

decide what mitigation measures and monitoring will be required.

Scoping Process: Public participation will be very important throughout the NEPA analysis process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, American Indian tribes, as well as other individuals and organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed project.

Preliminary Issues: No preliminary planning issues were identified.

Comment Requested: This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIS. Comments submitted during the scoping process should be in writing and should be specific to the purpose and need and the proposed action. The comments should describe as clearly and completely as possible any issues or concerns the commenter has with the proposal.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A DEIS will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

At this early stage, the Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of DEISs must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal in a way that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions [see "*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)"]. Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the FEIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts [see "*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 FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS 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 DEIS 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 NEPA at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection (see 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; *Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21*).

Dated: February 13, 2006.

Robert L. Vaught,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E6-2326 Filed 2-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Harding Lake, Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Robert Jones, State Conservationist, finds that neither the proposed action nor any of the alternatives is a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and determine that an environmental impact statement is not needed for the Harding Lake, Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Jones, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alaska State Office, 800 West Evergreen Avenue, Suite 100, Palmer, AK 99645-6539; Phone: 907-761-7760; Fax: 907-761-7790.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, the preparation and review of

an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is to redirect and control partial stream flows to restore shallow-water spawning and rearing habitat for Northern Pike (*Exos lucius*) and the Least Ciscoe (*Coregonus sardinella*) at Harding Lake, Salcha, AK. The planned works of improvement include installation of a double-weir, sheet-pile stream flow control system in Rogge Creek. This will re-establish more consistent water flow to the Harding Lake Channel of Rogge Creek terminating in Harding Lake. Subsequently, the rise in water levels (design ASL 717) will provide more stable water conditions in Harding Lake to serve in reestablishing littoral wetland areas for northern pike production and rearing. Operation and maintenance of the structure will address flood control to the capacity of the Rogge Creek channels ability to contain flood waters (100 cfs), when out of bank flows will respond to the natural topography and conditions, irrespective of the structure presence. A natural outlet of the Harding Lake controls upper surface levels of the lake.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and other interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Robert Jones.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 9, 2006.

Robert Jones,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 06-1573 Filed 2-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation, Planning, Protection, or Restoration.