

The responsible official is Robert T. Jacobs, Regional Forester, Eastern Region, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203.

Dated: August 12, 1997.

**Robert T. Jacobs,**  
Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 97-22313 Filed 8-28-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Notice of Intent; Environmental Impact Statement for the Crane and Rowan Mountain Timber Sales, Tongass National Forest, Stikine Area, Petersburg, AK**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed action was announced on April 1, 1997 as two separate Environmental Assessments (EA), one each for the Crane and Rowan Mountain Timber Sales. The decision to prepare EAs for these projects was based upon, among other things, several prior extensive environmental analyses that have been conducted for similar projects. Individually they did not indicate a significant effect to the human environment. After considering the public input, we have decided to document the analysis of these two proposed timber sales in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**1. Purpose and scope of the decision.** The purpose of the projects is to make available for harvest approximately 10–15 million board feet (MMBF) of timber from the Crane Timber Sale and approximately 9–12 MMBF from the Rowan Mountain Timber Sale. These projects will contribute sawlog and utility timber volume and related employment and income opportunities to the timber industry in Southeast Alaska and will help meet the goals and objectives of the Revised Tongass Land Management Plan.

The geographic location of this proposed project is the north portion of Kuiu Island and includes value comparison units (VCU) 399, 400, 402, and 421. The western portion of VCU 420 (west side of Port Camden) is also included. Timber harvesting and roading has occurred in all of the VCU's.

The decision to be made is:

(1) Whether or not timber harvest will occur in the Crane and Rowan Mountain project area;

(2) How much timber will be harvested;

(3) Location and design of harvest units;

(4) Location and design of road construction and potential reconstruction; and

(5) What mitigation measures and monitoring will be implemented.

A reasonable range of alternatives will be developed, including a No Action alternative. No additional road building or timber harvest would occur under the No Action alternative.

**2. Scoping and public participation.** Public scoping for these projects began on April 1, 1997. We mailed a scoping letter to interested groups, organizations, and members of the public who indicated an interest in the project by responding to the Stikine Area Project Schedule, or who otherwise notified the Stikine Area that they were interested in the Crane and Rowan Mountain Timber Harvest Projects. This Notice of Intent constitutes an extension of this scoping process, which will end September 19th, 1997. At the time of this notice, a scoping letter is being mailed to interested groups, organizations, and members of the public explaining the transition from an Environmental Analysis to an Environmental Impact Statement Process.

Scoping results from the April 1, 1997 mailing have reinforced the preliminary issues identified and did not suggest additional issues. The issues as noted in the April 1 mailing are listed below:

1. Cultural Resources—How should timber management activities be designed to protect cultural resources?

2. Economics—How should the project be designed to contribute to the economic health of Southeast Alaska?

3. Fish—How should fish habitat be managed and what effect would timber harvest and related activities have on fish habitat?

4. Recreation—How should recreation opportunities be protected or enhanced in the design of timber management activities?

5. Soil—How should timber management activities be designed to protect the soil resource? What effects would activities have on soil productivity?

6. Subsistence—How should timber management activities be designed to protect traditional subsistence uses? What effect would activities have on subsistence uses and users?

7. Timber Management—How should the project be designed to provide for efficient and long-term timber management?

8. Scenery—How should timber management activities be designed to protect areas of high scenic quality and

what effect would activities have on the landscapes of Kuiu Island?

9. Water Quality—How should timber management activities be designed to protect water quality? What effects would activities have on water quality?

10. Wildlife Habitat—What effects would timber harvest and related activities have on wildlife habitat?

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by September 19, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Information relating to the supplement may be obtained by contacting Bob Gerdes, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 309, Petersburg, AK 99833.

**EXPECTED TIME FOR COMPLETION:** A draft EIS is projected for issuance approximately 2 months from the date of the Notice of Intent, or October 17, 1997.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is expected to be released by March 30, 1998. The Responsible Official will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments, and the environmental consequences displayed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and supporting reason will be documented in the Record of Decision.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Interested parties are invited to comment. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the first day after publication of notice of availability in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is helpful for comments to refer to specific pages or chapters 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 while addressing these points.

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewer's of Draft EISs 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.* versus NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Environmental objections that could

have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the Final EIS. *City of Angonn versus Hodel*, (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Hertage's, Inc. versus Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure 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.

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 and 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. Persons requesting such confidentiality 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.

The responsible official for the decision in Patricia A. Grantham, Acting Forest Supervisor, Stikine Area, Tongass National Forest, Alaska Region, Petersburg, Alaska.

Dated: August 15, 1997.

**Patricia A. Grantham,**  
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-23000 Filed 8-28-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of proposed change to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the NRCS in MS

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Mississippi, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the

FOTG of the NRCS in Mississippi for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** NRCS in Mississippi is issuing the following new conservation practice standards: Agrichemical Mixing Center (Code 702), Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 3289), Cross Slope Farming (Code 733), Fence (Code 382), Filter Strip (Code 393), Forage Harvest Management (Code 511), Forest Harvest Trials and Landings (Code 655), Forest Site Preparation (Code 490), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), Heavy Use Protection Area (Code 561), Prescribed Grazing (Code 528A), Residue Management No-Till & Strip-Till (Code 329A), Residue Management, Mulch Till (Code 329B), Residue Management, Ridge Till (Code 329C), Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344), Stream Crossing (Code 733), Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), Use Exclusion (Code 472), Vegetative Barrier (Code 734), Waste Storage Facility (Code 313), Waste Treatment Lagoon (Code 359), Well Decommissioning (Code 351) in Section IV of the FOTG.

**DATES:** Comments will be received on or before September 29, 1997.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to Homer L. Wilkes, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Suite 1321 Federal Bldg., 100 West Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39269. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS in Mississippi will receive comments relative to the stated summary. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS in Mississippi regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: August 21, 1997.

**Homer L. Wilkes,**

State Conservationist, NRCS, Jackson, MS.

[FR Doc. 97-23077 Filed 8-28-97; 8:45 am]

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## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Proposed Additions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to procurement list.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:** September 29, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodities and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities and services proposed for addition to the