

and able to contribute resources to a joint project. FAS will also consider the likelihood of these activities influencing conditions affecting the level of U.S. exports; the size, in both budget and scope, of the proposed project; and, the likelihood of the market becoming a commercial market for U.S. agricultural commodities and products. FAS considers evaluation critical to the success of a market development project. In determining whether to approve a market development or technical assistance project, FAS will place great emphasis on the performance measures in the proposal and upon the plan for reporting progress to FAS.

Upon approval of a proposal, FAS will enter into an agreement with the entity submitting the proposal pursuant to which FAS will provide local currencies for carrying out the market development or technical assistance project. Agreements will incorporate, by reference, the proposal as approved by FAS.

General administrative requirements for implementation of any resultant agreement with non-profit institutions are found at 7 CFR part 3019, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-profit Organizations" except as may be necessitated by the use of foreign currencies or host country laws. Interested parties should familiarize themselves with these regulations.

FAS may announce in the future the availability of other local currencies in other countries for market development and technical assistance.

Signed at Washington D.C. on June 26, 1998.

**Timothy J. Galvin,**

*Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 98-18000 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Assessment of Fees for Dairy Import Licenses

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of the fee for dairy import licenses for the 1999 quota year.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the fee to be charged for the 1999 tariff-rate quota year for each license issued to a person or firm by the Department

of Agriculture authorizing the importation of certain dairy articles which are subject to tariff-rate quotas set forth in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) will be \$158.00 per license.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Richard P. Warsack, Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Policies and Programs Division, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1021 or telephone at (202) 720-9439.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Licensing Regulation promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and codified at 7 CFR 6.20-6.36 provides for the issuance of licenses to import certain dairy articles which are subject to tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) set forth in the HTS. Those dairy articles may only be entered into the United States at the in-quota TRQ tariff rates by or for the account of a person or firm to whom such licenses have been issued and only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the regulation.

Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis, and each license authorizes the license holder to import a specified quantity and type of dairy article from a specified country of origin. The use of licenses by the license holder to import dairy articles is monitored by the Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Licensing Group, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Customs Service.

The Regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) provides that a fee will be charged for each license issued to a person or firm by the Licensing Authority in order to reimburse the Department of Agriculture for the costs of administering the licensing system under this Regulation.

The Regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) also provides that the Licensing Authority will announce the annual fee for each license and that such fee will be set out in a notice to be published in the Federal Register. Accordingly, this notice sets out the fee for the licenses to be issued for the 1999 calendar year.

#### Notice

The total cost to the Department of Agriculture of administering the licensing system during 1998 has been determined to be \$404,318 and the estimated number of licenses expected to be issued is 2,563. Of the total cost, \$243,748 represent staff and supervisory costs directly to administering the licensing system during 1998; \$50,320

represents the total computer costs to monitor and issue import licenses during 1998; and \$110,250 represents other miscellaneous costs, including travel, postage, publications, forms, and an ADP system contractor.

Accordingly, notice is hereby given that the fee for each license issued to a person or firm for the 1999 calendar year, in accordance with 7 CFR 6.33, will be \$158.00 per license.

Issued at Washington, D.C., June 23, 1998.

**David J. Williams,**

*Licensing Authority.*

[FR Doc. 98-18001 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Skipping Cow Environmental Impact Statement

**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) for the proposed Skipping Cow Timber Sale. The timber sale is located in the Tongass National Forest, Stikine Area, Wrangell Ranger District, on Zarembo Island, within Value Comparison Units (VCU's) 458 and 459. The Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (1997) provides the overall guidance (land use designations, goals, objectives, management prescriptions, standards and guidelines) to achieve the desired future condition for the area in which this project is proposed. This Forest Plan allocates portions of the project area into three management prescriptions: Timber Production, Modified Landscape, and Scenic Viewshed.

The purpose and need for the project is to respond to the goals and objectives identified by the Forest Plan for the timber and move Skipping Cow Project Area toward the desired future condition. The Forest Plan identified the following goals and objectives: (1) manage the timber resource for production of saw timber and other wood products from suitable timber lands made available for timber harvest, on an even-flow, long-term sustained yield basis and in an economically efficient manner (Forest Plan page 2-4); (2) seek to provide a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual market demand for Tongass National Forest timber, and the demand for the planning cycle (page 2-4); and (3) maintain and

promote industrial wood production from suitable timber lands, providing a continuous supply of wood to meet society's needs (page 3-144). The Skipping Cow Timber Sale will be designed to produce desired resource values, products, and conditions in ways that also sustain the diversity and productivity of ecosystems (page 2-1).

The Skipping Cow Timber Sale is expected to provide a range of volume to the timber industry from 20 to 30 million board feet. The range of alternatives to be considered in the EIS will be determined during analysis and reflect issues raised during scoping.

The Proposed Action provides for: (1) construction of approximately 15.5 miles of specified road and additional temporary road; and (2) harvest between 900-1300 acres. The existing log transfer facility at Deep Bay Harbor will be used to transfer volume to the water. A variety of systems would be used for yarding, including helicopter, cable, skyline and shovel yarding systems.

A number of public comments have been received on this project. Based on comments from the public and other agencies during the preliminary scoping effort, the following issues have been identified. How will the design of the sale affect: harvest economics, access road management, Wind ecology (large scale blowdown), and winter deer habitat? These issues and other issues discovered during further scoping will be used to design alternatives to the proposed action and to identify the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by August 24, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning the scope of this project should be sent to Jerry Jordan, ID Team Leader, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Stikine Area; Attn: Skipping Cow EIS; P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929, phone (907) 874-2323.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Public Participation**

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 significant 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. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by August 24, 1998.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project areas, 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 January 1999. Public comment on the Draft EIS will be solicited for a minimum of 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The Final EIS is anticipated by June 1999.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and 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 alternatives formulated and discussed in the document. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

In addition, Federal Court decisions have established that reviewers of Draft EIS 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 concerns.

*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978).

Environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. *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). The reason for this is to ensure that comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the Draft 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 project 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 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 protected 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.

##### **Responsible Official**

Carol J. Jorgensen, Assistant Forest Supervisor, Stikine Area, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 309, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: June 24, 1998.

**Carol J. Jorgensen,**

*Assistant Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 98-17986 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

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## **CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD**

### **Sunshine Act Meeting**

In connection with its investigation into the cause of the explosion at the Sierra Chemical Company in Sparks, Nevada, on January 7, 1998, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board announces, pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act, that it will convene a Board Meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, July 29, 1998, at the George Washington University Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, N.W., Washington, DC. This meeting will be open to the public. For more information, please contact the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's Office of External Relations, telephone number (202) 261-