

Notices

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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. No. FV-02-338]

United States Standards for Grades of Grapefruit Juice

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is withdrawing a notice soliciting public comments on a petition to change the United States Standards for Grades of Grapefruit Juice. This notice is in response to a letter from a petitioner requesting that their petition be withdrawn.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 15, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen L. Kaufman at (202) 720-5021 or e-mail at karen.kaufman@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 39671; June 10, 2002) requesting comments on a petition to change the United States Standards for Grades of Grapefruit Juice. The petitioner, Indian River Citrus League, requested the replacement of the current requirements for U.S. Grade A with the requirements of the Florida Department of Citrus "Gold Standard". Prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising the grade standards, AMS decided to seek public comments on the petition.

In response to our request for comments, AMS received six comments from trade associations and various other interested parties. Four of the six comments opposed the proposed new standard.

In a letter dated August 20, 2002, the Indian River Citrus League requested that their petition to change the standards be withdrawn.

The Department is therefore withdrawing the notice published on

June 10, 2002, seeking public comments based on the letter from the petitioner withdrawing their request to change the United States Standard for Grade of Grapefruit Juice.

Dated: November 8, 2002.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-29033 Filed 11-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-037N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Eighteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, of the Department of Health and Human Services, are sponsoring a public meeting on January 7, 2003, to review the technical contents of the agenda item documents and to receive comments on all issues coming before the Eighteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, which will be held in London, United Kingdom, February 3-7, 2003.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Maryland 20740, in Conference Room 1B-042. To receive copies of the documents relevant to this notice, contact the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Docket Room, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>.

Send comments (an original and two copies) to the FSIS Docket Room and

reference Docket # 02-037N. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Syed Amjad Ali, International Issues Analyst, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700, telephone (202) 205-7760; Fax (202) 720-3157. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Mr. Charles W. Cooper, Director, International Activities Staff, FDA, at telephone (301) 436-1714; Fax (301) 436-2618.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. The Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) was established to elaborate worldwide standards for fats and oils and their products. The Government of United Kingdom hosts this committee and will chair the Committee meeting.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following specific issues will be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees.
2. Proposed Draft Amendments to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (including provisions for Mid-Oleic Acid Sunflower Oil and Super Palm Olein).
3. Proposed Draft Amendment to the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk: Lists of Acceptable Previous Cargoes and Lists of Banned Immediate Previous Cargoes.

4. Proposed Draft Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads.

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 notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly 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 page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, 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/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC on November 8, 2002.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 02-29029 Filed 11-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, Elk Bugs and Fuel Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is hereby given that the Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to disclose the environmental

consequences of the proposed Elk Bugs and Fuel Project which encompasses approximately 45,498 acres of National Forest System Land (NFS) and 15,068 acres of interspersed private and state lands. Mountain pine beetles are at epidemic levels in portions of the project area and have caused significant mortality of ponderosa pine. Proposed treatments will focus on reducing hazardous fuel concentrations and stand susceptibility to beetle infestation. Priority will be given to treatments on NFS land near private land and those that would contribute to firefighter safety.

In order to move towards the desired future condition as described in the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as well as meet the purpose and need of the project proposal, proposed activities include: (1) Commercial hardwood restoration; (2) non-commercial hardwood restoration; (3) commercial thinning; (4) non-commercial thinning; (5) commercial thinning and bait and sanitation cutting; (6) prescribed burning; (7) bait and sanitation cutting; (8) shaded fuel breaks; and (9) transportation activities consisting of road construction, reconstruction, and eliminating unnecessary roads.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act, the Black Hills National Forest will also evaluate the environmental consequences of four nonsignificant Forest Plan Amendments in the Elk Bugs and Fuel environmental impact statement. The amendments, if approved, would apply only to the Elk Bugs and Fuel project.

The treatments authorized by Pub. L. 107-206 are not subject to the decision that will be made by the Elk Bugs and Fuel Record of Decision. However, section 706 of Pub. L. 107-206 requires that the effects of section 706 actions be disclosed in the Elk Bugs and Fuel cumulative effects analysis for past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions. This project proposal does not include any proposed treatments in the Greater Beaver Park Lawsuit Settlement Area, including the Beaver Park roadless area.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 16, 2002. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be available for public review in April 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected to be available in July 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written, oral, or e-mail comments by: (1) Mail—Elk Bugs

and Fuel Project; Carl Leland, U.S. Post Office, Room 201, 18 South Mill Ave, Ridgway, PA 15853; (2) phone—(814) 772-2028; (3) e-mail—cleland@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Leland at (814) 772-2028

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for action of the Elk Bugs and Fuel Project is to reduce mountain pine beetle populations in pine stands, decrease the risk and hazard of wildfire in the proximity of private lands and homes, and to reduce the susceptibility of vegetation to catastrophic fire and further mountain pine beetle attacks.

Proposed Action

The proposed actions to meet the purpose and need include: (1) 409 acres of commercial hardwood restoration; (2) 144 acres of non-commercial hardwood restoration; (3) 10,348 acres of commercial thinning; (4) 3,282 acres of non-commercial thinning; (5) 434 acres of commercial thinning followed by pheromone baiting and sanitation cutting; (6) 562 acres of prescribed burning; (7) 126 acres of pheromone baiting and sanitation cutting; (8) 2,745 acres of shaded fuel breaks; and (9) transportation activities consisting of 42.9 miles of new road construction, 33.9 miles of reconstruction, and 63.5 miles of road decommissioning.

The Black Hills National Forest also proposes to disclose the effects of four nonsignificant Forest Plan Amendments that are needed because of changed conditions brought about by mountain pine beetle infestations and the associated potential for catastrophic wildfire events. The proposed amendments to the Forest Plan, if approved, would apply only to the Elk Bugs and Fuel Project.

Forest Standard 3202, General Wildlife and Fish Direction, provides for big game screening along 20 percent of the edges of arterial and collector roads. Providing shaded fuel breaks along roads in order to protect resources from potential wildfires will require that this standard be reduced to approximately 14 percent for the project area. Management Area (MA) 5.4, Big Game Winter Range Emphasis, Objective 5.4-205 provides for thermal cover for elk, deer and winter turkey habitat on at least 20 percent of the forested portions of the management area. Standard 5.4-2101 states that thermal cover should not be harvested if the planning unit does not meet Objective 5.4-205. In order to maintain the health of many of the insect infested