

Bridge Road, P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR 97845. The Responsible Official will decide if the proposed project will be implemented and will document the decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations. The responsibility for preparing the DEIS and FEIS has been delegated to Brooks Smith, Acting District Ranger, Blue Mountain Ranger District.

Scoping Process

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis, beginning with the scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7). Initial scoping began with the project listed in the 2006 Fall Edition of the Malheur National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions. A Public meeting has been planned for January 2007 to discuss the project. Other meetings will be scheduled as needed. Also, correspondence with tribes, government agencies, organizations, and individuals who have indicated their interest will be conducted.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues identified include the potential effect of the proposed action on: soils, water quality and fish habitat, snags and down wood, disturbance to cultural resources, potential for noxious weed expansion, threatened, endangered and sensitive aquatic, terrestrial and plant species, potential loss of economic value of trees damaged by wildfire, and the safety and use of the area by public and land managers.

Comment

Public comments about this proposal are requested to identify issues and alternatives to the proposed action and to focus the scope of the analysis. 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. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decisions 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 (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the 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 a specified number of days.

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 publishes 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 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 Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

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

Dated: December 4, 2006.

Gary L. Benes,

Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Muncie (IN), Fremont (NE), Savage (MN), and West Lafayette (IN) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end on June 30, 2007. We are asking persons interested in providing official services in the areas served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. We are also asking for comments on the quality of services provided by these currently designated agencies: East Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc. (East Indiana); Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc. (Fremont); State Grain Inspection, Inc. (State Grain); and Titus Grain Inspection, Inc. (Titus).

DATES: Applications and comments must be received on or before January 8, 2007.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit applications and comments on this notice. You may submit applications and comments by any of the following methods:

* *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Deliver to Karen Guagliardo, Review Branch Chief, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

* *Fax:* Send by facsimile transmission to (202) 690-2755, attention: Karen Guagliardo.

* *E-mail:* Send via electronic mail to Karen.W.Guagliardo@usda.gov.

* *Mail:* Send hardcopy to Karen Guagliardo, Review Branch Chief,

Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

* *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Read Applications and Comments: All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the

office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Guagliardo at 202-720-7312, e-mail Karen.W.Guagliardo@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 7(f)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (USGSA), authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to

provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(1)).

Section 7(g)(1) of USGSA provides that designations of official agencies will terminate not later than three years and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of USGSA.

CURRENT DESIGNATIONS BEING ANNOUNCED FOR RENEWAL

Official agency	Main office	Designation start	Designation end
East Indiana	West Sacramento, CA	07/01/2004	06/30/2007
Fremont	Frankfort, IN	07/01/2004	06/30/2007
State Grain	Savage, MN	07/01/2004	06/30/2007
Titus	West Lafayette, IN	07/01/2004	06/30/2007

East Indiana

In accordance with Section 7(f)(2) of USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(2)) the following geographic area, in the States of Indiana and Ohio, is assigned to East Indiana:

* Bounded on the North by the northern and eastern Grant County lines; the northern Blackford, and Jay County lines;

* Bounded on the East by the eastern Jay, Randolph, Wayne, and Union County lines;

* Bounded on the South by the southern Union and Fayette County lines; the eastern Rush County line south to State Route 244; State Route 244 west to the Rush County line; and

* Bounded on the West by the western Rush and Henry County lines; the southern Madison County line west to State Route 13; State Route 13 north to State Route 132; State Route 132 northwest to Madison County; the western and northern Madison County lines; the northern Delaware County line; the western Blackford County line north to State Route 18; State Route 18 west to County Highway 900E; County Highway 900E north to the northern Grant County line. Darke County, Ohio.

Fremont

In accordance with Section 7(f)(2) of USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(2)), the following geographic area, in the States of Iowa and Nebraska, is assigned to Fremont:

In Iowa

* Carroll (west of U.S. Route 71); Clay (west of U.S. Route 71); Crawford; Dickinson (west of U. S. Route 71); Harrison (east of State Route 183); O'Brien (north of B24 and east of U.S. Route 59); Osceola (east of U.S. Route 59); and Shelby Counties, Iowa.

In Nebraska

* Bounded on the North by U.S. Route 20 east to the Pierce County line; the eastern Pierce County line; the northern Wayne, Cuming, and Burt County lines east to the Missouri River;

* Bounded on the East by the Missouri River south-southeast to State Route 91; State Route 91 west to the Dodge County line; the eastern and southern Dodge County lines west to U.S. Route 77; U.S. Route 77 south to the Saunders County line;

* Bounded on the South by the southern Saunders, Butler, and Polk County lines; and

* Bounded on the West by the western Polk County line north to the Platte River; the Platte River northeast to the western Platte County line; the western and northern Platte County lines east to U.S. Route 81; U.S. Route 81 north to U.S. Route 20.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Farmers Cooperative, and Krumel Grain and Storage, both in Wahoo, Saunders County, Nebraska (located inside Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc.'s, area).

Fremont's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Fremont's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agencies:

1. Hastings Grain Inspection, Inc.; Huskers Cooperative Grain Company, Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska; and
2. Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; United Farmers Coop, Rising City, Butler County, Nebraska; and United Farmers Coop (2 elevators), Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska.

State Grain

In accordance with Section 7(f)(2) of USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(2)), the following geographic area, in the State of Minnesota, is assigned to State Grain:

* Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Carver, Scott, Dakota, Brown, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Rice, Goodhue, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Waseca, Steele, Dodge, McLeod, and Sibley Counties.

Titus

In accordance with Section 7(f)(2) of USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(2)) the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Indiana, is assigned to Titus:

* Bounded on the North by the northern Pulaski County line;

* Bounded on the East by the eastern and southern Pulaski County lines; the eastern White County line; the eastern Carroll County line south to State Route 25; State Route 25 southwest to Tippecanoe County; the eastern Tippecanoe County line;

* Bounded on the South by the southern Tippecanoe County line; the eastern and southern Fountain County lines west to U.S. Route 41; and

* Bounded on the West by U.S. Route 41 north to the northern Benton County line; the northern Benton County line east to State Route 55; State Route 55 north to U.S. Route 24; U.S. Route 24 east to the White County line; the western White and Pulaski County lines.

* The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Boswell Chase Grain, Boswell, Benton County; ADM, Dunn, Benton County; ADM, Raub, Benton County (located inside Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection Departments, Inc.'s, area); and The

Andersons, Delphi, Carroll County; Frick Services, Inc., Leiters Ford, Fulton County; and Cargill, Inc., Linden, Montgomery County (located inside Frankfort Grain Inspection, Inc.'s, area).

Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons, including East Indiana, Fremont, State Grain, and Titus, may apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(2)), and 9 CFR 800.196(d) regulations. Designation in the specified geographic areas is for the period beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2010. To apply for designation, contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information, or obtain applications at the GIPSA Web site, <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>.

Request for Comments

We are also publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the quality of services provided by the East Indiana, Fremont, State Grain, and Titus official agencies. In the designation process, we will consider substantive comments citing reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of the applicants. Submit all comments to the Compliance Division at the above address.

In determining which applicant will be designated, we will consider applications, comments, and other available information.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*

James E. Link,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-20905 Filed 12-7-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Sacramento (CA), Frankfort (IN), Indianapolis (IN), and Virginia Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are announcing designation of the following organizations to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (USGSA): California Agri Inspection Company, Ltd. (California Agri); Frankfort Grain

Inspection, Inc. (Frankfort); Indianapolis Grain Inspection & Weighing Service, Inc. (Indianapolis); and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Virginia).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Guagliardo at 202-720-7312, e-mail Karen.W.Guagliardo@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the June 16, 2006, **Federal Register** (71 FR 34882-34883), we requested applications for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas assigned to the official agencies named above. Applications were due by July 14, 2006.

There were two applicants for the Sacramento area: California Agri and Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc. (Mid-Iowa); both are currently designated official agencies. Mid-Iowa withdrew its application. Frankfort, Indianapolis, and Virginia were the sole applicants for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them, so GIPSA did not ask for additional comments on them.

We evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)) and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that California Agri, Frankfort, Indianapolis, and Virginia are able to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the June 16, 2006, **Federal Register**, for which they applied. You may obtain official services by calling the telephone numbers listed below.

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone	Designation start—end
California Agri ...	West Sacramento, CA, (916) 375-5809.	1/01/2007-12/31/2009
Frankfort	Frankfort, IN, (765) 258-3624.	1/01/2007-12/31/2009
Indianapolis	Indianapolis, IN, (317) 899-2337.	1/01/2007-12/31/2009
Virginia	Richmond, VA, (757) 494-2464.	1/01/2007-12/31/2009

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*

James E. Link,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-20906 Filed 12-7-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Applications for Rural Business Opportunity Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of grants of up to \$50,000 per application from the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2007, to be competitively awarded. For multi-State projects, grant funds of up to \$150,000 will be available on a competitive basis. The awards are being capped due to limited funding. This notice is being issued prior to passage of a final appropriations bill, which may or may not provide for funding this program, to allow applicants sufficient time to leverage financing, submit applications, and give the Agency time to process applications within the current fiscal year. The Agency will publish a subsequent notice identifying the amount received in the appropriations, if any.

DATES: The deadline for the receipt of non-earmarked applications in the Rural Development State Office is March 30, 2007. If the RBOG appropriation provides earmarks for Native American, Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Rural Economic Area Partnerships, then those applications must be received in the Rural Development State Office by January 31, 2007. The Agency reserves the right to extend this application deadline. If no earmark is provided in the appropriations, applications from these applicants will compete in the March 30, 2007, competition. Any applications received at a Rural Development State Office after these dates would not be considered for FY 2007 funding.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cindy Mason, Loan Specialist, USDA Rural Development, STOP 3225, Room 6866, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225. Telephone: (202) 690-1433.

ADDRESSES: For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact a Rural Development State Office to receive copies of the application package. Potential applicants located in the District of Columbia must send their applications to the National Office at: