

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to establish the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee and call for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee (Committee) pursuant to Title IV, Section 4003(e) of Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–11) passed into law on March 30, 2009. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee is being established to evaluate, and provide recommendations on each project proposal that has been submitted under Section 4003(c)(2) of this act. As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, charters for Federal advisory committees must be renewed every 2 years. The Committee is soliciting nominations to fill no more than 15 vacancies with terms up to 2 years. The public is invited to submit nominations for membership on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee.

DATES: All nominations must be received in writing by March 22, 2010. Nominations must contain a completed application packet that includes the nominee's name, resume, and completed form AD-755 (Advisory Committee Membership Background Information). The package must be sent to the address below.

ADDRESSES: Send nominations and applications to William Timko, USDA Forest Service; Forest Management, Room 3NW; 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024 by express mail or overnight courier service. If sent via the U.S. Postal Service, they must be

sent to the following address: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Forest Management, National Forest System, Mail Stop 1103, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1123.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Peterson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Forest System, Forest Management; telephone 202–205–0893, fax 202–205–1045, e-mail: tpeterson01@fs.fed.us, or contact William Timko, U.S. Department of Agriculture; National Forest System, Forest Management, telephone 202–205–0893, fax 202–205–1045, e-mail: btimko@fs.fed.us. 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:

Background

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. II), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish the charter of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee (Committee). The purpose of the Committee is to evaluate, and provide recommendations on, the selection of collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval as provided in Title IV, Section 4003(e) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–11).

The purpose of this title is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes through a process that:

1. Encourages ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
2. Leverages local resources with national and private resources;
3. Facilitates the reduction of wildfire management costs, including through reestablishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire; and
4. Demonstrates the degree to which:
 - a. Various ecological restoration techniques;

(1) Achieve ecological and watershed health objectives; and

(2) Affect wildfire activity and management costs; and

b. The use of forest restoration byproducts can offset treatment costs

while benefiting local rural economies and improving forest health.

The Committee is being established in accordance with Section 4003(e) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–11). The Secretary has determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will meet on an annual basis or as needed; determined by the Committee, and its primary duties will include:

1. Evaluating Collaborative Forest landscape Restoration project proposals with special consideration given to:

- a. The strength of the proposal and strategy;
- b. The strength of the ecological case of the proposal and the proposed ecological restoration strategies;
- c. The strength of the collaborative process and the likelihood of successful collaboration throughout implementation;

d. Whether the proposal is likely to achieve reductions in long-term wildfire management costs;

e. Whether the proposal would reduce the relative costs of carrying out ecological restoration treatments as a result of the use of woody biomass and small-diameter trees; and

f. Whether an appropriate level of non-Federal investment would be leveraged in carrying out the proposal.

2. Provide recommendations on each proposal to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Chief of the Forest Service.

Advisory Committee Organization

The Committee shall be comprised of no more than 15 members and fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented. The Committee shall include experts in:

1. Ecological Restoration,
2. Fire Ecology,
3. Fire Management,
4. Rural Economic Development,
5. Strategies for Ecological Adaptation to Climate Change,
6. Fish and Wildlife Ecology, and
7. Woody Biomass and Small-Diameter Tree Utilization.

Term and Vacancies

Committee members will be appointed by the Secretary to 2-year terms. Vacancies will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Nomination and Application Information for the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee

The appointment of members to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Any individual or organization may nominate one or more qualified persons to represent the vacancies listed above to serve on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee. To be considered for membership, nominees must:

1. Identify what expertise they would represent and how they are qualified to represent that skill;
2. State why they want to serve on the committee and what they can contribute;
3. Show their past experience in working successfully as part of a coordinating group; and
4. Complete form AD-755, Advisory Committee Membership Background Information.

Letters of recommendation are welcome. Individuals may also nominate themselves. Form AD-755 may be obtained from Forest Service contact persons or from the following Web site: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ad755.pdf. All nominations will be vetted by the Agency. The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint committee members to the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee from the list of qualified applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit nominations via overnight mail or delivery to ensure timely receipt by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Non-Federal members of the Committee shall serve without pay as special government employees (SGEs), but will be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred while performing duties on behalf of the Committee. SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct. All SGE nominees who are selected must complete the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 450 Confidential Financial Disclosure Report before rendering any advice or prior to their first meeting. All members will be reviewed for conflict of interest pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208 in relation to specific Committee work charges. Financial disclosure updates will be required annually. Members must report any changes in financial holdings requiring additional disclosure. OGE 450 forms are available on-line at: http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form_450.aspx.

Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in

all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendation of the Committee has taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership includes, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: February 24, 2010.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Assistant Secretary of Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2010-0002]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles

AGENCY: Office for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is sponsoring a public meeting on March 23, 2010. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States positions that will be discussed at the 26th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in Paris, France, April 12-16, 2010. The Office for Food Safety recognizes the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 26th Session of the CCGP and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2010, from 1:30-4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at USDA, Room 107-A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1200 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 26th Session of the CCGP will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/current.jsp?lang=en>.

The U.S. Delegate to the 26th Session of the CCGP, Karen Stuck, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address: uscodex@fsis.usda.gov.

Registration:

If you would like to participate in the public meeting for the 26th Session of the CCGP by teleconference, please use the following call in number and passcode:

Call In Number: 1-866-692-3158.

Passcode: 5986642.

For Further Information about the 26th Session of the CCGP Contact:

Barbara McNiff, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 690-4719, Fax: (202) 720-3157, E-mail: Barbara.McNiff@fsis.usda.gov.

For Further Information about the Public Meeting Contact: Kenneth Lowery, 1400 Independence Ave SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 690-4042, Fax: (202) 720-3157, E-mail:

Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCGP deals with rules and procedures referred to it by the Codex including the establishment of principles which define the purpose and scope of the Codex and the nature of Codex standards. The development of mechanisms to address any economic impact statements is also the responsibility of the CCGP.

The CCGP is hosted by France.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 26th Session of the CCGP will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods
- Proposal to amend the Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces
- Review of the Risk Analysis Policies of Codex Committees
- Definition of the Term "Competent Authority"
- Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Committee
- Discussion Paper on the Development of Joint Codex and World Organization for Animal Health Standards