

USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Unless substantial issues with adverse environmental impacts are raised in response to this notice, APHIS intends to issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) based on the EA and authorize shipment of the above product for the initiation of field tests following the close of the comment period for this notice.

Because the issues raised by field testing and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA that is generated for field testing would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field test data support the conclusions of the original EA and the issuance of a FONSI, APHIS does not intend to issue a separate EA and FONSI to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine following completion of the field test provided no adverse impacts on the human environment are identified and provided the product meets all other requirements for licensing.

**Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of June, 2003.

**Peter Fernandez,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–14302 Filed 6–5–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–019N]

#### Codex Alimentarius Commission: 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting, request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is sponsoring a public meeting on June 12, 2003. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Twenty-sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which will be held in Rome, Italy from

June 30 to July 7, 2003. The Under Secretary recognizes the importance of providing interested parties with information about the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

**DATES:** The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held in Room 107A, Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Smithsonian Metro Stop), Washington, DC 20250.

If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket 03–019N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius, Room 4861, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 205–7760.

**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 principal 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. Codex meets biennially. The Executive Committee serves as the executive body of Codex between the biennial meetings.

The Provisional Agenda for the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is as follows:

Part I: Introduction

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report by the Chairperson on the 49th, 50th and 52nd Sessions of the Executive Committee
3. Reports of FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees

Part II: Procedural Matters

4. Amendments to the Procedural Manual
  - (a) Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

(b) Other amendments to the Procedural Manual

Part III: Codex Standards and Related Texts

5. Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 of the Procedure (including those submitted at Step 5 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7 and those submitted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure)
6. Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5
7. Withdrawal or revocation of existing Codex Standards and Related Texts
8. Proposals for the elaboration of new Standards and Related Texts

Part IV: Policy and General Matters

9. Risk Analysis Policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
10. Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards
11. FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Participation of Developing Countries in Codex Standard-Setting
12. Other Matters arising from FAO and WHO
13. Matters arising from the reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces

Part V: Programme and Budgetary Matters

14. Financial and Budgetary Matters 2002/2003 and Proposed Budget 2004/2005
15. Proposed Schedule of Codex Meetings 2003–2005

Part VI: Elections and Appointments

16. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Election of Members of the Executive Committee
17. Appointment of Regional Coordinators
18. Designation of Countries for Appointing the Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces

Part VII: Other Matters

19. Other Business
20. Adoption of the Report

#### Public Meeting

The public meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 12th in Room 107A, Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Attendees will hear brief descriptions of the issues and will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments.

#### 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 June 3, 2003.

**F. Edward Scarbrough,**

*U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.*

[FR Doc. 03-14300 Filed 6-5-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner County, Idaho and Pend Oreille County, Washington; Chips Ahoy Project**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Revised Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service published a Notice of Intent to prepare and environmental impact statement for the Chips Ahoy Project in the **Federal Register** on December 6, 2002 (Vol. 67, No. 235, pages 72635-72637). A revised Notice of Intent is being issued due to two major changes (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 part 21.2):

1. There will be a delay of more than six months in filing the final EIS;
2. There has been a change in the project's proposed action and purpose and need.

The Priest Lake Ranger District on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to treat forest vegetation over approximately 2,000 acres. The treatments are being proposed to restore forest communities to a more historical composition and structure and to re-introduce fire into these ecosystems. Treatments will

include regeneration harvest, thinning, and underburning. A Roads Analysis Process will be completed as a part of the Environmental Impact Statement. The Roads Analysis may suggest changes in the administrative and recreation use of roads and trails in the analysis area to protect forest and watershed resources.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the project analysis must be received within 30 days from the date of this notice in the **Federal Register** and during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period of 45 days. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected in September 2003 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected February 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Chips Ahoy Project, Attn: David DelSordo, Priest Lake Ranger Station, 32203 Highway 57, Priest River, ID 83856.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David DelSordo, Project Leader, Priest Lake Ranger Station, 32203 Highway 57, Priest River, ID 83856, by calling 208-443-6809, or [ddelsordo@fs.fed.us](mailto:ddelsordo@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The project area is located within Bonner County, Idaho, and Pend Oreille County, Washington. The project area is located approximately twenty miles north of the community of Priest River, Idaho. A past bark beetle outbreak, in combination with root diseases, other insects and diseases, and winter storm damage has left many of these stands in poor condition and with hazardous fuel loads. This Notice Of Intent reflects changes in the Purpose of the Action based on comments received over the last six months.

#### **Purpose for Action**

The purpose for this action is to improve the health, resilience, diversity, and productivity of terrestrial ecosystems by advancing species composition, forest structures, and patterns toward desired conditions; reduce fire risk in these ecosystems; and increase the amount of wet forest communities that are dominated by western white pine and western larch trees. Another purpose for the project is to help restore aquatic resources to a more healthy condition.

#### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is separated into three categories, vegetative treatments, fuel treatments, and road treatments. The proposal is to treat forest vegetation over approximately 2,000 acres within the project area. Different types of

treatments would be used depending upon the existing condition of the forest stands. These treatments include regeneration treatments on approximately half of the acreage and commercial thinning on the remaining acreage. After the tree cutting operations are complete, most of the vegetative treatment areas would be underburned to reduce the fuels, prepare the sites for reforestation, and to allow wildland fire to resume a more natural role. In order to access some of the proposed vegetative treatment areas, approximately 3.5 miles of temporary road would be constructed. These temporary roads would be recontoured following their use. Resource protection measures will be included to protect snags, soils, heritage resources, water quality, wildlife, and other resources. The arrangement and management of classified and unclassified roads and trails in the area may be changed to improve watershed quality, protect other resources, and enhance recreation opportunities. Approximately 8 miles of road are planned to be decommissioned. Construction of an alternate snowmobile use route is proposed to mitigate for planned road decommissioning.

#### **Responsible Official**

Ranotta K. McNair, Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 3815 Schreiber Way, Ceour d'Alene, ID 83815

#### **Nature of Decision To Be Made**

The Forest Supervisor of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests will decide whether or not to implement this project, and if so, in what manner.

#### **Scoping Process**

The agency invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. In addition to this notice, a revised proposed action letter will be sent to interested government officials, agencies, groups, and individuals on the Chips Ahoy mailing list. Please contact the Priest Lake Ranger Station at 208-443-2512 if you are interested in being added to this mailing list. No public meetings are planned at this time.

#### **Comment Requested**

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Specific written comments on the proposed action will be most helpful.

#### **Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review**

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for