

4. Draft Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems—Comments at Step 6, DOCUMENT CL 2001/25—FICS; DOCUMENT ALINORM 01/30A, Appendix III; DOCUMENT CX/FICS 02/4

5. Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems—Comments at Step 3, DOCUMENT CX/FICS 02/5; DOCUMENT CX/FICS 02/5—Add.1

6. Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Utilization and Promotion of Quality Assurance Systems to Meet Requirements in Relation to Food—Comments at Step 3, DOCUMENT CX/FICS 02/6; DOCUMENT CX/FICS 02/6—Add.1

7. Proposed Draft Revision to the Codex Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations—Comments at Step 3, DOCUMENT CX/FICS 02/7; DOCUMENT CX/FICS 02/7—Add.1

8. Other Business and Future Work. In advance of the meetings, the U.S. Delegate to CCFICS will have assigned responsibility for development of U.S. positions on these issues to members of the U.S. government. The individuals assigned responsibility will be named at the meetings and will take comments and develop draft U.S. positions. All interested parties are invited to provide information and comments on the above issues, or on any other issues that may be brought before CCFICS.

Public Meetings

At the January 8th public meeting, the issues will be reviewed and comments will be received. At the February 7th public meeting, the draft United States' positions on the issues will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments.

Please state that your comments relate to CCFICS activities and specify which issues your comments address.

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 provide copies of the **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. 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 meeting, recalls, and any other types of information that could effect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list 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 these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office at (202) 720-5704.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Public Law 480, Title I program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 26, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Hawkins, Director, Program Administration Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4077 South Building, Stop 1031, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1031, telephone (202) 720-3241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Request for Vessel Approval, Form CCC-105; and Request for Vessel Approval Form CCC-105 (cotton).

OMB Number: 0551-0008.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2002.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended (Public Law 480) authorizes the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to finance the sale and exportation of agricultural commodities on concessional terms. 7 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. Shipping agents or embassies submit pertinent shipping information on Form CCC-105 to facilitate approval by CCC of shipping arrangements. This approval is necessary to assure compliance with cargo preference requirements at the lowest cost to CCC. Agents submit this document in order that USDA can generate the CCC-106, a necessary payment document. Ocean carriers then receive payment for ocean freight.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden is 15 minutes per response for suppliers of ocean transportation reporting details of freight transactions.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden of Respondents: 9 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimberly Chisley, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-2568.

Requests for comments: Comments are requested 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; (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 automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. comments may be sent to William Hawkins, Director, Program Administration Division, Foreign Agricultural Service Room 4077 South Building, Stop 1031, U.S. department of agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1031, telephone (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All

comments will become a matter of public record.

Frank Lee,

Acting General Sales Manager, Foreign Agricultural Service and Acting Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Star Fire Restoration; Eldorado National Forest, Placer County, CA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Star Fire burned 16,800 acres in August and September, 2001, on the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests. Of the total fire, approximately 2,416 acres burned on the Georgetown Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest. The USDA, Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to treat approximately 1650 acres of fire killed and damaged trees in the Star Fire burned area. The fire area is identified in the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment as old forest emphasis and general forest. The purpose of the project is to enhance the development of old forest conditions over the long term by reducing fuel accumulation and fire hazard, increasing the ability to suppress future wildfire, increasing ground cover to protect soil productivity and improve watershed condition, and recovering the value of wood products to fund reforestation and restoration. The proposed action is also designed to contribute to snag and log needs of wildlife, improve aquatic habitats and stream channel function, and provide for public and forest worker safety. It is believed that watershed condition and the probability of growing old forest conditions over the long term will be improved by this project.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope and implementation of this proposal should be received by January 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Patricia Ferrell, Project Leader, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions and comments about this EIS should be directed to Patricia Ferrell, at the above address, or call her at 530-642-5146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fire caused extensive tree mortality. Field

examination indicates that 71% of the project area currently exhibits >75% stand mortality by basal area, 2% of the project area is unburned, 20% of the project area is non forest (rock and barren areas) and plantations, and 7% of the project area currently exhibits 75% mortality by basal area. Additional mortality is likely to become evident next spring and summer as more crowns begin to brown and bark beetles become established. As a result of the fire, much of the project area has reverted from mid to late seral forest conditions to early seral forest. Establishment of old forest requires survival and growth of individual trees and forested stands over the next 250+ years without the occurrence of another stand replacing fire. Preventing another stand replacing fire involves a combination of recurring fuel treatments to modify fire behavior, and effective suppression. Removal of dead trees will reduce future fuel accumulation, improve the ability to effectively suppress future wildfires, and increase the ability to maintain low fuel conditions through prescribed fire. The process of removing dead trees would maintain soil productivity for tree growth by immediately increasing effective ground cover (limbs, twigs, and small boles) to reduce soil erosion. The proposed action would remove dead trees using ground based, skyline, and helicopter logging methods. Trees posing a safety hazard to the public and forest workers would be removed along maintenance level 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 roads. Roads would be reconstructed to facilitate tree removal and improve watershed condition. Slash and small dead trees would be treated to provide ground cover and reduce long term fuel loading. Protection would be applied to sensitive plants, wildlife species, and cultural resources.

The proposed action is consistent with the 1989 Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (2001).

The decision to be made is whether to adopt and implement the proposed action, an alternative to the proposed action, or take no action to remove fire killed and damaged trees in the project area.

Other alternatives will be developed based on significant issues identified during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement. All alternatives will need to respond to the specific condition of providing benefits equal to or better than the current condition. Alternatives being considered at this time include: (1) No Action and (2) the Proposed Action.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from the Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. To facilitate public participation information about the proposed action is being mailed to all who have expressed interest in the proposed action based on publication in the Eldorado National Forest Schedule of Proposed Action and notification of the public scoping period will be published in the Mountain Democrat, Placerville, CA.

Comments submitted during the scoping process should be in writing and should be specific to the proposed action. The comments should describe as clearly and completely as possible any issues the commenter has with the proposal. The scoping process includes:

- (a) Identifying potential issues;
- (b) Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
- (c) Eliminating nonsignificant issues or those previously covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis;
- (d) Exploring additional alternatives;
- (e) Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by January 2002. EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the management of the Eldorado National Forest participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS 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, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*,