identified with the USDA grademark. Over the years, processors have found it advantageous to market grade-identified poultry products and consumers have come to rely on the USDA grademark as assurance that they are getting the quality they want.

Poultry producers and processors are continually developing new, innovative products. Chicken and turkey, in particular, have been transformed into numerous boneless and/or skinless products, thus increasing poultry's share of the consumer's food dollar and responding to consumer demand for food with more built-in convenience and less fat. Currently, there are grade standards for boneless poultry breasts, thighs, and tenderloins (§ 70.231), as well as for skinless carcasses and parts (§ 70.232). On March 30, 1995, the Agency approved the test marketing of USDA grade-identified, boneless-skinless poultry legs and drumsticks, based on tentative grade standards, through April 1, 1996 (60 FR 16428). And, on June 12, 1995, the Agency approved the test marketing of USDA grade-identified, ready-to-cook, boneless-skinless poultry products without added ingredients, based on tentative grade standards, through June 12, 1996 (60 FR 30830).

The Agency has now been requested by industry to permit the grade identification of cooked, boneless-skinless poultry products without added ingredients. These products include cooked poultry that has been subdivided by cutting, slicing, cubing, or similarly reducing the size prior to grading, products that are currently marketed ungraded because there are no grade standards for them.

The Agency recognizes that before new standards of quality can be established or current standards of quality can be amended, appropriate investigation is needed. This includes the test marketing of experimental packs of grade-identified poultry products to determine production requirements and consumer acceptance, and to permit the collection of other necessary data. Current regulations (7 CFR Part 70) provide the Agency with the flexibility needed to permit such experimentation, so that new procedures and grading techniques may be tested.

The Agency has worked in partnership with members of the industry to develop tentative grade standards for cooked, boneless-skinless poultry products without added ingredients and is granting permission for a 1-year test marketing period. At the expiration of this 1-year period, the Agency will then evaluate the test results to determine if the current poultry grade standards should be amended, through notice-and-comment procedures, to include the following tentative standards.

Tentative Grade Standards for Cooked, Boneless-skinless Poultry Products without Added Ingredients—A Quality

1. The raw, ready-to-cook, boneless-skinless poultry products without added ingredients used to prepare the cooked product must be labeled in accordance with 9 CFR Part 381.

2. The cooked poultry products must be derived from ready-to-cook carcasses or parts that are cooked in accordance with 9 CFR Part 381. The cooking process or method must not detract from the uncooked appearance of the products.

3. The skin and bones shall be removed in a neat manner without undue mutilation of adjacent muscle.

4. The cooked poultry products may be further processed and subdivided by cutting, slicing, cubing, or similarly reducing the size prior to grading. Individual subdivided pieces of poultry meat must be relatively uniform and of sufficient size and shape to determine grade with respect to the quality factors set forth in this section.

5. The cooked poultry products shall be free of cartilage, tendons extending more than 1/2 inch beyond the meat tissue, blood clots, bruises, and discolorations other than slight discolorations, provided they do not detract from the appearance of the product.

6. Trimming and minor flesh abrasions due to preparation techniques are permitted provided they result in a relatively smooth outer surface with no angular cuts, tears, holes, or undue muscle mutilation in the meat portion.

Dated: February 9, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96–3350 Filed 2–17–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

Forest Service

Deadwood Ecosystem Analysis

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Due to a change in scope and Public Law 104–19, an environmental impact statement for the Deadwood Ecosystem Analysis will not be prepared. The Notice of Intent, published in the Federal Register of September 15, 1994, is hereby rescinded. An environmental assessment will be completed for the part of the project that meets the definition of a salvage sale. The remaining projects in the analysis area will be analyzed at a later date and documented in an appropriate NEPA document.

ADDRESSES: Lowman Ranger District, HC 77 Box 3020, Lowman, ID 83637.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter B. Rogers, District Ranger, 208–259–3361.

Dated: February 16, 1996.

Cathy Barbouletos,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96–3429 Filed 2–14–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

Gypsy Moth Management in the United States

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: record of decision.

SUMMARY: On January 16, 1996, Forest Service Deputy Chief Joan Comanor and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Deputy Administrator Donald Husnik signed the Record of Decision on how the U.S. Department of Agriculture will carry out its gypsy moth management responsibilities nationally. The Record of Decision adopts alternative 6 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement entitled ''Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: a cooperative approach.'' Alternative 6, includes three management strategies: suppression, eradication, and slow-the-speed treatments. Implementation of this alternative will require that site-specific environmental analyses be conducted to address local issues before Federal or cooperative suppression, eradication, or slow-the-spread treatments are conducted. The site-specific environmental analyses will be tiered to this environmental impact statement which is programmatic in nature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Alternative 6 was effective January 16, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Record of Decision and the final environmental impact statement are available by writing to John W. Hazel, USDA Forest Service, 5 Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 200, Radnor, PA 19087–4585; or Charles Bare, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road, Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John W. Hazel, Forest Service, at (610) 975–4150 or Charles Bare, Animal Plant

and Health Inspection Service, at (301) 734–8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final environmental impact statement entitled '' Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A cooperative Approach'' was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on November 24, 1995. Notice of its availability was published in the Federal Register by EPA on December 1, 1995 (60 FR 231). The Record of Decision documents the selection and rationale for selection of an alternative from the six alternatives analyzed in the final environmental impact statement. Forty-six days passed between the date the EPA published the notice of availability and the date of the decision, January 16, 1996. The decision is not subject to administrative appeal because it is neither a National Forest System project or activity subject to the appeal procedures of 36 CFR part 215 nor an amendment or revision of a National Forest land and resource management plan or regional guide subject to the appeal procedures of 36 CFR part 217. Copies of the Record of Decision are being mailed to organizations, groups, and individuals who were on the mailing list for the final environmental impact statement and will be mailed to anyone else who requests a copy.

Dated: February 9, 1996.

William L. McCleese,

Associate Deputy Chief.

[FR Doc. 96–3378 Filed 2–14–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

Timber Bridge Research Joint Venture Agreements; Solicitation of Applications and Application Guidelines

Program Description

Purpose

The Federal Highway Administration and the USDA, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), are working cooperatively under Public Law 102–240, The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, on Research for the development of wood in transportation structures.

The FPL is now inviting proposals for specific areas of the research under the authority of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 3318(b) and will award competitive Research Joint Venture Agreements for cooperative research related to wood in transportation structures. The specific research areas are stated within this announcement.

Eligibility

Proposals may be submitted by any Federal Agency, university, private business, nonprofit organization, or any research or engineering entity.

An applicant must qualify as a responsible applicant in order to be eligible for an award. To qualify as responsible, an applicant must meet the following standards:

(a) Adequate financial resources for performance, the necessary experience, organizational and technical qualifications, and facilities, or a firm commitment, arrangement, or ability to obtain same (including any to be obtained through subagreement(s)) or contracts;

(b) Ability to comply with the proposed or required completion schedule for the project;

(c) Adequate financial management system and audit procedures that provide efficient and effective accountability and control of all funds, property, and other assets;

(d) Satisfactory record of integrity, judgment, and performance, including, in particular, any prior performance under grants, agreements, and contracts from the Federal government; and

(e) Otherwise be qualified and eligible to receive an award under the applicable laws and regulations.

Available Funding

Available funding is shown under the specific research areas, below. The FPL will reimburse the cooperator not-to-exceed eighty percent (80%) of the total cost of the research. The proposing entity may contribute the indirect costs as its portion of the total cost of the research.

Indirect costs will not be reimbursed to State Cooperative Institutions. State Cooperative Institutions are designated by the following:

(a) The Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 and the following), commonly known as the First Morrill Act;

(b) The Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 and the following), commonly known as the Second Morrill Act, including the Tuskegee Institute;

(c) The Act of March 2, 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361a and the following), commonly known as the Hatch Act of 1887;

(d) The Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 341 and the following), commonly known as the Smith-Lever Act;

(e) The Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a and the following), commonly known as the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962; and

(f) Sections 1429 through 1439 (Animal Health and Disease Research), sections 1474 through 1483 (Rangeland Research) of Public Law 95–113, as amended by Public Law 97–98.

Definitions:

(a) Grants, Agreements, and Licensing Officer means the Grants, Agreements, and Licensing Officer of the FPL and any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to whom the authority involved may be delegated.

(b) Awarding Official means the Grants, Agreements, and Licensing Officer and any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to whom the authority to issue or modify awards has been delegated.

(c) Budget Period means the interval of time (usually twelve months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

(d) Department of USDA means the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(e) Research Joint Venture Agreement means the award by the Grants, Agreements, and Licensing Officer or his/her designee to a cooperator to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to establish, discover, elucidate, or confirm information or the underlying mechanisms relating to a research problem area identified herein.

(f) Cooperator means the entity designated in the Research Joint Venture Agreement award document as the responsible legal entity to whom a Research Joint Venture Agreement is awarded.

(g) Methodology means the project approach to be followed to carry out the project.

(h) Peer review group means an assembled group of experts or consultants qualified by training and/or experience in particular scientific or technical field to give expert advice on the technical merit of grant applications in those fields.

(i) Principal Investigator means an individual who is responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project, as designated by the cooperator in the application and approved by the Grants, Agreements, and Licensing Officer.

(j) Project means the particular activity within the scope of one or more of the research areas identified herein.

(k) Project Period means the total time approved by the Grants, Agreements, and Licensing Officer for conducting the proposed project as outlined in an approved application or the approved portions thereof.

(l) Research means any systematic study directed toward new or fuller knowledge of the subject field.