

Topas 19/2 and any progeny derived from crosses with other canola varieties will be as safe to grow as canola that is not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340.

Because APHIS has determined that the subject canola event does not present a plant pest risk based on its similarity to the antecedent organism, Aventis canola event Topas 19/2 will no longer be considered a regulated article under APHIS regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of the subject canola event or its progeny. However, importation of canola event Topas 19/2 and seeds capable of propagation is still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An EA was prepared to examine any potential environmental impacts associated with the extension of a determination of nonregulated status for the subject canola event. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a FONSI with regard to the determination that Aventis' canola event Topas 19/2 and events developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the Aventis extension request and the EA and FONSI are available from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 19th day of November 2002.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02–29755 Filed 11–21–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

North Fork Eel Grazing Allotments EIS—Six Rivers National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: This notice is a revision of the original notice of intent (67 FR 68089) published in the **Federal Register** on November 8, 2002. The Six Rivers National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to authorize grazing of up to 396 Animal Units on five allotments encompassing approximately 72,558 acres of National Forest System lands in the North Fork Eel River Watershed in Trinity County, California. The allotments within the analysis area include the Hoaglin, Soldier Creek, Zenia, Long Ridge and Van Horn. Portions of the latter four allotments extend into adjacent watersheds. Three units of the Van Horn Allotment located within the Upper Mad River Watershed will be evaluated in a separate environmental analysis. The analysis area is located in all or portions of the following townships: T2SR6E, T2SR7E, T3SR6E, T3SR7E, T3SR8E, T4S6E, T4S7E, T4SR8E, T5SR6E, T5SR7E, Humboldt Meridian; T25NR12W, Mount Diablo Meridian.

The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate the grazing management on five allotments within the North Fork Eel River watershed and to determine the level and conditions of grazing to be authorized on federal lands. The needs are to meet resource protection and enhancement goals in the Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), to manage for healthy rangeland ecosystems and to authorize grazing in a manner that maintains or improves rangeland productivity and desirable species while reducing noxious weeds. If approved, the Six Rivers National Forest would authorize grazing through term grazing permits for up to 10 years. The EIS will be designed to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and implementing regulations (43 CFR 2310.1).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in March 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in June 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to S.E. "Lou" Woltering, Forest Supervisor, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501–3834. For further information, mail correspondence to Ruben Escatell, EIS Team Leader, Mad River Ranger District, Star Route Box 300, Bridgeville, CA 95526. A public meeting scheduled for December 3, 2002 will be held at the

Mad River Community Hall located at 155–C Van Duzen Road, Mad River, CA 95552. Comments may be mailed electronically to rescatell@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruben Escatell or Clara Bambauer Cross, EIS Team Leaders at (707) 574–6233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate the grazing management on five allotments within the North Fork Eel River watershed and to determine the level and conditions of grazing to be authorized on federal lands managed by the Six Rivers National Forest, Mad River Ranger District. The allotments within the project area are Hoaglin, Long Ridge, Soldier Creek, Van Horn and Zenia. There is a need to meet resource protection and enhancement goals in the Six Rivers National Forest LRMP through the implementation of Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) developed from this analysis, while protecting outstandingly remarkable values associated with the segment of the North Fork Eel River designated as Wild under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968). The goals and values of the LRMP include the following:

- Maintenance of water quality for aquatic ecosystems, particularly anadromous fish.
- Protection of heritage resources.
- Protection of habitat for wildlife and plant species of concern.
- Maintenance of values associated with inclusive Wilderness and Wild River designations.
- Maintenance of economic stability for the local community that relies on public rangelands.
- Fulfillment of a trust responsibility to the Round Valley Indian Tribes to manage grazing activities and policies so as to not adversely impact tribal trust properties and rights downriver of the analysis area.

There is also a need to manage for healthy rangeland ecosystems, and to authorize grazing in a way that maintains or improves rangeland productivity and desirable species while reducing noxious weeds.

A number of laws provide direction for grazing on public lands, including the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act (1960), the Wilderness Act (1964), the California State Wilderness Act (1984), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (1974), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976), and the National Forest Management Act (1976). The Six Rivers National Forest LRMP also contains provisions to implement this direction.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to authorize grazing of up to 396 Animal Units on National Forest Systems lands on five cattle allotments within the North Fork Eel River watershed and prepare Allotment Management Plans to incorporate the elements included within the resulting decision. Grazing practices and construction or restoration of range improvements would be prescribed to protect and maintain water quality, anadromous fish habitat, and heritage sites, as well as improve livestock distribution to enhance rangeland health.

Responsible Official

S.E. "Lou" Woltering, Forest Supervisor, Six Rivers National Forest, USDA Forest Service, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501-3834, is the Responsible Official for any decision to authorize grazing and manage rangelands in the five cattle allotments within the North Fork Eel River watershed on National Forest system lands. He will document his decisions and rationale in a Record of Decision.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will make the following decision: whether or not to authorize cattle grazing in allotments within the North Fork Eel River watershed, and if so, the terms and conditions required for the term grazing permits and AMPs.

Scoping Process

The public is encouraged to take part in the scoping process and is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. 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. A public meeting will be held to provide information on the proposal as well as on how to provide input to this analysis. The meeting will be held in Mad River, California at the Mad River Community Hall on December 3, 2002 from 6 to 8 p.m. Information from the meeting will be used in the preparation of the draft and final EIS.

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: November 18, 2002.

Jerry Boberg,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Six Rivers National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-29730 Filed 11-21-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Globe, Arizona. The purpose of the meeting is to review possible projects for funding and approve operating guidelines including the next meeting date.

DATES: The meeting will be held December 6, 2002, at 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Gila County Courthouse in the Board of Supervisors hearing room, 1400 East Ash, Globe, Arizona 85501. Send written comments to Robert Dyson, Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee, c/o Forest Service, USDA, PO Box 640, Springerville, Arizona 85938 or electronically to rdyson@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Dyson, Public Affairs Officer, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, (928) 333-4301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Public Law 106-393 related matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Opportunity for public input will be provided.

Dated: November 18, 2002.

John C. Bedell,

Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

[FR Doc. 02-29728 Filed 11-21-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M