

a non-significant amendment to the Lassen NF Forest Plan.

Alternatives currently being considered for the Mineral Forest Recovery Project include: (a) No action; (b) the proposed action as outlined above, and; (c) an alternative, based on the proposed action, that does not enter into suitable California spotted owl habitat.

Public Involvement

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to identify questions and issues regarding the proposed action. An issue is defined as a point of dispute, debate, or disagreement relating to a specific proposed action based on its anticipated effects. Significant issues brought to our attention are used during an environmental analysis to develop alternatives to the proposed action. Some issues raised in scoping may be considered non-significant because they are: (1) Beyond the scope of the proposed action and its purpose and need; (2) already decided by law, regulation, or the Land and Resource Management Plan; (3) irrelevant to the decision to be made; or (4) conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence.

While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS.

Identification of Permits or Licenses Required

No permits or licenses have been identified to implement the proposed action.

Estimated Dates for Filing

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in March 2001. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date of the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**.

The Reviewers Obligation To Comment

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 statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that 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 that 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 on the proposed action, 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 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 Regulation of implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: November 16, 2000.

Edward C. Cole,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-30017 Filed 11-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval for a new information collection, the 2002 Census of Agriculture Screening.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 3, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4117 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2001, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 2002 Census of Agriculture Screening.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection.

Abstract: The Census of Agriculture conducted every 5 years is the primary source of statistics concerning the nation's agricultural industry and provides the only basis for consistent, comparable data at the county, state, and national levels. To ensure that only active farms are included in the 2002 Census of Agriculture, operations on the census mail list that have an unknown farm status will be mailed a "screener" postcard prior to the full census. Response to the postcard will determine the operation's eligibility for the full census questionnaire. Identifying and removing non-farms from the census mail list will significantly reduce respondent burden and cost for the census. The screener postcard will be used in all states. Initial mail out is planned for late May 2002 with a follow-up mailing to non-respondents 6 weeks later. Response to this inquiry will be required by law under 7 U.S.C. 2204g. A voluntary, small-scale test will be conducted in May of 2001 to evaluate wording and the effect on the mail list. These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: This information collection consists of a letter and self-mailing postcard with six questions. Public reporting burden will be 2 minutes per refusal (non-response), 3 minutes per screen-out (questions 1-4, 6=No), and 4 minutes per positive response (question 5).

Respondents: Farm and ranch operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 751,500 (mail-out).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 40,080 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained

without charge from Ginny McBride, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (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. Comments may be sent to: Ginny McBride, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5330B South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2009 or gmcbride@nass.usda.gov. All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC., November 9, 2000.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-30426 Filed 11-28-00; 8:45 am]

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BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: November 14, 2000, 1:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.; November 15, 2000, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

PLACE: Cohen Building, Room 3321, 330 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20237.

CLOSED MEETING: The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in closed session to review and discuss a number of issues relating to U.S. Government-funded non-military international broadcasting. They will address internal procedural, budgetary, and personnel issues, as well as sensitive foreign policy issues relating to potential options in the U.S. international broadcasting field. This meeting is closed because if open it likely would either disclose matters that would be properly classified to be kept secret in the interest of foreign policy under the appropriate executive order (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(1)) or would disclose

information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(9)(B)) In addition, part of the discussion will relate solely to the internal personnel and organizational issues of the BBG or the International Broadcasting Bureau. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(2) and (6))

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact either Brenda Hardnett or John Lindburg at (202) 401-3736.

Dated: November 2, 2000.

Carol Booker,

Legal Counsel.

[FR Doc. 00-30569 Filed 11-27-00; 3:53 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112100C]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Executive Committee, Law Enforcement Committee, and Demersal Species Committee meeting as a Council Committee of the Whole, together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 12, to Thursday, December 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Trump Plaza Hotel, The Boardwalk and Mississippi Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ; telephone: 609-441-2708.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Dates and Times of Meetings

Tuesday, December 12, 2000, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.-- the Council will meet

with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board.

Wednesday, December 13, 2000, 8:30 - 11 a.m.-- the Council will meet with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board.

December 13, 2000, 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.-- there will be an Information & Education Program.

December 13, 2000, 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.-- the Council will convene.

Thursday, December 14, 2000, 8 - 9 a.m.-- the Executive Committee will meet.

December 14, 2000, from 8 - 9 a.m.-- the Law Enforcement Committee will meet concurrently.

December 14, 2000, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.-- the Council will meet.

Agenda items for this meeting are: Review and discuss Monitoring Committee recommendations and approve recreational management measures for 2001 for the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational fisheries; review public comments, review and discuss Framework 2 management measures regarding conservation equivalency (Meeting 1), discuss and prioritize 2001 fishery management plan (FMP) actions for the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries; review and discuss Joint Monkfish Committee's recommendations on monkfish management measures, develop and approve management measures for 2001/02 monkfish fishery; review and evaluate position paper for Amendment 9 to the Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish FMP; review and discuss Joint Dogfish Committee's recommendations on spiny dogfish management measures, develop and approve management measures for 2001/01 spiny dogfish fishery; review and discuss the New England Council's request for opportunity to comment on the Council's annual specifications, review 2001 grant application, review 2001 Annual Work Plan; review Coast Guard/Law Enforcement Awards Program actions; review and approve proposed quota set-aside action; hear organizational and committee reports, and if available, comment on NMFS proposed rule regarding regulations impacting the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries in 2001. During the Regional Administrator's Report there will be time to take public comment on Rutgers University's Exempted Fishing Permits application, *i.e.*, mesh selectivity studies.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those