

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EIS 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS 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.

The final EIS is scheduled to be available by September, 1997. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. The responsible official is Colville National Forest Supervisor, Edward L. Schultz. The responsible official will decide which, if any, of the alternatives will be implemented. The decision and the rationale for the decision will be documented in the Record of Decision, which will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: October 25, 1996.  
Edward L. Schultz,  
Forest Supervisor.  
[FR Doc. 96-28895 Filed 11-8-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## Natural Resources Conservation Service

### Ecletto Creek Watershed, DeWitt, Guadalupe, Karnes, and Wilson Counties, Texas Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 7

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**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 Ecletto Creek Watershed, Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 7, Karnes County, Texas.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harry W. Oneth, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 101 South Main, Temple, Texas 76501-7682, Telephone (817) 774-1214.

**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, Harry W. Oneth, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is not needed for this project.

The project will reduce flooding and improve surface water quality in and below Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 7. The recommended actions included in the original work plan proposed installing 11 floodwater retarding structures, as well as land treatment measures. An environmental assessment was completed on five of the floodwater retarding structures in July of 1991. Four of the five floodwater retarding structures assessed at that time have been constructed. This particular environmental assessment addresses the installation of an additional site, Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 7.

Installation of this site, including dam, emergency spillway, and sediment pool, will require 99.0 acres. The dam and emergency spillway will be planted to grasses that have wildlife values. The dam and emergency spillway will be fenced to control livestock, therefore greatly benefiting ground nesting birds. This structure will not impact any

prime farmland. Downstream flooding of wildlife habitat will be reduced.

Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 7 will create about 43 acres of aquatic habitat, as well as creating a fisheries resource where none exists. Woody vegetation will be removed from about 4 acres of riparian habitat. The original work plan provided for financial and technical assistance for the installation of this site. This environmental assessment will complete the necessary requirements for Site 7. Federal assistance will be provided under authority of Public Law 83-566, 83rd Congress, 68 Stat. 666, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1001-1008). Total project costs for Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 7 are \$931,200, of which \$765,400 will be paid from Public Law 83-566 funds and \$165,800 from local funds.

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 Harry W. Oneth.

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: October 31, 1996.  
Tomas M. Dominguez,  
Deputy State Conservationist.  
[FR Doc. 96-28861 Filed 11-8-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

## Rural Telephone Bank

### Determination of the 1996 Fiscal Year Interest Rates on Rural Telephone Bank Loans

**AGENCY:** Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.  
**ACTION:** Notice of 1996 fiscal year interest rates determination.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with 7 CFR 1610.10, the Rural Telephone Bank fiscal year 1996 cost of money rates have been established as follows: 6.05% and 6.42% for advances from the liquidating account and financing account, respectively (fiscal year is the period beginning October 1 and ending September 30).

Except for loans approved from October 1, 1987, through December 21, 1987 where borrowers elected to remain at interest rates set at loan approval, all loan advances made during fiscal year 1996 under bank loans approved in