

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

Dated: April 23, 2004.

Joyce Andersen,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 04-10017 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Kalispell, Montana May 4th and May 19th. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss future RAC projects.

DATES: The meetings will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Flathead County Commissioner's Office, Commissioner's Conference Room, 800 South Main, Kalispell, Montana, 59901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kaaren Arnoux, Flathead National Forest, Administrative Assistant, (406) 785-5251.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Time will be available for public input on potential projects the committee may be discussing.

Denise Germann,
Public Affairs Specialist.

Cathy Barbouletos,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-10047 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Implementation of the National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement Act of 2003

AGENCY: USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of agency directives.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is revising its policy for assessing fees for organizational camps located on National Forest System lands. These revisions are necessary to conform agency policy with the requirements in the National Forest Organizational

Camp Fee Improvement Act of 2003. These revisions involve amendments and interim directives (IDs) to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2340 (Amendment 2300-2004-2); FSM 2700, zero code chapter (Amendment 2700-2004-3); FSM 2720 (Amendment 2700-2004-4); and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11, chapter 30 (ID 2709.11-2004-1), chapter 40 (ID 2709.11-2004-2), and chapter 50 (Amendment 2709.11-2004-2).

DATES: These amendments and IDs are effective May 4, 2004.

ADDRESSES: These amendments and IDs are available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>. A copy of the amendments and the IDs may also be obtained by contacting Kenneth Karkula, USDA, Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff (Mail Stop 1125), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1125 (202-205-1426).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Karkula, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff (202-205-1426), USDA, Forest Service.

Dated: April 25, 2004.

Sally Collins,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 04-10064 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lahaina Watershed Flood Control Project, County of Maui, Hawaii

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of record of decision.

SUMMARY: Lawrence T. Yamamoto, Responsible Federal Official for projects administered under the provisions of Public Law 83-566 in the State of Hawaii, is hereby providing notification that a record of decision to proceed with the installation of the Lahaina Watershed Flood Control project, signed April 20, 2004, is available.

The record of decision documents that the Lahaina Watershed Flood Control project used all practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to meet the goals established in the National Environmental Policy Act. The FEIS has been prepared, reviewed, and accepted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

For further information or single copies of this record of decision contact: Lawrence T. Yamamoto, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 4-118, P.O. Box 50004, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96850, telephone: (808) 541-2600 ext. 100.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Dated: April 20, 2004.

Lawrence T. Yamamoto,
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 04-10032 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Little Wood River Irrigation District, Gravity Pressurized Irrigation Delivery System, Blaine County, Idaho

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 012(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared and published for a proposed federally assisted project by the Little Wood River Irrigation District, Blaine County, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the Final EIS are available on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/> and Natural Resources Conservation Service, 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, Idaho 83709-1574. A limited number of copies of the EIS 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 Richard Sims, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, Idaho 93709-1574; telephone: 208-378-5700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This EIS addresses the effects of constructing a proposed gravity pressurized irrigation delivery system. The document analyzes the proposed action and two other alternatives, including no action. The proposed action includes the construction, operation and maintenance of two High-Density Polyethylene pipelines that provide irrigation water under gravity pressure to 8,800 irrigated acres and to 2,000 acres with booster pumps. The proposed action would cross the Little Wood River channel three times, several county roads, U.S. Highways 20 and 26, and adjacent to historic Little Wood River floodplains. This document describes Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects of three Alternatives on ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, and health conditions.

Dated: April 26, 2004.

Richard Sims,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 04-10033 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

RIN 0578-AA36

Conservation Security Program

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service and Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the process to be used in determining priority watershed and the details of the enrollment categories that will be used in the FY 2004 sign-up for the Conservation Security Program.

DATES: The administrative actions announced in the notice are effective on May 4, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Derickson, Conservation Security Program Manager, Conservation Operations Division, NRCS, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890, telephone: (202) 720-3524; fax: (202) 720-4265. Submit e-mail to: craig.derickson@usda.gov, Attention: Conservation Security Program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on January 2, 2004 (69 FR 194), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) proposed to establish the Conservation Security Program (CSP). The CSP is a voluntary program

administered by NRCS using the authorities and funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation that provides financial and technical assistance to producers who advance the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Such lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and rangeland, as well as forested land and other non-cropped areas that are an incidental part of the agriculture operation.

NRCS proposed to establish eligibility requirements that included determinations based, among other things, on priority watersheds and enrollment categories that will be used for identifying, classifying, and prioritizing contracts to be funded. While NRCS received and reviewed thousands of thoughtful comments no alternative to the watershed approach was found that was a fairer way to operate the program under the constraints in place, since no final rule has yet been adopted. This document announces the process to be used in determining priority watershed and the details of the enrollment categories that will be used in the FY 2004 sign-up.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, (2004 Appropriations) amended section 1241(a)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)(3)) to remove the permanent program cap of \$3.773 billion and set the funding level of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) for fiscal year 2004 at \$41.4 million. As a result, the program will operate as a capped entitlement in FY 2004 and is currently authorized as an uncapped entitlement in future fiscal years. Further, by law, NRCS cannot incur technical assistance costs for NRCS employees or approved technical assistance providers in excess of 15 percent of the program funds expended in a fiscal year. Therefore, as noted in the proposed rule, ranking and prioritization must occur to insure that stewardship is rewarded and national natural resource issues are addressed.

Given capped spending authority in FY 2004 and as proposed in the President's 2005 Budget, the Administration wants to focus CSP's activities and benefits in high-priority regions that meet the environmental and philosophical goals of the program. Using watersheds allows for improved watershed-scale planning, program execution, and monitoring and evaluation of results, creating a first-of-its-kind conservation program.

Watersheds form discrete natural spatial units. Using watersheds to

allocate funding and assistance will enhance the evaluation of producers' stewardship efforts. Watersheds will reflect the environmental progress we expect from CSP in ways we couldn't expect from working along county or State lines. NRCS expects that the selection of different watersheds for each sign-up will result in every farmer and rancher being potentially eligible for CSP over the next 8 years. No qualifying producer will be left out. A watershed rotation reduces the administrative burden on applicants while it reduces the technical assistance (TA) costs associated with NRCS and its technical service providers processing a large number of applications that cannot be funded.

Rotating the watersheds allows producers to plan and prepare for CSP participation in future sign-ups. Watersheds allow NRCS to focus finite resources on areas with both a documented need for resource enhancement and a strong stewardship tradition. For producers in a selected watershed, this approach means better service when applying, and a higher chance of getting selected. For producers not yet in a selected watershed it means time to improve conservation performance through access to other Farm Bill programs and access to technical service from agency personnel unencumbered by CSP responsibilities. The CSP self-assessment exercise will allow producers to assess their conservation performance for the CSP sign-up and allow for management concerns to be addressed.

The staged implementation will allow agency personnel to refine, streamline, and perfect application procedures as well as self-assessment and self-screening processes.

While the selected process for determining the priority watersheds and the establishment of the enrollment categories will be set out in the CSP final rule, NRCS needs to immediately make those determinations for use in FY 2004, in order to have a sign-up and enrollment of participants in this fiscal year. NRCS will therefore begin using the watershed priority process and will establish enrollment categories immediately upon publication of this notice. This provides a practical means of implementing the program in FY 2004 and staying within the statutory funding and technical assistance constraints. Without moving expeditiously to establish the processes for utilizing priority watersheds and enrollment categories, the CSP will not be implemented in the current fiscal year. The final rule will provide notice