

E. Status of compliance with any special conditions on the use of awarded funds.

VII. Agency Contact(s)

Web site—Forms, previous recipients and other information can be found at <http://www.nsiic.org>; e-mail: info@nsiic.org; USPS at NSIIC, PO Box 23483, Washington, DC 20026-3483; other carriers at Room 2117, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 690-0632 or (202) 236-6567 or FAX (202) 720-1053.

VIII. Other Information

Low interest loans: For information on NSIIC intermediary low interest loan program, visit National Livestock Producers Association at <http://www.nlpa.org>.

The NSIIC Board of Directors reserves the right to award more, or less than the funds described in this announcement. In the absence of worthy application, the Board may decide not to make an award if deemed in the best interest of the Government.

Dated: July 14, 2005.

Jay B. Wilson,

Executive Director/CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. TM-05-07]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: The meeting dates are Monday, August 15, 2005, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, August 16, 2005, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, August 17, 2005, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Requests from individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting are due by the close of business on July 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, The Hillwood Room, 1330 Maryland

Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024. Requests for copies of the NOSB meeting agenda, requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting, or written comments may be sent to Ms. Katherine Benham at USDA-AMS-TMD-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4008-So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0200. Requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting may also be sent via facsimile to Ms. Katherine Benham at (202) 205-7808 or electronically to Ms. Katherine Benham at Katherine.benham@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine E. Benham, Advisory Board Specialist, National Organic Program, (202) 205-7806.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the OFPA. The NOSB met for the first time in Washington, DC, in March 1992, and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the organic program. The committees are: Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification; Crops; Livestock; Materials; Handling; and Policy Development.

In August of 1994, the NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture. Since that time, the NOSB has submitted 69 addenda to its recommendations and reviewed more than 267 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of the NOSB was held on February 28-March 3, 2005, in Washington, DC.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its final National Organic Program regulation in the **Federal Register** on December 21, 2000 (65 FR 80548). The rule became effective April 21, 2001.

The principal purposes of the meeting are to provide an opportunity for the NOSB to receive an update from the USDA/NOP and hear progress reports from NOSB committees regarding work plan items and proposed action items. The NOSB will also review materials to determine if they should be included on

the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

The Policy Development Committee will discuss factors to be considered for the development of guidance regarding temporary variances for research. The committee will also discuss the future development of criteria and procedures to be used by the NOSB when reviewing substances petitioned for addition to or removal from 205.606. The committee will present, for NOSB consideration, recommended changes to the Board Policies and Procedures Manual that include the following: (1) New materials approval and TAP review information; (2) sunset review process information; (3) procedures for handling questions and answers from the NOP; (4) decision tree process; (5) Chemistry 101 background information; and (6) formatting changes. Finally, the committee will submit, for NOSB consideration, its recommendations concerning the adoption of the collaboration policy document as presented by the NOP as an amendment to the Board Policy and Procedures Manual.

The Certification, Accreditation, and Compliance Committee will present, for NOSB consideration, its recommendation on how to operationalize the process of Peer Review. The committee will present a draft statement concerning NOP's response to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) report. It will also present, for NOSB consideration, a recommendation developed in cooperation with the Handling Committee that contains certification questions and answers related to retailers and private labelers.

*COM019*The Livestock Committee will discuss the future development of apiculture standards (based on an existing NOSB recommendation). The committee will present, for NOSB consideration, its recommendations to provide guidance on requirements for access to pasture for ruminants and the addition of Sucrose Octanoate Esters to the National List for use in Apiculture Production.

The Materials Committee will discuss priority items for the sunset review of substances identified by Crops, Livestock, Handling, and Materials Committee. The committee will also discuss possible revisions to the **Federal Register** Notice (65 FR 43259) that contains instructions for the submission of petitions to add substances to or remove substances from the National List. The committee will present recommendations to (1) restructure the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances to reflect the exemption

categories contained in OFPA; and (2) clarify the definition of "synthetic" as it applies to substances petitioned for the addition to or removal from the National List.

The Handling Committee will present, for NOSB consideration, a recommendation that provides guidance on determining the differences between agricultural products vs. non-agricultural substances.

The Crops Committee will review and consider approving the following substances for crop production: Soy Protein Isolate, Ammonium Bicarbonate, Chitosan, and Sucrose Octonate Esters. The committee will also submit, for NOSB consideration, recommendations to consider (1) guidance on the allowed uses of Compost and Compost Tea; (2) revisions to the "natural resource" sections of the sample NOSB Organic Farm Plan; and (3) guidance on assessing commercial availability and equivalent varieties of organic seeds.

For further information, see <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>. Copies of the NOSB meeting agenda can be requested from Ms. Katherine Benham by telephone at (202) 205-7806; or by accessing the NOP Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

The meeting is open to the public. The NOSB has scheduled time for public input on Monday, August 15, 2005, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday, August 17, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting may forward their request by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to Katherine Benham at addresses listed in **ADDRESSES** above. While persons wishing to make a presentation may sign up at the door, advance registration will ensure that a person has the opportunity to speak during the allotted time period and will help the NOSB to better manage the meeting and to accomplish its agenda. Individuals or organizations will be given approximately 5 minutes to present their views. All persons making an oral presentation are requested to provide their comments in writing. Written submissions may contain information other than that presented at the oral presentation.

Written comments may also be submitted at the meeting. Persons submitting written comments at the meeting are asked to provide 30 copies.

Interested persons may visit the NOSB portion of the NOP Web site <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop> to view available documents prior to the meeting. Approximately 6 weeks following the meeting interested

persons will be able to visit the NOSB portion of the NOP Web site to view documents from the meeting.

Dated: July 21, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,
Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Modoc National Forest, CA; Restoration of the Sagebrush Steppe and Associated Ecosystems in Northeast California and Northwest Nevada Through Improved Management of Western Juniper and Other Natural Resources

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Modoc National Forest and partner agencies including the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Modoc County, California, are cooperating to develop a management plan and environmental impact statement to address restoration of sagebrush steppe ecosystems that have been impacted by rapidly expanded stands of Western juniper. The management plan will broadly identify appropriate treatment methodologies by soil and range site, provide guidelines for design and implementation of effective treatments, and provide a broad prioritization for treatment areas to be analyzed over a 30 year horizon. The ecosystem restoration projects, derived from this management structure, will restore biodiversity and productivity to these ecosystems, benefiting sagebrush obligate species such as sage-grouse, improving hydrologic conditions and enhancing the forage base for wildlife and domestic animals. Restoration projects will occur on National Forest lands and public lands administered by the BLM in parts of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta and Siskiyou counties, California and in Washoe County, Nevada. The planning area covers approximately 6.5 million acres of public and private land. This management plan will amend the Modoc National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and BLM land use plans for the Alturas, Eagle Lake and Surprise field

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received no later than 30 days after the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected July 2006 and the final environmental impact statement is expected March 2007.

ADDRESSES: Stanley G. Silva, Sagebrush-Steppe Restoration, Modoc National Forest, 800 West 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robinson (Rob) Jeffers, Project Coordinator, Modoc National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 800 W. 12th, Alturas, CA 96101 (530-233-8816). Comments sent via e-mail must be in MS Word or Rich Text Format sent to rgjeffers@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action: Over the past 100 to 150 years, Western juniper has increased approximately 15 fold in the 6.5 million acre analysis area. This expansion of Western juniper is largely attributed to the removal of fire from the ecosystem. Computer modeling based on soils types, and validated by state mapping of juniper coverage in 1887, indicated the presence of approximately 198,000 acres of juniper in the analysis area. Digital mapping and analysis was completed in 2002 that identified juniper occurrence on approximately 3 million acres.

This conversion of the sagebrush ecosystem to a predominantly juniper woodland type has resulted in a dramatic loss of biodiversity on the landscape, severely diminished habitat values, particularly for sage obligate species, and substantially degraded hydrologic conditions on many watersheds.

This pervasive loss of the sagebrush ecosystem, and its attendant vegetative, habitat, and hydrologic values, represents a compelling need for management action. The purpose of this project is to develop and institutionalize a juniper management strategy for public lands and National Forest System Lands encompassed by the 6.5 million acre analysis area, to restore the sagebrush ecosystem and associated vegetative communities to desired habitat conditions existing historically.

More specifically the strategy seeks, through improved juniper management, to restore sagebrush ecosystem vegetation composition, structure, function and distribution to historic configurations, so that historic fire return intervals can be sustained.

Additional objectives include improving watershed function and condition, managing fuels to conform to the National Fire Plan requirements, and implementing, where appropriate, national renewable energy direction.