

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Marketing Service****[Docket No. FV02-999-2 NC]****Notice of Request for an Emergency Approval and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection****AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an emergency approval and revision of a currently approved information collection for the Regulation Governing Imports of Peanuts. The information collection for this program expires July 31, 2002. The emergency request was necessary because insufficient time was available to follow normal clearance procedures.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 24, 2002.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Caroline C. Thorpe, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Tel: (202) 720-8139, Fax (202) 720-8938, or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; telephone (202) 720-2491; Fax (202) 720-8938, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulation Governing Imports of Peanuts, 7 CFR part 999.600.

OMB Number: 0581-0176.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2002.

Type of Request: Emergency approval and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The peanut import regulation appears at 7 CFR part 999.600. This regulation has been authorized by Section 108B(f)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1445c3), as amended in 1990 and 1993, and by section 155 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7271). Section 1308 of the Farm Security and Rural

Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171) (the 2002 Farm Bill) also provides for regulation of imported peanuts.

The import program ensures that peanuts intended for human consumption in the United States meet edible quality requirements. Peanuts which fail quality requirements must either be reconditioned to meet quality requirements, or be disposed to non-edible outlets. Poor quality peanuts may contain *Aspergillus flavus* mold (which may cause aflatoxin, a natural carcinogen).

The import regulation was issued June 11, 1996 (61 FR 31306), and the first practical effective date was January 1, 1997, when the import quota for Mexican peanuts was opened for 1997. The import quota for all foreign produced peanuts totals less than 3.5 percent of domestic peanut production of approximately 3.7 billion pounds.

Under the import program, no forms are required to be completed and filed. However, copies of documents on failing lots obtained during the importation and inspection process must be filed. These documents include: Failing grade inspection certificates, failing aflatoxin certificates, re-inspection grade and aflatoxin certificates, shipping bills of lading, and sales receipts to non-edible outlets (animal feed, crushing certificates), and re-export certification.

AMS is responsible for monitoring compliance with these quality and disposition regulations and uses the documents to ensure that importers comply with the regulations.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarter's staff.

The estimated total burden is revised from the most recently approved hours of 256. While the total responses per respondents decreased, the total burden hours increased because the number of respondents increased from 15 to 38. The estimated total burden was, therefore, revised and increased.

Estimate of Burden: Total estimated burden for this collection is 433 hours. This includes a record keeping burden of 380 hours (38 respondents $\times$ 10 hours). In addition, there is a public reporting burden for this collection of information estimated to average .07 hours or about 4 minutes per response for a total of 53 burden hours.

Respondents: Peanut importers, as well as Customs brokers and other entities filing on behalf of importers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 38.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 19.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 433 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0176 and the Peanut Import Regulation, Part 999.600, and be mailed to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Tel: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 22, 2002.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-18983 Filed 7-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Cibola National Forest Bluewater Ecosystem Management Project****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposal to initiate vegetation treatments to reach desired conditions within the Bluewater Watershed in the Zuni Mountains on the Mt. Taylor

Ranger District within McKinley and Cibola counties in New Mexico.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 23, 2002. The draft environmental impact statement is expected September 2002 and the final environmental impact statement is expected December 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Planning Staff, Forest Supervisor's Office, Cibola National Forest, 2113, Osuna Rd., NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001, Attn: Planning Staff.

For further information, mail correspondence to: Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2113 Osuna Rd., NE., Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001, phone (505) 346-3900.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2113 Osuna Rd., NE., Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001, phone (505) 346-3900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need of the Proposed Action for the Bluewater Ecosystem Management Project, Mt. Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest is to:

- Create conditions where wildfire intensities allow fire to resume its natural ecological role and intensity in the forest mosaic of the Bluewater area within the framework of watershed restoration.
- Create a condition where wildfire intensities in the Bluewater wildland-urban interface are at a level where fire suppression forces can safely remain on site in the face of an advancing fire.

Proposed Action

The USDA Forest Service, Cibola National Forest, Mt. Taylor Ranger District proposes to initiate vegetation treatments to reach desired conditions within the Bluewater Watershed in the Zuni Mountains. The proposed project would be implemented over a period of 5 to 7 years. All endangered, threatened and sensitive species habitat will be surveyed prior to treatment. All cultural resource surveys will be conducted prior to treatment.

No new roads would be constructed under any of the proposed treatments, existing roads will be used. Some overland access to remove material will be allowed under strict contract or permit administration. These access routes will be rehabilitated following use. The following vegetation treatments are proposed:

Piñon/Juniper Wildland Urban Interface

The Piñon/juniper WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) is found along the northern forest boundary just south and west of the Village of Bluewater.

This treatment would restore the grassland and shrub vegetation community and reduce fire hazard in selected piñon-juniper invaded areas along the WUI. Approximately 770 acres of piñon/juniper would be treated through personal use and commercial fuel wood harvest. Groups and corridors of ponderosa pine and piñon/juniper will remain scattered throughout the area. In addition, patches of trees on north and east facing slopes five acres in size and at least 300 feet wide will be retained for thermal and hiding cover for large mammals. Non-useable forest products (*i.e.* small trees and limbs) will be treated by prescribed burning.

Treatments are expected to take 3-7 years to complete.

Maintenance of Piñon/Juniper Control Units

There are three areas of piñon/juniper control units along the wildland urban interface, totaling approximately 2,475 acres, that were originally treated in 1968 or 1971 to enhance rangeland production. Under this prescription the original treatment areas would be maintained by removing most conifer tree vegetation to enhance the grassland/shrub community and reduce fuel continuity. Groups and corridors of conifer species left from the original treatment would be maintained. In addition, hiding and thermal cover may be maintained in 5-acre patches where appropriate to benefit wildlife. Trees will be removed mechanically and non-useable forest products (*i.e.* small trees and limbs) will be treated by burning. The treatment will be implemented in years 3 to 5.

Fuelbreak

The proposed action will treat approximately 12.5 miles (roughly 652 acres) of wildland urban interface along the northern boundary of the project area. These areas are primarily piñon/juniper vegetation types with some ponderosa pine. The objective is to create a 400-foot wide fuelbreak to reduce the continuity of crown fuels and lessen the probability of high intensity crown fire spreading to adjacent homes and other structures. Because natural features will be incorporated when present, fuelbreak treatments will not always be 400 feet wide. Tree density will be reduced by removing primarily smaller diameter trees. The largest diameter trees remain

on site after treatment. Non-useable forest products (*i.e.* small trees and limbs) will be treated by prescribed burning. The burning of slash is normally conducted one or two seasons after treatment activities.

Upland Meadow Treatments

These treatments are designed to re-establish upland meadows to their pre-fire suppression condition based on soil type. The treatment areas were either (1) attempted to be reforested during the mid to late 1980's or (2) have been invaded by conifer species as a result of heavy historic grazing and fire suppression. Only large diameter ponderosa pine and trees adjacent to historic tree evidence (large diameter logs and stumps) will be retained.

Approximately 1,900 acres will be treated by mechanical means (hand felling, mechanical shear). Roughly 380 acres will be treated each year for five successive years. Non-useable forest products (*i.e.* small trees and limbs) will be treated by prescribed burning.

Ponderosa Pine Uneven-Aged Management

This treatment constitutes the predominant vegetation treatment proposed for the Bluewater Ecosystem Management Project. The primary objective of this treatment in the ponderosa pine ecosystem is to create conditions where wildfire intensities allow fire to resume its natural role and intensity in the forest mosaic within the framework of watershed restoration.

Approximately 18,809 acres are proposed for vegetation treatments that will reduce the number of trees within treatment blocks. Treatment blocks will be delineated and prioritized based on stand characteristics, fire risk, access availability, and wildlife objectives.

Approximately (1,960 acres) will be managed for higher tree density to meet northern goshawk habitat standards and guidelines for nesting and post-fledging family areas as specified in the Cibola Forest Plan.

The larger trees will be left standing after treatment. Thinning from below (removing smaller diameter trees) will create a non-uniform, clumpy structure with all ages and all species (pine, juniper, oak, *etc.*) represented across the landscape. Some groups of trees with interlocking crowns will be retained. Tree groups may consist of any age-class. Large woody material (snags, logs, tree limbs) will be retained across the landscape in accordance with the Cibola Forest Plan standards and guidelines. All oak greater than 10 inches would be retained. Stand openings (1 to 4 acres in size) will be re-established or

maintained where they previously existed.

Useable wood products will be made available to the public through personal use permits or commercial sales. Non-useable forest products (*i.e.* small trees and limbs) will be treated by prescribed burning.

Possible Alternatives

Possible alternatives to the proposed action include: (1) Alternate methods of slash treatment and (2) taking no action to allow fire to resume its natural role within the ecosystem and to create conditions along the wildland urban interface, which will allow fire suppression forces to remain and defend property against wildfire. The no action alternative would also exclude the use of various methods of vegetation treatments to reach the desired conditions.

Responsible Official

The responsible official is Liz Agpaoa, Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2113 Osuna Rd., NE., Suite A., Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor, as the Responsible Official, will:

1. Select the Proposed Action or an alternative.
2. Determine what mitigation measures will be needed to protect resources.

Scoping Process

Public participation will be important at several times during the analysis. The first time is during the scoping period [Reviewer may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environment Policy Act (CFR) at 40 CFR 1501.7]. The Agency will be seeking written issues with the Proposed Action from Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribes, and other individuals who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, will be invited to participate as a cooperating agency to evaluate potential impacts to threatened and endangered species habitat if any such species are found to exist in the potential treatment areas. This input will be used to develop additional alternatives. The scoping process includes:

- Identifying potential issues;
- Selecting significant issues with the Proposed Action, needing in-depth analysis;

- Eliminating insignificant issues; issues that have been analyzed and documented in a previous EIS, issues that controvert the need for the Proposed Action, or issues that are outside the authority of the Responsible Official to decide;

- Exploration of additional alternatives based on the issues identified during the scoping process; and

Identification of potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (*i.e.* direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions). A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **FEDERAL REGISTER**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact 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 contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *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). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so 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 environmental impact statement.

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 also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy 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 in addressing these points.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **FEDERAL REGISTER**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact 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 contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *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). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so 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 environmental impact statement.

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(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: July 15, 2002.

Liz Agpaoa,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-18900 Filed 7-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold its next meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 8, 2002, and will begin at 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, PO Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Other Project Proposals/Possible Action, (5) Sunflower Coordinated Resource Presentation/Possible Action, (6) Valentine Ridge Project Proposal/Possible Action, (7) General Discussion. 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: July 22, 2002.

James F. Giachino,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 02-18947 Filed 7-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Little Red River Water Management Project; White County, AR

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is being prepared for the creation of a water management plan to assist the Little Red River Regional Irrigation District in its efforts to reduce the useage of declining groundwater and to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. The project area is located in White County, Arkansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kalven L. Trice, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Room 3416 Federal Building, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, Telephone (501) 301-3100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area comprises approximately 81,000 acres of which 35,000 irrigated acres are currently used for grain production such as soybeans and rice. A large majority of the marginal cropland has been converted to non-crop uses such as grass cover and reforestation through the Natural Resources Conservation Service' Conservation Reserve Program. In addition, many acres of on-farm water storage reservoirs and tailwater recovery systems have already been installed under a previous Natural Resources Conservation watershed project. Due to potential public concern regrading the project, Kalven L. Trice, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is needed for this project.

Alternatives presently under consideration other than the "no Action" alternative, include the diversion and delivery of water from the Little Red River near West Point, Arkansas, construction of on-farm water storage reservoirs, underground pipelines, tailwater recovery systems, and improved irrigation management. In addition, the feasibility of providing water to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Raft Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) will also be explored.

A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be prepared and circulated for review by agencies and the public. The Natural Resources Conservation Service invites participation and consultation of agencies and individuals that have special expertise, legal jurisdiction, or interest in the preparation of the draft environmental impact statement. A public scoping meeting will be held to

solicit input from the public and to determine the scope of the environmental impact statement on August 15, 2002 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Griffithville Senior Citizen's Center located at 208 Main Street (Hwy 385) in Griffithville, Arkansas.

Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposal, or requests to be placed on the EIS mailing list, to Jim Ellis, Biologist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Natural Resources Planning Staff, Room 3416, Federal Building, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, or e-mail to Jim.Ellis@ar.usda.gov.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904—Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention—and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Dated: July 22, 2002.

David A. Weeks,

Assistant State Conservationist, Natural Resources Planning.

[FR Doc. 02-18909 Filed 7-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3210-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Arizona NRCS State Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Arizona NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Arizona that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide, specifically in the Conservation Practice Standards. Specifically, Arizona will revise the NRCS National Practice Standards for use in Arizona.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Barker, Rangeland Management Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85012; Phone: 602-280-8823; Fax: 602-280-8805.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture