

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participation will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written scoping comments are being solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by September 30, 1997. Tentative issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project on and the relationship of the project to: Subsistence resources, old-growth ecosystem management and the maintenance of habitat for viable populations of wildlife and plant species, timber supply, scenery and recreational resources, anadromous and resident fish habitat, soil and water resources, wetlands, cultural resources and others.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives including a "no action" alternative will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The Draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 1998. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), are planned during the comment period on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is anticipated by April 1999.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement 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). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage 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 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 meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and 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 Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

Permits: Permits required for implementation include the following:

1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
 - Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
 - Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
2. Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (402) Permit;
 - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan;
3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
 - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
4. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification)

Responsible Official: Bradley E. Powell, Forest Supervisor, Ketchikan Area, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, response, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

Bradley E. Powell,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-21657 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of field tour.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on September 24, 1997, at the Wenatchee National Forest Supervisors Office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. The Provincial Advisory Committee members will meet at the Supervisors Office at 9:00 a.m., then proceed to the field tour in the Leavenworth Ranger District (Beehive and Mission Creek areas). The tour will end at 4:00 p.m. This field tour will focus on dry forest management projects. All Eastern Washington

Cascades Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-662-4335.

Dated: August 5, 1997.

Sonny J. O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Wenatchee National Forest.

[FR Doc. 97-21626 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on August 26 at the Illinois Valley Visitor Center in Cave Junction, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be primarily a field tour.

Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Marbled Murrelet habitat; (2) information management; (3) Regional Ecosystem Office presentation; (4) Forest Service and National Park local issues; (5) Oregon Caves tour; and (6) field stops for mining issues. All Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens need to contact Chuck Anderson ahead of time for this field trip.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chuck Anderson, Province Advisory Committee staff, USDA, Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 333 W. 8th Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, phone 541-858-2322.

Dated: August 7, 1997.

Charles J. Anderson,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 97-21663 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of field tour.

SUMMARY: The Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on September 25, 1997, at the Cle Elum Ranger District Office, 803 W. 2nd Street, Cle Elum, Washington. The Provincial Advisory Committee members will meet at the Ranger District Office at 9:00 a.m., then proceed to the field tour in the Swauk Creek drainage area. The tour will end at 4:00 p.m. This field tour will focus primarily on dry forest management projects. All Yakima Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-662-4335.

Dated: August 5, 1997.

Sonny J. O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Wenatchee National Forest.

[FR Doc. 97-21627 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

United States Standards for Whole Dry Peas, Split Peas, and Lentils

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice with Opportunity to Comment.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is proposing to revise the United States Standards for Whole Dry Peas, Split Peas and Lentils. Specifically, GIPSA is proposing to eliminate the classes Persian and Mixed lentils, and to establish a new class, Miscellaneous peas, and a new grading factor for lentils, Inconspicuous Admixture. GIPSA is proposing to change these standards to facilitate the marketing of peas and lentils.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to Sharon Vassiliades at

GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3649; faxed to (202) 720-4628; or e-mailed to svassili@fgisd.usda.gov.

All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

The current United States Standards for Whole Dry Peas, Split Peas and Lentils, along with the proposed changes, is available either through the above addresses or by accessing GIPSA's Home Page on the Internet at: www.usda.gov/gipsa/strulreg/standard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Sharon Vassiliades at (202) 720-1738.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *." GIPSA is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Whole Dry Peas, Split Peas and Lentils do not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

GIPSA is proposing to change the United States Standards for Whole Dry Peas, Split Peas and Lentils using the procedures it published in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 1997 (62 FR 6705). Specifically, GIPSA is proposing to eliminate the classes Persian and Mixed lentils, and to establish a new class, Miscellaneous peas, and a new grading factor for lentils, Inconspicuous Admixture.

GIPSA representatives are continually meeting with pea and lentil producers, processors, handlers, and merchandisers concerning the U.S. Standards for Whole Dry Peas, Split Peas, and Lentils in order to gain a better understanding of their views on changes needed to improve the existing standards. On the basis of comments received and other available information, GIPSA is proposing several changes to the standards.

Classes of Lentils

The present U.S. Standards for Lentils provide for three classes of lentils: Lentils, Persian Lentils, and Mixed