

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-98-00-6]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: October 27, 1998, at 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; October 28, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and October 29, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3501 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 690-3655.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Jones, Program Manager, Room 2945 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Phone (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA. The NOSB met for the first time in Washington, D.C., in March 1992 and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the program. The committees are: Crops Standards; Processing, Labeling and Packaging; Livestock

Standards; Accreditation; Materials; and International Issues. In August 1994, the NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture and since that time has submitted 30 addenda to the recommendations and reviewed more than 170 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of the NOSB was held in July 1998, in Washington, DC. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its proposed rule in the **Federal Register** on December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65849). An extension of the comment period on the proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on February 9, 1998 (63 FR 6498-6499). The comment period was extended until April 30, 1998.

Purpose and Agenda

The principal purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the NOSB and the Agency to discuss issues raised during the comment period on the proposed rule, as well options under consideration concerning those issues. The Board will also receive committee reports from its standing and ad hoc committees. A detailed agenda for this meeting will be available on October 19, 1998. Copies of the final agenda can be requested from Ms. Karen Thomas, Room 2510, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, by phone at (202) 690-3655 or by accessing the NOP website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

Type of Meeting

All meetings will be open to the public. The NOSB has scheduled time for public input on October 27, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and on October 29, 1998 from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting should forward the request to Ms. Thomas at the above address or by FAX to (202) 205-7808 by October 16, 1998. While persons wishing to make a presentation may sign up at the door, advance registration will ensure an opportunity to speak during the allotted time period and will help the NOSB to better manage the meeting and

accomplish its agenda. Individuals or organizations will be given approximately 5 minutes to orally present their views. All persons making an oral presentation are requested to provide their comments in writing, if possible. Written submissions may supplement the oral presentation with additional material. Attendees who do not wish to make an oral presentation are invited to submit written comments to the NOSB at the meeting. All persons submitting written comments should provide 20 copies.

Dated: October 8, 1998.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 98-27580 Filed 10-8-98; 4:40 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-108-1]

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that a draft environmental assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) relative to the management of conflicts with humans and the management of damage caused by nonmigratory Canada geese in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The draft environmental assessment has been prepared to analyze the environmental impact of APHIS activities to manage the conflicts and damage. APHIS is seeking public comments on this draft environmental assessment.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before November 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-

2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

Comments on the draft environmental assessment should be mailed or faxed to Mr. Martin Lowney, Director, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, P.O. Box 130, Mosely, VA 23120. Fax: (804) 739-7738.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Martin Mendoza, Jr., Director, Operational Support Staff, APHIS, Wildlife Services, 4700 River Road, Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7921. For copies of the environmental assessment, write to Mr. Martin Mendoza, Jr., at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: APHIS, Wildlife Services, cooperates with Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private individuals to research and implement the best methods of managing wildlife to protect human health and safety and prevent damage to agriculture, property, and natural resources.

In this document, APHIS is advising the public of the availability of, and is seeking public comment on, a draft environmental assessment relative to the management by Wildlife Services of conflicts and damage caused by nonmigratory Canada geese in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The habitat preference, breeding and feeding behavior, and adaptability of nonmigratory Canada geese can involve conflicts with humans and affect human health and safety in a number of ways, including the following: by contaminating surface water and ground cover with fecal matter, causing damage to aircraft and other means of transportation as a result of collisions, and causing injury to approaching humans, especially children, through aggressive action. The draft environmental assessment examines the environmental impacts of Wildlife Services activities to manage conflicts and damage caused by nonmigratory Canada geese in Virginia.

We are making the draft environmental assessment available for public inspection and comment before issuing our final environmental assessment.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 426-426c.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of October, 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-27529 Filed 10-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Wolfmann Projects, Willamette National Forest, Lane County, Oregon

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) on a proposal to harvest trees, build roads, and conduct prescribed burns within the Blue River drainage of the Blue River Ranger District approximately 55 miles east of Springfield, Oregon. Approximately 800 acres will be harvested and approximately 1 mile of road will be constructed. Prescribed fire will be used to treat approximately 180 acres. The proposal results from an extensive landscape design and watershed analysis conducted in the Blue River watershed located entirely within the Central Cascades Adaptive Management Area (AMA). The Blue River Landscape and Monitoring strategy provides the framework for management of the area and is being implemented through the Blue River Landscape Administrative Study. The dominant theme of the study uses an interpreted range of "natural" variability of disturbance processes to guide landscape and watershed objectives, designs, and prescriptions. The need for the proposed action is to meet Willamette National Forest goals, objectives and commitments outlined in the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The proposed action includes testing an alternative approach to achieve the Northwest Forest Plan objectives consistent with the AMA emphasis; producing timber to support the local and national economy; and using fire as a management tool to introduce mortality, reduce fuels, and stimulate herb and shrub growth variability.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing on or before November 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments concerning this project to Lynn Burditt, District Ranger, Blue River Ranger District, P.O. Box 199, Blue River, Oregon 97413.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please direct questions about the proposed action and environmental impact statement to Karen Geary, Integrated Resources Assistant, phone 541-822-3317.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Blue River Landscape Management and Monitoring strategy was developed as

an alternative approach to achieving the basic objectives underlying the Northwest Forest Plan. The purpose of the strategy is to develop and test a landscape management approach that approximates aspects of historical disturbance regimes within the Blue River watershed which is approximately 57,000 acres. The primary goal is to sustain native habitat, species, and ecological processes within historical ranges while providing a sustained flow of wood fiber. The central concept of this project is that we will be able to achieve these goals by approximating aspects of historical disturbance regimes through forest management practices. Timber harvest and prescribed fire will be planned to approximate historical fires regimes to the degree feasible while still meeting the underlying objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan. While this concept is largely untested, various projects are exploring this approach in a variety of settings across North America.

The Wolfmann Project is the second timber harvest proposal resulting from the strategy. It is the first proposal to use prescribed fire as a management tool in unharvested areas.

The strategy contains four major components:

1. *Special area reserves* allocated in the Willamette National Forest Plan, as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan, were delineated. The reserve boundaries and general management prescriptions described in the Forest Plan were adopted for these areas.

2. *Landscape areas*—The remainder of the planning area was subdivided into zones of similar ecological conditions and disturbance regimes (landscape areas). Vegetation management prescriptions were developed for each zone based on an interpreted range of historical conditions. For each landscape area, timber harvest and fire prescriptions were developed based upon the underlying fire regime, as interpreted from tree ring records. Timber harvest frequency, and rotation age (100-260 years) were based upon historical fire intensity, and the spatial patterns of timber harvest were based upon the spatial patterns of historical fires.

3. *Aquatic reserves* were then established to ensure that the full range of objectives in the Northwest Forest Plan would be met. Achievement of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives (ROD 1994) was given particular attention. These reserves were based, in part, on the type and intensity of upslope management in the local landscape area, and were designed to reflect general patterns of disturbance