

site² or in our reading room.³ You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when requesting copies.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been 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 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of November 2007.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E7–23369 Filed 11–30–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

List of Newspapers To Be Used by the Alaska Region for Publication of Legal Notices of Decisions Subject to Administrative Appeal Under 36 CFR Part 217

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that Forests and the Regional Office of the Alaska Region will use to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217, thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers begins on December 1, 2008. This list of

newspapers will remain in effect until it is superseded by a new list, published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Robin Dale, Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; Forest Service, Alaska Region; P.O. Box 21628; Juneau, Alaska 99802–1628.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robin Dale, Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; (907) 586–9344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice provides the list of newspapers that Responsible Officials in the Alaska Region will use to give notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217. The timeframe for appeal under 36 CFR part 217 shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record identified in this notice.

The newspapers to be used for giving notice of Forest Service decisions in the Alaska Region are as follows:

Alaska Regional Office

Decisions of the Alaska Regional Forester: Juneau Empire, published daily except Saturday and official holidays in Juneau, Alaska; and the Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Chugach National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor: Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Tongass National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor: Ketchikan Daily News, published daily except Sundays and official holidays in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Supplemental notices may be published in any newspaper, but the timeframes for filing appeals will be calculated based upon the date that notices are published in the newspapers of record listed in this notice.

Dated: November 21, 2007.

Paul K. Brewster,

Acting Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 07–5895 Filed 11–30–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland; Wyoming; Inyan Kara Analysis Area Vegetation Management Phase II

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is analyzing the management of rangeland vegetation resources, which includes livestock grazing, on the National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. NFS lands that comprise the Inyan Kara Analysis Area Vegetation Management Phase II will be assessed to determine how existing resource conditions compare to the desired conditions outlined in the Thunder Basin National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). A management strategy will be developed in order to maintain or improve rangeland and vegetation conditions toward LRMP desired conditions.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by the 30th day after the publication in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is expected February 11, 2008 and the final environmental impact statement is expected May 12, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Marilee Houtler, NEPA Coordinator, Douglas Ranger District, 2250 East Richards Street, Douglas, Wyoming 82633 or e-mail to comments-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-routt-douglass-thunder-basin@fs.fed.us All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection. The public may inspect comments received at Douglas Ranger District, 2250 E. Richards, Douglas, WY 82633. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (307) 358–4690 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ernie Gipson, Rangeland Management Specialist or Misty Hays, Deputy District Ranger, Douglas Ranger District, 2250 E. Richards Street, Douglas, WY 82633 (307) 358–4690. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Vegetation resources on approximately 135,405 acres of NFS lands, lying within the Thunder Basin National Grassland boundaries and within portions of Weston and Niobrara Counties, Wyoming (Townships 41–48 North, Ranges 62–68 West), are being analyzed to determine if and how existing conditions differ from desired conditions outlined in the 2001 LRMP.

² See footnote 1.

³ The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

Vegetation in the Analysis Area is characteristic of shortgrass prairie, mixed grass prairie and lesser amounts of Ponderosa Pine/Juniper habitats. Johnson and Larson (1999) describe the majority of the Analysis Area as a Big Sagebrush-Wheatgrass Plains Major Vegetation Type, dominated by fairly dense dwarf shrubs, of which most are Wyoming big sagebrush. The midgrass prairie component of the Analysis Area as described by Barker and Whitman (1998) consists of a plant association dominated by needleandthread grass, western wheatgrass and blue grama. A large portion of the Inyan Kara Analysis Area evolved under a history of homesteading in the early twentieth century, but a prolonged drought period combined with the economic depression of the late 1920's and early 1930's caused many of these homesteads to fail. Starting in 1935, land was purchased through the Northeastern Wyoming Land Utilization Project initiated by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and continued with the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, which was designed to develop a program of land conservation. Administration of these lands was turned over to the Soil Conservation Service the following year, and transferred to the United States Forest Service in 1954.

Today the Thunder Basin National Grassland supports and provides a variety of multiple resource uses and values. Livestock ranching operations in the area depend on National Grassland acreage to create logical and efficient management units. Cattle, sheep, and horses, in accordance with 10-year term and/or annual temporary livestock grazing permits, are currently authorized to graze the allotments within the Analysis Area. In order to determine how existing resource conditions compare to desired conditions, data collection was conducted from 2005 to 2007. During this period, moderate drought conditions impacted plant vigor, canopy and litter cover in some parts of the Analysis Area. Data analysis indicates that seral stage and structural objectives are currently generally meeting vegetation health desired conditions in most portions of the Analysis Area. Other areas of concern based on data analysis include enhancing vegetation conditions in riparian areas and decreasing the frequency and density of non-native invasive species within the analysis area.

Purpose and Need for Action

Need: To continue to authorize livestock grazing and associated

vegetation management actions with appropriate identified management options within the Inyan Kara Analysis Area, and to do so in a manner that will resolve any disparities between existing and desired conditions in a suitable timeframe.

Purpose: To implement vegetation management objectives in the Thunder Basin National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan with goals of increasing native forb and perennial grass diversity, improving riparian area conditions, improving or maintaining vegetation health, and slowing or decreasing the frequency and density of non-native invasive species. This analysis will serve as a guide for implementation of LRMP vegetation management objectives aimed at improving or maintaining vegetation and riparian area conditions, providing desired mixes of seral and structural stages of vegetation, as well as establishing appropriate monitoring techniques that will measure the effectiveness of management activities.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes the following actions to meet the purpose and need described above:

- Manage vegetation through an adaptive management process, which includes authorizing livestock grazing on allotments within the Inyan Kara Analysis Area of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands, that will meet or move toward desired resource conditions.
- Define an allotment specific starting point in which management is believed to be capable of meeting or moving toward desired conditions in a timely manner.
- Monitor to evaluate both implementation and effectiveness of management actions.

In all cases, management will use vegetation management tools that will meet LRMP Objectives, Standards and Guidelines, and maintain or move existing resource conditions toward Geographic Area desired conditions. If monitoring indicates that practices are being properly implemented and that resource trends are moving toward meeting desired conditions in a timely manner, management may continue. If monitoring indicates that there is a need to modify management practices, adaptive options as analyzed in the EIS will be selected and implemented.

Possible Alternatives

- (1). No action
- (2). Continue current management.

Responsible Official

Robert M. Sprentall, District Ranger, Douglas Ranger District, 2250 East Richards Street, Douglas, Wyoming 82633, is the official responsible for making the decision on this action. He will document his decision and rationale in a Record of Decision.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will consider the results of the analysis and its findings and then document the final decision in a Record of Decision (ROD). The decision will determine whether or not to authorize livestock grazing on all, part, or none of the allotments within the Inyan Kara Analysis Area, and if so, what adaptive management design criteria, adaptive options, and monitoring will be implemented so as to meet or move toward the desired conditions in the defined timeframe.

Scoping Process

Concurrent with this NOI, letters requesting comments will be sent to interested parties. Anyone who provides comments to the DEIS or expresses interest during the comment period will have eligibility.

Preliminary Issues

The Forest Service has identified the following preliminary issues: (1) Current impacts to riparian resources from moderate drought, and livestock and wildlife grazing/browsing; (2) Potential impacts to livestock grazing permits on National Grasslands; (3) Current impacts to soil resources from livestock and wildlife grazing/browsing and drought.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the EIS.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent

Environmental Review: A draft EIS 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 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 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.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 20, Section 21).

Dated: November 20, 2007.

Misty A. Hays,

Deputy District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 07-5894 Filed 11-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board Public Meeting Dates Announced

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) has announced its meeting dates for 2008. These meetings are open to the public, and public comment is accepted at any time in writing and at the pleasure of the Board chair at each meeting for verbal comments. Persons wishing to speak may be given three minutes to address the Board.

Meeting dates are the third Wednesday of each month unless otherwise indicated:

January 3.

February 20.

March 19.

April 16.

May 21.

June 18.

July (No Meeting).

August 20 (Summer Field Trip—TBA).

September 17.

October 15.

November 19.

December (No Meeting).

January 6, 2009 (Tentative).

ADDRESSES: Meetings will begin at 1 p.m. and end no later than 5 p.m. at the Forest Service Center, 8221 S. Highway 16, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Agendas: The Board will consider a variety of issues related to national forest management. Agendas will be announced in advance in the news media but principally concern implementing phase two of the forest land and resource management plan. The Board will consider such topics as integrated vegetation management (wild and prescribed fire, fuels reduction, controlling insect epidemics, invasive species), travel management (off highway vehicles, the new OHV rule, and related topics), and forest fragmentation, among others.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank Carroll, Committee Management Officer, Black Hills National Forest, 25041 North Highway 16, Custer, SD 57730, (605) 673-9200.

Dated: December 1, 2007.

Craig Bobzien,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 07-5896 Filed 11-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity To Comment on the Applicants for the North Central Texas Region, and the South Central California Region

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in north central Texas, and the applicant for south central California. Enid Grain Inspection Company, Inc. (Enid) and Plainview

Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. (Plainview) applied for counties in Texas, and California Agri Inspection Company, Ltd. (California Agri) applied for counties in California that were open for designation.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before January 2, 2008.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on these applicants. You may submit 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 and reading any comments posted online.

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: This Action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc., currently designated October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2010, asked GIPSA to remove the north central Texas region from its assigned geographical area. The north central Texas region is comprised of the following nineteen counties: Archer, Baylor, Callahan, Clay, Cottle, Fisher, Foard, Hardeman, Haskell, Jones, King, Knox, Nolan, Shackelford, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton, Wichita, and Wilbarger.

In the September 4, 2007, **Federal Register** (72 FR 50654), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the north central Texas