nevada City, CA 95959.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

John H. Skinner,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-14231 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Fostoria (OH), Pocatello (ID), Lewiston (ID), and Utah Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designations of Fostoria Grain Inspection, Inc. (Fostoria), Idaho Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Pocatello), Lewiston Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Lewiston), and the Utah Department of Agriculture will end November 30, 1997, according to the Act. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Fostoria,

Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah areas to submit an application for designation.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before July 1, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., 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, S.W., during regular business hours.

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.

Section 7(f)(1) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Fostoria, main office located in Fostoria, Ohio; Pocatello, main office located in Pocatello, Idaho; Lewiston, main office located in Lewiston, Idaho; and Utah, main office located in Ogden, Utah, to provide official inspection services under the Act on December 1, 1994.

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 designations of Fostoria, Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah end on November 30, 1997, according to the Act.

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

Bounded on the North by the northern and eastern Fulton County lines; the eastern Henry County line; the northern and eastern Wood County lines; the northern Sandusky County line east to State Route 590;

Bounded on the East by State Route 590 south to Seneca County; the northern Seneca County line east to State Route 53; State Route 53 south to Wyandot County; the northern Wyandot County line; the northern Crawford

County line east to State Route 19; State Route 19 south to U.S. Route 30;

Bounded on the South by U.S. Route 30 west to the western Hancock County line; and

Bounded on the West by the western Hancock County line; the southern Henry County line west to State Route 108; State Route 108 north to U.S. Route 24; U.S. Route 24 southwest to the Henry County line; the western Henry and Fulton County lines.

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

The southern half of the State of Idaho up to the northern boundaries of Adams, Valley, and Lemhi Counties.

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

The northern half of the State of Idaho down to the northern boundaries of Adams, Valley, and Lemhi Counties.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Utah, is assigned to Utah.

Interested persons, including Fostoria, Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah, are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder. Designation in the Fostoria, Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah areas is for the period beginning December 1, 1997, and ending November 30, 2000. 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: May 20, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 97-13975 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designations for the Jamestown (ND), Sioux City (IA), and Tischer (IA), Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Grain Inspection, Inc. (Jamestown), Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company (Sioux City), and A. V. Tischer and Son, Inc. (Tischer), to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 1997.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, 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 January 2, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 91), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by January 31, 1997. Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer were the only applicants for the respective areas, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act; and according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 2000, Sioux City and Tischer are designated to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the January 2, 1997, **Federal Register**. Effective August 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 2000, Jamestown is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the January 2, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Jamestown at 701-252-1290, Sioux City at 712-255-8073, and Tischer at 515-955-7012.

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

Dated: May 20, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 97-13976 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

West Maricopa Watershed, Maricopa County, Arizona

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the West Maricopa Watershed, Maricopa County, Arizona.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Somerville, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85012, telephone (602) 280-8801.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. Based on evidence presented, Michael Somerville, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project proposes to reduce the potential for water quality impairment of the regional aquifer.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. Copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Wayne Killgore, Assistance State Conservationist for Water Resources, at the above address.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be