

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.

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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

Lentils. The class Lentils is defined as "All lentils of the Chilean type, with not more than 2.0 percent of Persian lentils." Persian lentils are defined as "All lentils of the Persian type, with not more than 2.0 percent of Chilean lentils." Mixed lentils are "Any mixture of lentils consisting predominately of Chilean lentils or of Persian lentils, which contains more than 2.0 percent of lentils other than those of the predominating class."

All lentils grown and marketed in the United States, regardless of their size, shape, or color, are considered to be of the Chilean type and classed as "Lentils." Furthermore, the class names "Persian lentils" and "Mixed lentils" are neither domestically nor internationally recognized terms. With the recent introduction of small-seeded Chilean types, there is an increased risk that such lentils may be misclassified as Persian lentils. This could confuse lentil importers and needlessly disrupt the market. To provide greater uniformity within the U.S. lentil standards, GIPSA is proposing to eliminate the classes Persian and Mixed lentils.

Inconspicuous Admixture

Lentils—like most other crops—are susceptible to field contamination by volunteer crops and weeds. Most such weeds can be controlled with herbicide solutions. However, even if reasonable measures are taken, some weed seeds, volunteer grain, and other undesirable plant material are usually harvested with the lentils. Small and large seeded weeds/grain can be easily removed from the thresher-run lentils (i.e., dockage) and seeds that are the same size as lentils can also be removed with relative ease (i.e., foreign material). But, seeds that are the same size, shape, and color as lentils are very difficult to virtually impossible to remove. Fortunately, packers, exporters, and end-users do not view seeds that closely mimic the appearance of lentils, such as *Vicia sativa* (commonly known as vetch, mimics, or rogue lentils), as being as detrimental to quality as dockage or foreign material. Hence, the U.S. lentil industry feels that such seeds should not be considered as foreign material, but as a separate factor.

The U.S. lentil industry is committed to quality and has encouraged producers to take all appropriate action to control the spread of lentil-mimics. To facilitate this process and to ensure that lentil quality is determined accurately, GIPSA is proposing to establish a new factor, Inconspicuous Admixture. This factor will be defined as "Any seed which is difficult to distinguish from a lentil,

including, but not limited to *Vicia sativa*."

U.S. Standards for Whole Dry Peas

The present U.S. Standards for Peas provide for five classes of peas: Smooth Green Dry peas, Smooth Yellow Dry peas, Wrinkled Dry peas, Winter Dry peas, and Mixed Dry peas. In recent years, several new types of peas have been developed or introduced that do not readily fit within any of the current classes. To better facilitate the marketing of these peas, GIPSA is proposing to revise the U.S. Standards for Whole Dry Peas to establish a new class, Miscellaneous peas. Accordingly, peas that are not otherwise classified in the standards would be classified and designated according to the commonly accepted commercial name for the pea, e.g., Marrowfat peas. These proposed standard changes were recommended to us and reviewed by the affected trade. Therefore, GIPSA is publishing these proposed standard changes with a 30-day comment period which will provide a sufficient amount of time for interested persons to comment on changes to the standards.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.

Dated: August 8, 1997.

James R. Baker,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-21570 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc.; Intent To Hold Public Workshops and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to conduct public scoping workshops and prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold public scoping workshops and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with possible RUS financing assistance relating to a project proposed by Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc. (Plains), of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The project consists of the construction, operation and maintenance of a 230 kV transmission line from a proposed substation near Gladstone in Colfax County, New Mexico, to the Walsenburg Substation in Huerfano County, Colorado.

DATES: RUS will conduct five public scoping workshops as follows:

September 17, 1997

4:00-8:00 p.m.—Walsenburg City Hall, 525 S. Albert Street, Walsenburg, Colorado 81089.

September 18, 1997

4:00-8:00 p.m.—Trinidad Community Center, 1309 Beashoar Drive, Trinidad, Colorado 81082.

September 22, 1997

4:00-8:00 p.m.—Holiday Inn, 473 Clayton Road, Raton, New Mexico 87740.

September 23, 1997

4:00-8:00 p.m.—Springer Electric Cooperative, 420 Maxwell Avenue, Springer, New Mexico 87747.

September 24, 1997

4:00-8:00 p.m.—Clayton Air Park Convention Center, Cedar Road, Clayton, New Mexico 88415.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis E. Rankin, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-1784, or Rick Precek, Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 6551, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197, telephone (505) 889-7207.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Plains is proposing to construct approximately 115 miles of 230 kV transmission line from a new substation near Gladstone in Colfax County, New Mexico, to the Walsenburg Substation in Huerfano County, Colorado.

Alternatives to be considered by RUS include no action, local generation, system alternatives, transmission alternatives and alternative routes.

Comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public scoping workshops or in writing no later than October 24, 1997, to RUS or Plains at the addresses provided in this notice.

Plains and its consultant have prepared an Alternative Evaluation and Macro-Corridor Study for the project. The Alternative Evaluation and Macro-Corridor Study is available for public review at RUS or Plains at the addresses provided in this notice. The documents can also be reviewed at Springer Electric Cooperative, Inc., Springer, New Mexico 87747; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Clayton, New Mexico 88415; and in the libraries in the towns of Walsenburg and Trinidad, Colorado, and Raton, Clayton and Springer, New Mexico.