

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 69, No. 114

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. # FV-04-308]

United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Peppers

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising official grade standards, is soliciting comments on the possible revision to the United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Peppers. The Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee has asked AMS to review all fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. As a result, AMS has noted that tolerances need to be separated for decay affecting walls and/or calyxes from decay affecting stems only. Other areas for possible revision include adopting and defining industry terms for size and color. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 16, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240; fax (202) 720-8871, E-mail FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov or you may also send your comments by the electronic process available at the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments should make reference to the dates and page

number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185; E-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a 2003 meeting of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. AMS has identified the United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Peppers for possible revision. These standards were last revised in 1989. The current standards for all grades of sweet peppers allow a two percent tolerance for decay affecting stems, walls and calyxes. All decay seriously detracts from the appearance or the edible or shipping quality of the pepper. However, decay affecting the stems only does not affect the edible portion of the pepper. Therefore, AMS is considering a change in the scoring and reporting of decay. Decay affecting walls and calyxes shall continue to be scored against the restrictive tolerance of two percent for decay. Decay affecting the stems only shall be scored against the serious damage tolerance of five percent for U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 grades, and against the total lot tolerance of ten percent for serious damage in the U.S. No. 2 grade. AMS believes that a change to the decay tolerance is warranted to better serve the industry. Other areas under review are industry terms for size based on 1½ bushel containers as well as the terms “chocolate” and “suntan” which the industry uses to describe the color of peppers. Prior to undertaking detailed work to develop the proposed revised standards, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible revision of the standards for grades of sweet peppers and the probable impact on distributors, processors, and growers.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standards. Should AMS proceed with revising the standards, the proposed revision of the standards will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments.

Dated: June 7, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-13360 Filed 6-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comment; West Copper River Delta Sport Fish Use Survey

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the proposed new information collection, West Copper River Delta Sport Fish Use Survey. The collection is necessary to provide baseline data on the amount and distribution of sport fish use (recreational anglers) on National Forest System lands of the Copper River Delta. The information provided by this survey will assist in managing recreational fishing resources on the Copper River Delta.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before August 16, 2004. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Deyna Kuntzsch, Fisheries Biologist, or Dirk Lang, Fisheries Biologist, Cordova Ranger District, Chugach National Forest, Forest Service, USDA, PO Box 280, Cordova, AK 99574.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (907) 424-7214 or by e-mail to dkuntzsch@fs.fed.us or dwl@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at 612 North 2nd Street, Cordova, Alaska. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (907) 424-7661 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deyna Kuntzsch, Cordova Ranger District, at (907) 424-4737, or Dirk Lang, Cordova Ranger District, at (907) 424-4753. Individuals, who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD), may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339

twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: West Copper River Delta Sport Fish Use Survey.

OMB Number: 0596–New.

Expiration Date of Approval: N/A.

Type of Request: New.

Abstract: The amount and distribution of sport fish use (recreational angling) on individual streams of the West Copper River Delta is currently unknown. Local managers have observed a recent increase in use and are concerned that concentrated use will impact fisheries resources. Concentrated sport fish use can result in habitat degradation, over harvest of small coho salmon stocks, increased trash/noise/pollution, congested fishing at popular spots, and increased traffic/parking problems at access points. There are two main sport fish user groups: local and non-local. Much of the use may come from non-local anglers that arrive by one of two means: airplane or ferry. Improved ferry service in 2005 may further increase the number of sport fish users on the Copper River Delta. There is a need to collect baseline data on the current amount and distribution of sport fish use on the Copper River Delta.

The Cordova Ranger District proposes to collect the information in three ways: person-to-person interviews at the airport and at ferry terminals, mail-in questionnaires distributed to local residents, and aerial counts of anglers. Respondents will be asked where they fished, how long they fished, what species they caught, and what species they harvested. The information from the interviews and from the mail-in questionnaires will be assessed against the aerial surveys.

The collected information will provide Forest Service resource managers with a means by which to measure and monitor sport fish use on the West Copper River Delta during the peak fishing period and to assist in the management of sport fish use at the individual stream level on the Copper River Delta. The data will be useful to: (1) Focus sport fish related interpretive and educational projects (signs and brochures); (2) focus habitat protection and restoration projects in areas of concentrated use; (3) focus habitat monitoring efforts in areas of concentrated use; (4) identify areas where improved access and or facilities would benefit users or other forest resources (trails, parking areas, fish cleaning stations, etc.); and (5) evaluate special use permit (SUP) needs.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 10 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals who sport fish on the West Copper River Delta.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 500 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: May 27, 2004.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 04–13465 Filed 6–14–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Commercial Pack Stock Use Authorizations for the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses; Inyo and Sierra National Forests; Inyo, Fresno, Madera and Mono Counties, CA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposal to authorize outfitting and guiding activities by up to 22 commercial pack stock operations that serve the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas. The proposed action establishes limits on the numbers of stock animals used in conjunction

with commercial operators, establishes limits on the commercial group size at certain locations, determines trail suitability for commercial operations, and designates campsites for use by commercial stock users. The proposed action also establishes primary operating areas for commercial pack stock operations, establishes destination quotas, and determines grazing suitability.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received no later than July 26, 2004. A draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for public review in January 2005. At that time the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in May 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Pack Stock Use Proposed Action, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. Electronic comments may be sent to comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us. The subject line should read "Pack Stock Use Proposed Action."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Beth Hennessy, Wilderness Specialist, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514, (760) 873–2448.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

On April 10, 2000, a lawsuit was filed against the Sierra and Inyo National Forests alleging violations of the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Wilderness Act. Specifically, it was claimed that commercial pack stations were issued special use permits to operate in the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness areas without assessing, in advance through the NEPA process, the environmental impacts of these activities. On June 4, 2001, the judge overseeing the lawsuit issued a ruling on the litigation and found in favor of the plaintiffs, although only on the NEPA claim. The Court determined that the Forest Service failed to adequately document environmental impacts as required by the NEPA. On November 1, 2001, a Court Order was issued that required the Forest Service to complete the NEPA process for these permits no later than 2006. The Court specifically required that a cumulative impacts analysis be included in the NEPA