

interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Sheila Johnson as soon as possible at (202) 690-6498.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FSIS administers the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act. The Agency's activities are intended to prevent the distribution in domestic and foreign commerce, as human food, of unwholesome, adulterated, or misbranded meat, poultry, and egg products, including products that may transmit diseases or that may be otherwise injurious to health.

Throughout the 1990's, the Agency's most important goal was an improved food safety inspection system, exemplified by the Pathogen Reduction and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) regulations that are now fully implemented. Although a primary goal of the PR/HACCP rule was to eliminate, reduce, and prevent the presence of pathogens, the HACCP regulations also address physical hazards. Recently, there have been questions raised on how foreign materials need to be addressed in the HACCP environment. Therefore, to address such concerns, FSIS is holding this technical conference.

Public Meeting

At the meeting, the Agency will describe, and invite discussion and comment on, circumstances and instances of contamination; the different types of foreign material contamination; health and safety risk aspects; current state of detection and removal; verification; validation; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP); critical control points and critical limits in relation to foreign materials; and the role of prerequisite programs.

The Agency will present its current thinking on controlling foreign material contaminants through HACCP, Standard Sanitation Operating Procedures (Sanitation SOPs), and prerequisite programs. Discussion panels of food safety experts will review the current state of foreign material contaminant detection, removal, and verification. The Agency intends to seek information from academia, industry sources, and consumers on the best ways to identify such potential hazards and to provide a forum for discussion on how best to control them. The Agency will open the discussion to include, and solicit comment from, the attendees.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of 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 public meeting notice, 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 on-line through the FSIS Web site located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, FSIS public meetings, recalls, **Federal Register** notices, 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 that 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 at Washington, DC on August 27, 2002.

William J. Hudnall,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-22189 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Hoosier National Forest, Indiana; German Ridge Restoration Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental consequences of a vegetation restoration project. In the EIS the USDA Forest Service will address

the potential environmental impacts of replacing pine plantations in the German Ridge area of Perry County, Indiana with native hardwood communities. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the purpose and need of the action.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before September 30, 2002. The draft environmental impact statement is expected February 2003, and the final environmental impact statement is expected August 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Ron Ellis, NEPA Coordinator; Hoosier National Forest; 811 Constitution Avenue; Bedford IN 47421. Send electronic comments to: r9_hoosier_website@fs.fed.us. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for information on how to send electronic comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ron Ellis, NEPA Coordinator, Hoosier National Forest, USDA Forest Service; telephone: 812-275-5987. See address above under **ADDRESSES**. Copies of documents may be requested at the same address. Another means of obtaining information is to visit the Forest Web page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier—click on "Forest Projects," then "Scoping Packages," and then "German Ridge Restoration."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the project is to:

- Fulfill the goals and objectives of the *Forest Plan* involving the restoration of native communities (*Forest Plan*, pp. 2-2, 2-6, and 2-32).
- Replace pine plantations with native hardwood communities that include a strong component of oaks, hickories, and other fire-adapted plants.
- Restore several fire-dependent plant species associated with the barrens that are Regional Forester sensitive species or forest species of concern.

Proposed Action

To move the vegetation toward the desired condition shown in the Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Hoosier National Forest would during the next six or seven years: (1) Use prescribed burning on 2,180 acres, (2) harvest using "clearcut with reserves" on 498 acres, (3) clearcut 80 acres, and (4) thin 101 acres. The total treatment area is 2,180 acres. Hardwood trees, which account for 20 to 50 percent of the trees in the pine stands, would be left in the harvest areas.

Possible Alternatives

Possible alternatives include no action, an alternative that would increase the visual buffer along the German Ridge multiple use trail and leave a no-cut buffer between cutting units, an alternative that would generally remove as much pine as possible from around rare plant communities, and an alternative that would burn only the pine stands and not the adjacent hardwoods.

Responsible Official

Kenneth G. Day, Forest Supervisor;
Hoosier National Forest; 811
Constitution Avenue; Bedford, Indiana
47421.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to actively convert any or all of the 2,180 acres of pine plantations to hardwood communities by harvesting and prescribed burning.

Scoping Process

The Hoosier National Forest proposes to scope for information by contacting persons and organizations on the Hoosier's mailing list and publishing a notice in the local newspaper. No scoping meetings are planned at this time. The present solicitation is for comments on this Notice of Intent and scoping materials available elsewhere, such as on the Forest webpage.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary or potential issues have been identified from previous public comments.

(1) Timber harvesting and burning may decrease land productivity through increased erosion and soil compaction and also adversely affect water quality.

(2) Commercial logging of pine around the barrens may damage rare plants and fragile soils and increase populations of exotic plants.

(3) Harvesting the pine, including the larger allowable size of openings in the Wheatly Branch Barrens and Harding Flats Special Areas, may result in adverse visual impacts, but leaving the high risk pine along the trails may cause safety concerns. On the other hand, removing the high risk pine might increase the growth of underbrush, resulting in increased costs for trail maintenance.

(4) Leaving the diseased pines may increase the spread of disease to other pine stands in the area, and insects and disease may destroy the useable products in the area if the pine is not harvested soon.

(5) Harvesting and burning may increase fragmentation of habitat for

forest interior species, create additional clearing edge, and decrease habitat for species such as the pine warbler.

(6) Air quality may be degraded by burning and harvesting.

Electronic Access and Filing Addresses

Information is available electronically on the Forest Web page: www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier—click on "Forest Projects," then "Scoping Packages," and then "German Ridge Restoration." Send electronic comments to:

r9_hoosier_website@fs.fed.us. When submitting electronic comments, please reference the German Ridge Restoration Project on the subject line. In addition, include your name and mailing address.

Comments Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments in response to this solicitation for information should focus on (1) the proposal for vegetative restoration, (2) possible alternatives for addressing issues associated with the proposal, and (3) any possible impacts associated with the proposal based on an individual's civil rights (race, color, national origin, age, religion, gender, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status). We are especially interested in information that might identify a specific undesired result of implementing the proposed action. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decisions under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any persons may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under FOIA confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets.

The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and, should the request be denied, return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 90 days.

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.

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.

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

Dated: August 26, 2002.

Kenneth G. Day,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-22164 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Plumas National Forest; California; Stream Fire Restoration Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent.

The following sentence was inadvertently left out of the NOI published on August 9, 2002 (67 FR 51816).

DATES: The final EIS is expected to be published in March 2003.

[No other changes are made.]

Dated: August 22, 2002.

Robert G. MacWhorter,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-22126 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Habersham Electric Membership Corporation; Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact with respect to a request from Habersham Electric Membership Corporation for financing assistance from RUS to finance the construction of a new headquarters facility in Habersham County, Georgia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468, e-mail at bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Habersham Electric Membership Corporation proposes to construct a new headquarters facility adjacent to their existing headquarters facility located at the eastern intersection of Georgia Highway 115 and Beaver Dam Road in Habersham County, Georgia. The new headquarters will be constructed near

the center of a 40-acre tract purchased by Habersham Electric Membership Corporation for this purpose at the western intersection of Georgia Highway 115 and Beaver Dam Road. The facilities will provide approximately 40,000 square-foot of warehouse, office space, conference rooms, and vehicle maintenance. The facilities will include parking for employees and visitors. Approximately 17 acres of the site will be graded to accommodate the facilities.

Copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact are available from RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Clyde Hardigree of Habersham Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Box 25, Clarkesville, Georgia 30523-0025 telephone 1-800-640-6812 extension 169.

Dated: August 22, 2002.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 02-22155 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

[Docket No. 02-1]

RIN 3014-AA26

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines; Public Rights-of-Way

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting; correction.

SUMMARY: On June 17, 2002, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) placed in the docket and on its web site for public review and comment draft guidelines which address accessibility in the public right-of-way. The Access Board will hold an informational meeting on the draft guidelines in Portland, Oregon on October 8, 2002. The times and duration of the meeting have been revised.

DATES: Comments on the draft guidelines must be received by October 28, 2002. The Access Board will hold an informational meeting on October 8, 2002 from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Office of Technical and Informational Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance

Board, 1331 F Street NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. E-mail comments should be sent to windley@access-board.gov. Comments sent by e-mail will be considered only if they contain the full name and address of the sender in the text. Comments will be available for inspection at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on regular business days. The informational meeting on October 8, 2002 will be held at the Hilton Portland, 921 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Windley, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-0025 (voice); (202) 272-0082 (TTY). Electronic mail address: windley@access-board.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1999, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) established the Public Rights-of-Way Access Advisory Committee (Committee) to make recommendations on accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered public rights-of-way covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968. The Committee was comprised of representatives from disability organizations, public works departments, transportation and traffic engineering groups, design professionals and civil engineers, pedestrian and bicycle organizations, Federal agencies, and standard-setting bodies. The Committee met on five occasions between December, 1999 and January, 2001. On January 10, 2001, the Committee presented its recommendations on accessible public rights-of-way in a report entitled "Building a True Community." The Committee's report provided recommendations on access to sidewalks, street crossings, and other related pedestrian facilities and addressed various issues and design constraints specific to public rights-of-way. The report is available on the Access Board's website at www.access-board.gov/prowac/commrept/index.htm or can be ordered by calling the Access Board at (202) 272-0080. Persons using a TTY should call (202) 272-0082. The report is available in alternate formats upon request. Persons who want a copy in an alternate format should specify the type of format (cassette tape, Braille, large print, or ASCII disk.)