Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 62, No. 48
Wednesday, March 12, 1997

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96–086–2]

Public Meeting; Center for Veterinary Biologics

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This is the second notice to producers of veterinary biological products, product users, and other interested persons that we are holding a seventh annual public meeting to discuss current regulatory and policy issues related to the manufacture, distribution, and use of veterinary biological products. This notice also announces the agenda for the public meeting.

PLACE, DATES, AND TIMES OF MEETING: The seventh annual public meeting will be held in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center, Ames, IA, on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15 and 16, 1997, from 8 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. each day.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kay Wessman, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Inspections and Compliance, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 223 South Walnut Avenue, Ames, IA, telephone (515) 232–5785; fax (515) 232–7120; or e-mail kwessmanaphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) previously announced that it was scheduling the seventh annual public meeting on veterinary biologics in Ames, IA, on April 15 and 16, 1997 (*See* 61 FR 64499, December 5, 1996, docket No. 96–086–1). In its notice for the meeting, APHIS requested interested persons to submit topics to be included in the meeting's agenda. Based on the submissions received and other considerations, the agenda for the seventh annual meeting includes, but is not limited to, the following topics:

1. The Center for Veterinary Biologics;
2. Program activity updates;
3. Postmarketing surveillance;
4. International harmonization;
5. Electronic transmissions;
6. Implementation on 9 CFR 113.8 for in vitro testing;
7. Regulatory reform;
8. Implementation of new standards for antibody products;
9. Informal meetings; and
10. Open discussion.

During the ''open discussion'' portion of the meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to present their views on any matter concerning the APHIS veterinary biologics program. Comments may be either impromptu or prepared. Persons wishing to make a prepared statement should indicate their intention to do so at the time of registration, by indicating the subject of their remarks and the appropriate time they would like to speak. APHIS welcomes and encourages the presentation of comments at the meeting.

''Registration forms, lodging information, and copies of the agenda for the seventh annual public meeting may be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Advance registration is required. The deadline for advance registration is March 24, 1997. A block of total rooms has been set aside for this meeting until this date: Early reservations is strongly encouraged.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of March 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97–6202 Filed 3–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

Forest Service

San Juan Wildlife and Fuels Improvement Projects, Tahoe National Forest; Nevada County, California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; Intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposal to implement a Fuels and Wildlife improvement project on the Nevada County Ranger District. This project is intended to utilize vegetative manipulation, biomass removal, and prescribed fire to lower existing fire hazards and improve wildlife habitat in the project area. There will be some timber harvest included in the project to help accomplish desired levels of crown closures and spacing of standing trees. the EIS described herein pertains only to the treatment areas as outlined within the San Juan Project proposals.

The Forest Service gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process that will occur on the Proposed Action so that interested and affected people, along with local, State and other Federal agencies are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision. The Tahoe National Forest invites written input concerning issues specific to the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action is to establish a series of treatment areas over 2,500 acres along the Graniteville Road north east of Nevada City. The area lies within the Nevada City Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest. The proposed project includes 700 acres of prescribed burning, 328 acres of oak culturing, 452 acres of shrub modification, and 1,619 acres of commercial thinning which will generate approximately 5.2 MMBF. The intent of the project is to lower levels of existing living and dead fuels that could contribute to the spread and intensity of a wildlife event in the area. The design of the project will allow the manipulation of the existing stand structure to be done in such a manner that will also enhance wildlife habitat and migration corridors. The exclusion of fire from the area over the past 100 years has affected fire potential and has degraded wildlife habitat due to overgrowth in the area. Alternatives to the proposed action will be developed by March, 1997.

Internal scoping and public comments to date have identified the following issues: Affect of project on California Spotted Owl, Goshawk and deer habitat, effects of timber harvest on soil stability, use of prescribed fire near existing residence, the level of forest products that the project may provide, visual integrity of the area, the stability of affected watersheds and any potential erosion.

DATES: Input concerning issues with the Proposed Action must be received by March 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct written input and questions about the Proposed Action and Environmental Impact Statement to the Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA. 95959–6003. Telephone (916)265–4531.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Carlson, Project Leader, Nevada City Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA. 95959–6003. Telephone (916)265–4531.

SUPPEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will tier to the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Forest Plan EIS. The purpose of the Proposed Action is four-fold.

1. Address public concerns about potential destruction of private and public lands due to uncontrolled wildfires.
2. Improve the existing state of the forested areas in such a manner that wildlife within the area will have better forage, habitat, cover, and migration corridors.
3. Improve the overall health of the timber stands by removing undesirable understory and other weakened or high-risk trees.
4. Provide forest products for the forest products industry.

Public Scoping Process: A letter describing the Proposed Action was mailed to a list of interested parties on January 9, 1997. An article describing the project and soliciting information/concerns from the public was published in the ''The Union'' newspaper in Grass Valley, CA. On February 18, 1997. The Tahoe National Forest plans to issue a scoping letter to all interested publics in March, 1997. A public meeting with potentially interested parties and specialists occurred on February 22, 1997.

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 a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so the 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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 on the draft EIS 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the Proposed Action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS 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.)

A draft EIS is expected to be available for agency and public review by April 1997. A final EIS is expected to be completed by June 1997 and documented by a Record of Decision.

The responsible official for the EIS and decision is John H. Skinner, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA 95959–6003.

Dated: March 4, 1997.

John H. Skinner,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97–6138 Filed 3–11–97; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA

Iron Range Livestock Exchange, Inc.; Aitkin, Minnesota; Correction

A notice of the posting of certain stockyards listing their facility number, name, and location was published in the Federal Register on February 7, 1997, (62 FR 5795). This notice is to correct the posting number assigned to Iron Range Livestock Exchange, Inc., to read MN–192.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 4th day of March 1997.

Daniel L. Van Ackeren,

Director, Livestock Marketing Division, Packers and Stockyards Programs.

[FR Doc. 97–6097 Filed 3–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–EN–P

BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 552b of Title 5, United States Code, that a meeting of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission will be held on Thursday, March 27, 1997.

The Commission was established pursuant to Public Law 99–647. The purpose of the Commission is to assist federal, state and local authorities in the development and implementation of an integrated resource management plan for those lands and waters within the Corridor.

The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Valley Resource, Inc., 1595 Mendon Road, Cumberland, RI for the following reasons:

1. Update on Cumberland Projects
2. Welcome Workshops; The Plan
3. Commission Business

It is anticipated that about twenty people will be able to attend the session in addition to the Commission members.

Interested persons may make oral or written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made prior to the meeting to: Susan K. Moore, Executive Director, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI 02895, Tel.: (401) 762-0250.

Further information concerning this meeting may be obtained from Susan K. Moore, Executive Director of the Commission at the aforementioned address.

Susan K. Moore,

Executive Director, BRVNHCC.

[FR Doc. 97–5624 Filed 3–6–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission For OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for