

EFFECTIVE DATE: This declaration of emergency shall become effective December 13, 2001.

Ann M. Veneman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 01-31365 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC); Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on Thursday and Friday, January 24-25, 2001. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday and 8 a.m. on Friday, and will conclude at approximately 5 p.m. on Thursday and 12 p.m. on Friday. The meeting will be held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center; 3700 Knox Butte Road; Albany, Oregon; (541) 926-4314. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Training on Federal Advisory Committee Act regulations; (2) Orientation on operation, roles, and responsibilities of the RAC; (3) Project submission and approval process; (4) Public Forum; (5) Training on collaboration; (6) Election of RAC chairperson.

The Public Forum is tentatively scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may be submitted prior to the January 24th meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Donna Short at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Donna Short; Sweet Home Ranger District; 3225 Highway 20; Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; (541) 367-9220.

Dated: December 14, 2001.

Y. Robert Iwamoto,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-31324 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera and Fresno County Resource Advisory Committees; Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) for Madera and Fresno Counties will meet on January 12, 2002. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Mariposa/Minarets Ranger Station in North Fork, CA. The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Pineridge/Kings River Ranger Station in Prather, CA. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an overview of Resource Advisory Committee roles and responsibilities and to determine how the RAC will conduct business for future meetings.

DATES: Both the Madera and the Fresno meetings will be held on January 12, 2002. The meetings will be held from 8 a.m. To 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the Mariposa/Minarets Ranger Station, 57003 Road 225, North Fork CA. The Fresno County RAC meeting will be held at the Pineridge/Kings River Ranger Station, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Exline, USDA, Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611 (559) 297-0706 ext. 4804 e-MAIL skexline@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Roles and responsibility of Advisory Committee; (2) Flow of work; (3) Project process, submission forms and deadlines; (4) Election of RAC chairperson; (5) Public comment. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: December 14, 2001.

James L. Boynton,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-31323 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121401D]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Region Logbook Family of Forms

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, F/ AKR2, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (telephone 907-586-7008).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NMFS manages the U.S. groundfish fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Alaska under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMPs). The North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared the FMPs pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Regulations implementing the FMPs are at 50 CFR part 679.

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR part 679.5 form the basis for this collection of information. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Alaska Region requests information from participating groundfish fishermen which, upon receipt, results in an increasingly more efficient and accurate database. The collection is necessary for the management and monitoring of the groundfish fisheries of the EEZ off

Alaska for purposes of conservation of the fisheries.

II. Method of Collection

Daily logbooks and paper forms are required from participants, and methods of submittal include paper logbooks, facsimile transmission of paper forms, and electronic reporting. The specific types of reporting required are identified below in the section for "Estimated Time Per Response."

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0213.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,033.

Estimated Time Per Response: 35 minutes for Weekly Cumulative Mothership ADF&G Fish Tickets; 14 minutes for U.S. Vessel Activity Report; 18 minutes for Catcher Vessel trawl gear daily fishing logbook (DFL); 28 minutes for Catcher Vessel longline and pot gear DFL; 30 minutes for Catcher/processor trawl gear daily cumulative production logbook (DCPL); 41 minutes for Catcher/processor longline and pot gear DCPL; 31 minutes for Shoreside processor DCPL; 31 minutes for Mothership DCPL; 8 minutes for Shoreside Processor Check-in/Check-out Report; 7 minutes for Mothership or Catcher/processor Check-in/Check-out Report; 11 minutes for Product transfer report; 17 minutes for Weekly Production Report; 11 minutes for Daily Production Report; estimated time to electronically submit the weekly production report (5 min./report); 5 minutes to electronically submit the check-in/check-out report; 23 minutes for buying station report.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 45,086.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$215,786.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques

or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 13, 2001.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-31396 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mississippi River Diversion Near Benny's Bay, Ecosystem Restoration Analysis, Mississippi River Delta, LA

AGENCY: Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Estimates show that approximately 30 square miles of coastal wetlands convert to open water in Louisiana each year. The causes of the wetland loss are varied and complex, depending upon wetland location and type. Wetland loss has been attributed to the loss of freshwater, nutrient, and sediment input from the Mississippi River due the construction of flood protection levees, salt water intrusion, oil and gas access canals, navigation channels, subsidence, and sea level rise. The loss of wetlands has serious negative impacts to fish and wildlife populations, hurricane protection, and the economy of Louisiana and the nation. Many believe that reestablishment of freshwater, nutrient, and sediment flows from the Mississippi River into degraded wetlands would restore and sustain coastal wetland ecosystem structure and function that have been lost.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Michael Salyer at (504) 862-2037. Mr. Salyer may also be reached at fax number (504) 862-2572 or by e-mail at michael.r.salyer@mvn02.usace.army.mil. Mr. Salyer's address is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Authority.* The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, at the

direction of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force, is initiating this study under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, Pub. L. 101-646. This act includes funds for the planning of measures for the creation, restoration, protection and enhancement of coastal wetlands.

2. *Proposed Action.* The proposed action would restore, enhance, and sustain the coastal wetlands ecosystem east of the Mississippi River in Mississippi River Delta, Louisiana. This ecosystem is located in Region 2, Mississippi River Delta, Plaquemines Parish. The diversion inlet would be located on the east bank of the Mississippi River at Mile 7.5 above Head of Passes. This action would likely utilize the nutrients, freshwater, and sediment of the Mississippi River for this restoration. This proposed action is intended to reestablish ecosystem functions. This proposed action would restore the wetland acreage and biodiversity of the Mississippi River Delta. Environmental analysis would be used to determine the most practical plan, which would provide for the greatest overall public benefit. The recommended plan would restore degraded wetlands with the least adverse impacts to stakeholder interests.

3. *Alternatives.* Alternatives recommended for consideration presently include the construction of a river diversion structure in the vicinity of Benny's Bay, dedicated dredging to construct wetlands, the construction of outfall management structures, and combinations of the above. Various capacities for the diversion structure would be investigated. Various increments of dedicated dredging and increments of long-term diversion amounts would also be investigated.

4. *Scoping.* Scoping is the process for determining the scope of alternatives and significant issues to be addressed in the EIS. For this analysis, a letter will be sent to all parties believed to have an interest in the analysis, requesting their input on alternatives and issues to be evaluated. The letter will also notify interested parties of public scoping meetings that will be held in the local area. Notices will also be sent to local news media. All interested parties are invited to comment at this time, and anyone interested in this study should request to be included in the study mailing list.

A public scoping meeting will be held in the early part of 2002. The meeting will be held in Plaquemines parish, Louisiana. Additional meetings could be held, depending upon interest and if it