

1st floor of NASULGC's offices located at 1307 New York Ave., NW., Washington, DC.

The Board and SPARE meetings are free and open to the public. The Board and SPARE welcomes an open dialog to promote greater focus on critical issues facing USAID and international agriculture. Those wishing to attend the meeting or obtain additional information about BIFAD should contact Dr. Ronald S. Senykoff, the Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD. Write him in care of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Ronald Reagan Building, Office of Agriculture, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 2.11-085, Washington, DC 20523-2110 or telephone him at (202) 712-0218 or fax (202) 216-3010.

**Ronald S. Senykoff,**

*USAID Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture & Trade, U.S. Agency for International Development.*

[FR Doc. E8-2744 Filed 2-12-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC50

#### Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period—Proposed Directives for Forest Service Outfitting and Guiding Special Use Permits and Insurance Requirements for Forest Service Special Use Permits

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension for public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service is extending the public comment period for the proposed directive regarding Forest Service Outfitting and Guiding Special Use Permits and Insurance Requirements for Forest Service Special Use Permits for an additional 30 days to March 20, 2008. The original notice called for comments to be submitted by January 17, 2008 (72 FR 59246, October 19, 2007). A second notice (72 FR 71113, December 14, 2007) extended the comment period until February 19, 2008.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing by March 20, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments electronically by following the instructions at the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulation.gov>.

Comments also may be submitted by mail to U.S. Forest Service, Attn: Carolyn Holbrook, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff (2720), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 1125, Washington, DC 20250-1125. If comments are sent electronically, the public is requested not to send duplicate comments by mail. Please confine comments to issues pertinent to the proposed directives, explain the reasons for any recommended changes, and, where possible, reference the specific section and wording being addressed.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received on these proposed directives in the Office of the Director, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff, 4th Floor Central, Sidney R. Yates Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, on business days between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Those wishing to inspect comments are encouraged to call ahead at (202) 205-1426 to facilitate entry into the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carolyn Holbrook, (202) 205-1426, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff.

Dated: February 7, 2008.

**Gloria Manning,**

*Associate Deputy Chief—NFS.*

[FR Doc. E8-2656 Filed 2-12-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### National Tree-Marking Paint Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Tree-marking Paint Committee will meet in Asheville, North Carolina on May 13-15, 2008. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss activities related to improvements in, concerns about, and the handling and use of tree-marking paint by personnel of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held May 13-15, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton Asheville Downtown, 22 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801. Persons who wish to file written comments before or after

the meeting must send written comments to Dave Haston, Chairman, National Tree-marking Paint Committee, Forest Service, USDA, San Dimas Technology and Development Center, 444 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas, California 91773, or electronically to [dhaston@fs.fed.us](mailto:dhaston@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dave Haston, Sr. Project Leader, San Dimas Technology and Development Center, Forest Service, USDA, (909) 599-1267, extension 294 or [dhaston@fs.fed.us](mailto:dhaston@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Tree-marking Paint Committee comprises representatives from the Forest Service national headquarters, each of the nine Forest Service Regions, the Forest Products Laboratory, the Forest Service San Dimas Technology and Development Center, and the Bureau of Land Management. The General Services Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health are ad hoc members and provide technical advice to the committee.

A field trip will be held on May 13 and is designed to supplement information related to tree-marking paint. This trip is open to any member of the public participating in the public meeting on May 14-15. However, transportation is provided only for committee members.

The main session of the meeting, which is open to public attendance, will be held on May 14-15.

#### Closed Sessions

While certain segments of this meeting are open to the public, there will be two closed sessions during the meeting. The first closed session is planned for approximately 10 a.m. to noon on May 14. This session is reserved for individual paint manufacturers to present products and information about tree-marking paint for consideration in future testing and use by the agency. Paint manufacturers also may provide comments on tree-marking paint specifications or other requirements. This portion of the meeting is open only to paint manufacturers, the committee, and committee staff to ensure that trade secrets will not be disclosed to other paint manufacturers or to the public. Paint manufacturers wishing to make presentations to the Tree-marking Paint Committee during the closed session should contact the committee chairperson at the telephone number listed at **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in this notice. The second closed session is planned for

approximately 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 15, 2007. This session is reserved for Steering Committee members only.

Any person with special access needs should contact the Chairperson to make those accommodations. Space for individuals who are not members of the National Tree-marking Paint Committee is limited and will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dated: February 8, 2008.

**Gloria Manning,**

*Associate Deputy Chief—NFS.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**RIN 0596-AC44**

**Native Plant Material Policy (Forest Service Manual 2070)**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of agency final directive.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service is issuing a new directive to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2070 for native plant materials, which provides direction for the use, growth, development, and storage of native plant materials.

**DATES:** This directive is effective February 13, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the final directive is available at [http://www.fs.fed.us/rangelands/whoweare/documents/FSM2070\\_Final\\_2\\_062905.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rangelands/whoweare/documents/FSM2070_Final_2_062905.pdf).

The administrative record for this final directive is available for inspection and copying at the office of the Director, Rangeland Management Staff, USDA Forest Service, 3rd Floor South, Sidney R. Yates Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Those wishing to inspect the administrative record are encouraged to call in advance to Brian Boyd, (202) 205-1496 to facilitate entrance into the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Stritch, Rangeland Management Staff, USDA Forest Service, Mailstop 1103, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, (202) 205-1279.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title 36 CFR 219.10(b) states: “The overall goal of the ecological element of sustainability is to provide a framework to contribute to development and maintenance of native ecological systems by providing desired ecological conditions to support diversity of native

plant and animal species in the plan area”. Executive Order 13112 (February 3, 1999, sec. 2(a)(2)(IV)) on invasive species states the agencies will “provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded [by non-native species]”. In accordance with the Executive order and regulation, the Forest Service is issuing a new final directive to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2070 for native plant materials, which addresses the uses of these materials in the revegetation, restoration, and rehabilitation of National Forest System lands in order to achieve the Agency’s goal of providing for the diversity of plant and animal communities. The policy directs collaboration with federal, state, and local government entities and the public to develop and implement actions to increase the availability of native plant materials for use in revegetation, restoration, and rehabilitation.

Toward development of this policy, the goal of the Forest Service is to promote the use of native plant materials in revegetation for restoration and rehabilitation in order to manage and conserve terrestrial and aquatic biological diversity. This policy defines a native plant as: all indigenous terrestrial and aquatic plant species that evolved naturally in an ecosystem.

This policy also requires the use of best available information to choose ecologically adapted plant materials for the site and situation. Moreover, the policy states that native plants are to be used when timely natural regeneration of the native plant community is not likely to occur; native plant materials are the first choice in revegetation for restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

This policy does not discount the management use of non-native plant materials. Non-native, non-invasive plant species may be used when needed: (1) In emergency conditions to protect basic resource values such as soil stability and water quality; (2) As an interim, non-persistent measure designed to aid in new establishment of native plants (unless natural soil, water and biotic conditions have been permanently altered); (3) In conditions and management situations where native plant species are not available; and (4) When working in permanently altered plant communities. Under no circumstances will invasive plant species be used.

**Public Comments on Proposed Policy and Forest Service’s Responses:**

*Overview*

On May 26, 2006, the Forest Service published the proposed policy in the **Federal Register** and sought public comment in adopting a new policy on native plant materials into Forest Service Manual 2070 (71 FR 30375).

During the 60-day comment period on the proposed policy which ended on July 26, 2006, the agency received one request for an extension of the comment period.

On July 25, 2006 the Forest Service published the Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 42079) and extended the comment period 30 days. During the 30-day extended comment period on the proposed policy which ended August 24, 2006, no requests for a further extension of the comment period were received.

The Forest Service received 53 letters or electronic messages in response to this proposed policy. Each respondent was placed into one of the following categories:

Business .....	10
Federal Agencies .....	2
State Agencies .....	4
Non-Governmental Organizations ....	16
Individuals (unaffiliated or unidentifiable) .....	21

Most respondents (42) offered general comments supporting the proposed FSM 2070 Native Plant Material Policy. Nine respondents offered several comments not supporting the policy and two commenters were neutral. Many respondents offered specific comments about sections of the proposed policy.

*General Comments*

Many respondents expressed very supportive comments in favor of the use of native plants by the Forest Service in carrying out restoration, revegetation, and rehabilitation projects. The respondents who were not supportive of the proposed policy were concerned with the cost, availability, and equipment to put native plant seed and other native plant materials into the ground. FSM 2070 gives the decisionmaker wide latitude in determining when, where, and which native species to use. FSM 2070.3 allows cost and availability of native species to be a consideration when deciding not to use native plant materials. The feasibility of sowing or planting native plant materials would be a consideration as well. Additionally, cost of personnel to manage and oversee