

development of alternatives to the proposed actions. One of the purposes of this notice of intent is to solicit input from the public as part of the overall scoping effort. In addition to this notice, the public has been notified of the environmental impact statement through the Umpqua National Forest's April 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA). Scoping for this project will also include a public field trip in the Fish Creek watershed on June 9, 2001. Based on the preliminary issues, the Responsible Official has determined that it is appropriate to proceed with an environmental impact statement.

Public comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for public review by December 2001. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be available in March 2002.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of this early stage of public participation and 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 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 have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the court if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. *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 substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed actions, 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 of 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.)

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal. The Responsible Official is Don Ostby, Forest Supervisor for the Umpqua National Forest. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in a Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to appeal regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: May 22, 2001.

Don Ostby,

Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest.
[FR Doc. 01-13732 Filed 5-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[01-01-C]

Opportunity To Comment on the Applicants for the Fostoria (OH) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in the geographic area currently assigned to Fostoria Grain Inspection, Inc. (Fostoria).

DATES: Comments must be postmarked, or sent by telecopier (FAX) by June 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted in writing to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Telecopier (FAX) users may send comments to the automatic telecopier machine at 202-690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail janhart@gipsadc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Action has been reviewed and

determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the March 8, 2001, **Federal Register** (66 FR 13874), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Fostoria area to submit an application for designation. There were three applicants for the Fostoria area: Fostoria, Columbus Grain Inspection, Inc. (Columbus), and Michigan Grain Inspection Services, Inc. (Michigan). Fostoria applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them. Columbus and Michigan, both designated official grain inspection agencies operating in Ohio and Michigan, applied for designation to provide official services in all or part of the Fostoria geographical area.

GIPSA is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments concerning the applicants. Commenters are encouraged to submit reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of the applicants. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address. Comments and other available information will be considered in making a final decision. GIPSA will publish notice of the final decision in the **Federal Register**, and GIPSA will send the applicants written notification of the decision.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 4, 2001.

David R. Shipman,

Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-13583 Filed 5-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[01-02-A]

Opportunity for Designation in the Columbus (OH), Farwell (NM), and Northeast Indiana (IN) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in