

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 71, No. 248

Wednesday, December 27, 2006

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 20, 2006.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), oir_submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Performance Reporting System, Management Evaluation.

OMB Control Number: 0584–0010.

Summary of Collection: The purpose of the Performance Reporting System is to ensure that each State agency and project area is operating the Food Stamp Program in accordance with the Act, regulations, and the State agency's Plan of Operation. Section 11 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, amended, requires State agencies to maintain necessary records to ascertain that the Food Stamp Program is operating in compliance with the Act and regulations and must make these records available to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for inspection.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will use the information to evaluate state agency operations and to collect information that is necessary to develop solutions to improve the State's administration of Program policy and procedures. Each State agency is required to submit one review schedule every one, two, or three years, depending on the project areas make-up of the state.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 54.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 492,356.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–22095 Filed 12–26–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Central Kupreanof Timber Harvest Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest timber and to develop a road management plan

for the Central Kupreanof Timber Harvest on the northwest and central part of Kupreanof Island, on the Petersburg Ranger Districts, Tongass National Forest. The proposed action provides for multiple timber sale opportunities and will result in the production of approximately 40 million board feet (mmbf) of timber from approximately 2,025 acres of forested land. Up to 11.1 miles of new forest system road and up to 7.0 miles of temporary road may be necessary for timber harvest. A range of alternatives, responsive to significant issues, will be developed and will include a no action alternative. The existing log transfer facility (LTF) at Little Hamilton in Hamilton Bay would be used. This project is within the Mitkof/Kupreanof biogeographic province. The Record of Decision will disclose whether and where the Forest Supervisor has decided to provide timber harvest units, roads and associated timber harvesting facilities.

DATES: A scoping letter was mailed out in October 2006. Individuals who want to receive a copy of this mailing or who want to be on the project mailing list should contact the Petersburg Ranger District at the address below. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the summer of 2007 and will begin a 45-day public comment period. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision are scheduled to be published in late 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may comment on the project in the following ways: Send written comments to the Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Central Kupreanof Timber Harvest EIS, PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, or hand deliver them to the Petersburg Ranger District, 12 N Nordic Drive, Petersburg, Alaska. The FAX number is (907) 772–5995. Send e-mail comments to: comments-alaska-tongass-petersburg@fs.fed.us with Central Kupreanof EIS on the subject line. Include your name, address and organization name if you are commenting as a representative.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to Patricia Grantham, District Ranger, Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833,

telephone (907) 772-3871, or Tiffany Benna, NEPA Coordinator, Petersburg Ranger District, PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, telephone (907) 772-3871.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The 152,511-acre Central Kupreanof project area is located within Value Comparison Units 426, 427.1, 429, 436 and 438 on Kupreanof Island, on the Petersburg Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. Portions of two roadless areas, North Kupreanof #211 and South Kupreanof #214, as identified by the Forest Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, are located within the project area. The project area includes four small old-growth habitat reserves as designated in the Forest Plan.

There will be no proposed timber harvest in areas of old-growth reserve management prescriptions. However, roads may be proposed through old-growth reserves to access suitable and available forestland outside the reserves. A Forest Plan amendment would be required if a decision is made to modify the small old-growth habitat reserve boundaries associated with this project.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the proposed action responds to the goals and objectives identified by the Tongass Land Management Plan, as amended, and helps move the area toward the desired conditions as described in the Forest Plan. The Forest Supervisor is the Responsible Official for this action and will decide whether or not to harvest timber from the Central Kupreanof Timber Harvest project area, and if so, how this timber will be harvested. The decision will be based on the information that is disclosed in the environmental impact statement. The responsible official will consider comments, responses, the disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations and policies in making the decision and will state that rationale in the Record of Decision.

The Forest Plan goals and objectives applicable to the Central Kupreanof Timber Harvest include:

- Manage the timber resource for production of saw timber and other wood products from suitable timber lands made available for timber harvest, on an even-flow, long-term sustained yield basis and in an economically efficient manner.
- Seek to provide a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual market demand for Tongass National Forest timber and the market demand for the planning cycle.

- Provide a diversity of opportunities for resource uses that contribute to the local and regional economies of Southeast Alaska.

Proposed Action: The Central Kupreanof Timber Harvest proposes harvest of approximately 40 million board feet (mmbf) of timber from approximately 2,025 acres of forested land. Up to 11.1 miles of new forest system road and up to 7.0 miles of temporary road may be necessary for timber harvest. The existing log transfer facility (LTF) at Little Hamilton in Hamilton Bay would be used.

Public Participation: This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Public participation has been an integral component of the study process and will continue to be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Tribal Governments and corporations, Federal, State, and local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. Written scoping comments were solicited through an informal scoping package that was sent to the project mailing list on October 6, 2006. The scoping package will be available at open houses in Petersburg, Alaska and Kake, Alaska. The scoping process includes: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; (3) elimination of non-significant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review.

Preliminary Issues: Preliminary issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project on and the relationship of the project to: subsistence, road management, and timber sale economics.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternative, including a "no action" alternative, will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), will be conducted, if necessary, during the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection

Agency published the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements 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 be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *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 final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement 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 at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.

Comment submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by

showing how the Freedom of Information Act of (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

Permits: Permits required for implementation include the following:

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;

- Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;

2. Environmental Protection Agency.

- General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Log Transfer Facilities in Alaska;
- Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;

3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources.

- Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;

- Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification) Chapter 20.

4. Office of Project Management & Permitting (DNR).

- Coastal Zone Consistency Determination concurrence.

5. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation.

- Solid Waste Disposal Permit;

Responsible Official: Forrest Cole, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Nature of Decision To Be Made: The Forest Supervisor is the Responsible Official for this action and will decide whether or not to harvest timber from the Central Kupreanof Timber Harvest project area, and if so, the amount, location and method how this timber will be harvested. The decision will be based on the information that is disclosed in the environmental impact statement. The responsible official will consider comments, responses, the disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and will state that rationale in the Record of Decision.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: December 12, 2006.

Charley Streuli,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06–9847 Filed 12–26–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Notice of Petitions by Firms for Determination of Eligibility to Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment.

Pursuant to Section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2341 et seq.), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received petitions for certification of eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance from the firms listed below. EDA has initiated separate investigations to determine whether increased imports into the United States of articles like or directly competitive with those produced by each firm contributed importantly to the total or partial separation of the firm's workers, or threat thereof, and to a decrease in sales or production of each petitioning firm.

LIST OF PETITIONS RECEIVED BY EDA FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE PERIOD

[November 21, 2006 Through December 20, 2006]

Firm	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
E.F. Young Jr. Manufacturing, Inc.	425 26th Avenue, Meridian, MS 39301.	11/22/2006	Ethnic hair care products and related toiletries
Elements/Jill Schwartz, Inc..	343 Main Street, <Great Barrington, MA 01230.	11/28/2006	Decorative home accessories
Woodcraft, Inc	105 Austin Road, Morristown, TN 37816.	11/28/2006	Edged glued panels, laminated wood squares and cut-to-specification blanks for the furniture industry
Reynolds & Reynolds, Inc.	521 E. Fourth Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015.	12/6/2006	Electronic emergency energy equipment for elevators
Sabel Engineering Corporation.	P.O. Box 1223–20366, E. 8th Street, Sonoma, CA 95476.	12/6/2006	Packaging machinery (case packaging): targeted to food, dairy, pharmaceutical, and printing and binding industries. Bottom, in line loading and carousel loading versions.
Anco International, Inc.	19851 Cajon Blvd., San Bernardino, CA 92407.	12/6/2006	Hose couplings and support equipment
Mid-Atlantic Finishing Corporation.	4656 Addison Road, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.	12/7/2006	Articles of copper and metal finishing products
Syracuse China Company.	208 Court Street, Syracuse, NY 13208.	12/11/2006	High quality china dinnerware