

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

The responsible official will make the decision on this proposal after considering comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final EIS, applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

David M. Pieper,

Dakota Prairie Grasslands Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-32509 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, Boise, ID. USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393), the Boise and Payette National Forests' Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, January 15, 2003 in Boise, Idaho for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on January 15, begins at 10:30 AM, at the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program Building, 3100 Vista Avenue, Boise, Idaho. Agenda topics will include review and approval of project proposals, and an open public forum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Swick, Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 634-2290.

Dated: December 18, 2002.

Cliff Steele,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-32527 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 17 through noon, Saturday, January 18, 2003, in Wrangell, Alaska. The purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss proposals for funding under Title II, Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act. Public testimony regarding the proposals will also be taken.

DATES: The meeting will be held commencing at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 17 through noon, Saturday, January 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Harding's Old Sourdough Lodge, 1104 Peninsula, Wrangell, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chip Weber, Wrangell District Ranger, PO Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929, phone (907) 874-2323, e-mail cweber@fs.fed.us, or Patty Grantham, Petersburg District Ranger, PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, phone (907) 772-3871, e-mail pgrantham@fs.fed.us. For further information on RAC history, operations, and the application process, a website is available at www.fs.fed.us/r10/payments.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the second meeting of the committee, and will focus on the review and discussion of proposals received by the RAC for funding under Title II of the payments to States legislation (Pub. L. 106-393). Deadline for proposals during this round of funding consideration is January 6, 2003. No proposals will be recommended for funding at their initial reading. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: December 18, 2002.

Scott Fitzwilliams,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-32528 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mill Creek Watershed, Richland County, WI

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(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 an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Mill Creek Watershed, Richland County, Wisconsin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Krapf, Water Resources Staff Leader, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 6515 Watts Road, Suite 200, Madison, Wisconsin, 53719. Telephone (608) 276-8732.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Don Baloun, Acting State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is flood prevention. The planned works of improvement include the floodproofing of two dwellings which are in the hydraulic shadow of Structure Number 10, and the enactment of a county floodplain zoning ordinance which restricts future development within the hydraulic shadow of Structure Number 10. Sediment will be removed from the pond behind the dam. The dam plunge pool will be brought up to current NRCS Standards. The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI 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 Thomas Krapf.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 9, 2002.

Don Baloun,

Acting State Conservationist.

Finding of No Significant Impact for Mill Creek Watershed-Supplement Richland County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The Mill Creek Watershed is a federally assisted action authorized for planning under Pub. L. 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. An environmental assessment was undertaken in conjunction with the development of the watershed plan-supplement. This assessment was conducted in consultation with local, state, and federal agencies as well as with interested organizations and individuals. Data developed during the assessment are available for public review at the following location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 6515 Watts Road, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53719.

Recommended Action

Two dwellings in the hydraulic shadow of Mill Creek 10 will be floodproofed. This action also includes rebuilding the dam plunge pool, removing accumulated sediment to restore the capacity back to 50 years, and repairing the low stage inlet pipes back to their original condition. A floodplain zoning ordinance will be enacted to prevent any future development in the floodplain.

Effect of Recommended Action

The recommended plan would extend the life of Mill Creek Watershed Structure 10 by 50 years. It would allow the dam to return to its original class "a" low hazard rating. The floodplain zoning ordinance prohibiting future development in the hydraulic shadow (breach inundation area) of the dam.

The proposed action will have no effect on wetlands.

An initial management summary of cultural resources as they relate to the planned components has been developed. The survey concludes that no significant adverse impacts will occur to cultural resources in the watershed should the plan be implemented. The NRCS has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the effects that planned measures will have on significant cultural resources.

Significant cultural resources identified during implementation will be avoided or otherwise preserved in place to the fullest practical extent. If

significant cultural resources cannot be avoided or preserved, pertinent information will be recovered before construction. If there is a significant cultural resource discovery during construction, appropriate notice will be made by NRCS to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the National Park Service (NPS). Consultation and coordination have been and will continue to be used to ensure the provisions of section 106 of Pub. L. 89-665 have been met and to include provisions of Pub. L. 89-523, as amended by Pub. L. 93-291. NRCS will take action as prescribed in NRCS GM 420, part 401, to protect or recover any significant cultural resources discovered during construction.

No threatened or endangered species in the watershed will be affected by the project.

No wilderness areas are within the watershed.

Little impact will be made on scenic values. Project Sponsors will be required to enact a floodplain zoning ordinance which restricts development in the hydraulic shadow of Structure Number 10 prior to any federal reimbursement for relocation expenses.

No significant adverse environmental impacts will result from installations.

Alternatives

The planned action is the most practical means of protecting the watershed, eliminating the threat to loss of life, and complying with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requirements. The Sponsors considered the following alternatives:

(1) No Action

This alternative is not a viable option since the dam will not be in compliance with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Dam Safety Administrative Code (NR 333). This is because the recent breach analysis has determined there are dwellings in the breach area. This alternative does not meet the project purpose of reducing risk of loss of life, maintaining flood control and maintaining watershed protection.

(2) Dam removal (decommissioning)

With this alternative, Mill Creek Structure 10 would be removed or modified in a safe and acceptable manner such that it would no longer function as originally intended. This alternative would greatly increase the risk to human life, property, roads and bridges due to flooding. This alternative does not meet the project purpose because it does not reduce the risk of loss of life and it does not maintain

flood control or watershed protection. This alternative was opposed as documented in the scoping meeting, and therefore it was not considered further.

(3) Structural Upgrade

This alternative consists of raising the height of the dam, widening the auxiliary spillway, increasing the size of the principal spillway, adding a riser to provide sediment storage and treatment of the abutments to reduce water flow and risk of failure if geologic exploration of the site shows it is needed. This alternative would allow Mill Creek Structure 10 to meet current NRCS class "c" (high hazard) criteria for providing public health and safety and comply with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Dam Safety Administrative Code (NR 333). A floodplain zoning ordinance will be enacted to eliminate any future development in the floodplain.

(4) Structural and Non-structural Rehabilitation

This is the recommended action.

Consultation and Public Participation

Copies of the Plan Supplement have been sent out to the single point of contact for the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Emergency Government, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin State Clearinghouse, and the West Central Regional Planning Commission. The document was distributed to American Indian Tribes that have expressed interest in consulting with federal agencies in projects in Richland County.

A scoping meeting was advertised and held on December 10, 2001 and interdisciplinary efforts were used. In addition to the general public, One federal agency (NRCS), two state agencies (DNR, SHPO), and three county agencies (Land Conservation Department, County Zoning Office, County Administration Department), and local conservation organizations were invited to participate in the scoping and planning process.

Specific consultation was conducted with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the county historical society concerning cultural resources in the watershed.

The environmental assessment was transmitted to all participating and interested agencies, groups, and

individuals for review and comment in September 15, 2002. Public meetings were held as needed to keep all interested parties informed of the study progress and to obtain public input to the plan and environmental evaluation.

Agency consultation and public participation to date have shown no unresolved conflicts with the implementation of the selected plan.

Conclusion

The Environmental Assessment summarized above indicates that this federal action will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement for the Mill Creek Watershed Plan Supplement is not required.

Dated: December 9, 2002.

Don Baloun,

Acting State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 02-32466 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia State Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in practice standards: #342, Critical Area Planting; #466, Land Smoothing; #468, Lined Waterway or Outlet; #484, Mulching; #516, Pipeline; #533, Pumping Plant; #608, Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral to account for improved technology. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, woodland, and wildlife land.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with the date of this publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1665; Fax number (804) 287-1736. Copies of the practice

standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS Web site <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/DataTechRefs/Standards&Specs/EDITStds/EditStandards.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: December 17, 2002.

L. Willis Miller,

Assistant State Conservationist/Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.

[FR Doc. 02-32467 Filed 12-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Telephone Bank

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Board of Directors meeting.

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2003.

PLACE: Room 0204, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters have been placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting:

1. Call to order.
2. Consideration of the following amendment to the Article V of the Bylaws to allow for meeting by electronic means: SEC. 5.6 Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held by any electronic means, including, without limitation, telephone or any other communications equipment, provided that, during the meeting, all persons participating can clearly and promptly hear, send, and receive all messages or spoken words. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence at the meeting.
3. Report on Privatization Study.

4. Adjournment.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, (202) 720-9554.

Dated: December 20, 2002.

Hilda Gay Legg,

Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 02-32751 Filed 12-23-02; 2:23 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 24, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-9550. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for approval.

Comments are invited 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 including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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