

to carry out principles of the National Performance Review. In response to this Executive Order, the Forest Service (FS) set up their customer service comment card program to provide an easy way for the public and partners to communicate their level of satisfaction with FS services and facilities.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FS will collect information to monitor customer perceptions and provide a means to learn about and address customer complaints. FS will also collect information to help them to improve services and facilities.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 15,000.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,000.

#### **Food Safety and Inspection Service**

*Title:* Pathogen Reduction/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System.

*OMB Control Number:* 0583-0103.

*Summary of Collection:* The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by ensuring the meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. FSIS has begun to build the principle of prevention into its inspection program and requires regulated establishments to prepare operating plans and continuously report performance against the plans.

*Need and Use of the Information:* Information will be collected from establishments as proof that standard operating plans have been developed. Additionally, information must be reported and pertinent records maintained on the occurrence and numbers of pathogenic microorganisms on meat and poultry products. FSIS will use this information during the inspection process to determine whether an establishment should change its operating procedures so that the public's health is protected.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 7,374.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; other (daily).

*Total Burden Hours:* 7,904,222.

**Barbara A. Lacour,**

*Departmental Information Clearance Officer.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**[Docket No. 02-023N]**

#### **FSIS Security Guidelines for Food Processors; Notice of Availability**

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of the Agency's current Security Guidelines for Food Processors. These guidelines were developed to assist Federal- and State-inspected plants that produce meat, poultry, and egg products in identifying ways to strengthen their security plans to protect against acts of bioterrorism. FSIS recognizes that Federal- and State-inspected plants may also be aware of, and be adopting, security guidelines from other government agencies, industry organizations, and private sector experts. However, plants that do not have access to specialized security planning advice should find these guidelines useful as they develop and improve their food security plans.

These guidelines were designed and developed to meet the particular needs of meat, poultry, and egg processing plants and to be easily understood and readily adaptable by plant officials. While these guidelines are voluntary, and plants may choose to adopt measures suggested by many different sources, it is vital that all plants take steps to assure the security of their operations. The guidelines are available in both English and Spanish.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on the security guidelines to the FSIS Docket Clerk no later than October 21, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the FSIS Security Guidelines are available from the FSIS Docket Clerk, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. Copies also are available on the Internet at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oppde/rdad/publications.htm>. Send all written comments on the proposed security guidelines to the above address. All comments received will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the Docket

Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Perfecto Santiago, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Program Development Staff, Office of Policy, Program Development and Evaluation, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-3700; telephone (202) 205-0699 or fax (202) 401-1760.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For nearly a century, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been protecting the Nation's food supply. Over this long history, FSIS has worked to develop the infrastructure to confront new food biosecurity challenges. FSIS has thousands of food inspectors and veterinarians working in meat, poultry and egg product plants every day, and at ports of entry to this country to prevent, detect, and act in response to food safety emergencies.

In January 2002, President Bush signed into law the FY 2002 Defense Appropriations Act, which includes \$328 million in emergency funding for the USDA to further protect the public by strengthening essential programs and services related to biosecurity issues. FSIS will receive \$15 million for security upgrades and bioterrorism protection. Of that amount, \$10 million is allocated to conduct a food safety bioterrorism protection program. This includes education and specialized training for food safety regulatory and inspection personnel; technical assistance for State, local and international food safety authorities; a food biosecurity awareness campaign targeted to the general public and regulated industries; and expanded FSIS laboratory capabilities to test meat and poultry products for bacterial and chemical agents. Physical security, cyber-security and telecommunications at government facilities also will be strengthened.

FSIS recognizes that American food producers have a vested interest in making biosecurity a priority. FSIS will continue to seek input from stakeholders in developing guidance on biosecurity matters. To ensure that the producers of meat, poultry, and egg products have access to information to protect themselves, FSIS developed the guidelines. These guidelines include measures food processing establishments may consider for the prevention and handling of intentional acts of contamination. The guidelines address the need for establishments to develop and maintain food security plans that cover both inside and outside security. The guidelines also include

security measures for slaughter and processing, storage, shipping and receiving, water and ice supply, mail handling, and personnel.

FSIS is providing these guidelines to its field employees, who will assist plants that seek further information or advice; however, inspectors will not mandate adoption of any of the guidelines. The Agency intends to continue working to enhance guidance to businesses engaged in the production and distribution of regulated food and to work with other agencies to provide additional guidance for transportation, storage, and handling. The guidelines were developed as a first step, but FSIS recognizes the need for food protection guidelines from the ranch or farm to the consumer's table. FSIS invites public comment to strengthen these steps as part of the Homeland Security effort for the food and agricultural sectors.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public involvement in all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice and informed about the mechanism for providing their comments, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available online through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv), go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done in Washington, DC, on August 18, 2002.

**William J. Hudnall,**

*Acting Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland Jackson County, CO; Green Ridge Mountain Pine Beetle Analysis**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of a site specific proposal to salvage, reduce the spread and minimize further mortality from the existing mountain pine beetle epidemic, within the Green Ridge Mountain Pine Beetle Analysis Area of the Parks Ranger District of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests within Jackson County, Colorado. A small portion of the preventive treatments is proposed within an inventoried roadless area.

**DATES:** The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review during December 2002. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be for a period of not less than 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the NOA in the **Federal Register**. It is important that those interested in the management of this area to comment at that time.

The final EIS is expected to be available in March 2003. In the final EIS, the Forest Service will respond to any comments received during the public comment period that pertain to the environmental analysis. Those comments and the Forest Service responses will be disclosed and discussed in the final EIS and will be considered when the final decision about this proposal is made.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Terry DeLay, Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District, PO Box 249, Saratoga, WY 82331. Electronic mail (e-mail) may be sent to [tdelay@fs.fed.us](mailto:tdelay@fs.fed.us) and FAX may be sent to (307) 326-5250. Telephone: (307) 326-2518.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mail correspondence to Terry DeLay, Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District, PO Box 249, Saratoga, WY 82331, (telephone (307) 326-2518), or Chuck Oliver, District Ranger, Parks Ranger District, PO Box 158, Walden, CO 80480, (telephone (970) 723-2750). Electronic mail (e-mail) may be sent to [tdelay@fs.fed.us](mailto:tdelay@fs.fed.us) and FAX may be sent to (307) 326-5250.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The purpose of this project is to reduce the spread of mountain pine beetle, salvage dead trees, and reforest affected areas on National Forest lands within the Green Ridge Analysis Area, in order to help protect forested areas on adjacent private land, and to alleviate potential negative effects of the beetle epidemic to the various resources on this portion of the Forest.

##### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is a mix of protection, prevention, suppression, and restoration treatment activities geared to address the purpose and need of reducing the spread of mountain pine beetle on National Forest lands within the analysis area, including commercial timber sale, prescribed burning and precommercial thinning.

##### **Responsible Official**

Rick Cables, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, 740 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado 80401, is the official responsible for making the decision on this action. He will document his decision and rationale in a Record of Decision.

##### **Nature of Decision To Be Made**

The Responsible Official will consider the results of the analysis and its findings and then document the final decision in a Record of Decision (ROD). The decision will include a determination whether or not to implement the proposed action or another alternative.

##### **Scoping Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action.

The Forest Service is soliciting comments during the scoping phase of the environmental analysis process from Federal, State and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and organizations and individuals who may be interested or