

Salmon management status by State of Oregon; (3) South Cascades Late Successional Reserve Assessment presentation; (4) Advisory Committee critique evaluation and recommendations, and (5) Public comments. All Province Advisory committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chuck Anderson, Province Advisory Committee Staff, USDA, Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 333 W. 8th Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, phone 541-858-2322.

Dated: March 19, 1997.

James T. Gladen,

Forest Supervisor, Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 97-7739 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Use of Certified Forage To Prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds on National Forest System Lands in Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of proposed policy; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Regional Forester for the Northern Region of the Forest Service is proposing a requirement that would prohibit the use of hay, grain, straw, cubes or pelletized feed on National Forest System lands in Montana unless it is certified as free of noxious weeds or noxious weed seeds may be used. This requirement will affect such users as recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers operating under Forest Service grazing permits, outfitters and guides operating under Forest Service permits, and contractors who use straw or hay for reseeding or erosion control purposes on National Forest System administered lands in Montana. This proposal has been developed in coordination with the State of Montana and Bureau of Land Management Montana State office, which is publishing a similar proposal in a separate notice in this same issue of today's **Federal Register**. The intended effect is to coordinate prevention of the spread of undesirable weeds on federal lands in Montana.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by March 26, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Regional Forester, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Olivarez, Forest and Rangeland Staff, Northern Region, Forest Service, (406) 329-3621.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Noxious weeds are a serious problem in the western United States. Species like Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Musk Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, and others are alien to the United States and have no natural enemies to keep their populations in balance. Consequently, these undesirable weeds invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity, and destroy wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Furthermore, noxious weed invasions weaken reforestation efforts, reduce forage for domestic and wild ungulates, occasionally irritate public land users by aggravating allergies and other ailments, and threaten federally protected plants and animals.

To curb the spread of noxious weeds, a growing number of Western states have jointly developed noxious weed-free forage certification standards and, in cooperation with various Federal, State and county agencies, have passed weed control laws. Because hay and other forage products containing noxious weed seed are part of the infestation problem, Montana has developed a hay inspection, certification, and identification process; participates in a regional inspection, certification, and identification process; and encourages forage producers to grow products free of noxious weed seeds.

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.50, the Regional Forester may issue orders to close or restrict uses on National Forest System lands. If adopted, this proposed requirement to close National Forest System lands to users who do not use a certified weed-free forage or similar product would result in a standard closure order applicable to all National Forest System lands in Montana. The Northern Regional Forester has been implementing a similar policy on a forest-by-forest-basis in Montana since 1989. As a result of cooperative efforts between the State, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montana State Office, BLM is proposing a similar standard requirement for all public lands under its jurisdiction. The BLM proposal appears in a separate notice in this issue of today's **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service invites written comment and suggestions on this proposal, which will be considered prior to adoption of a final policy and issuance of a closure order. Notice of the

final decision will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 11, 1997.

Kathleen A. McAllister,

Deputy Regional Forester, R-1.

[FR Doc. 97-7754 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

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Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Advisory Committee Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given of the following committee meeting:

Name: Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

Date: April 16-17, 1997.

Place: Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 107-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, Washington, D.C.

Time: 8:30 a.m. April 16-17.

Purpose: To provide advice to the Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.).

The agenda includes: (1) GIPSA Financial Status, (2) Overview of International Monitoring Staff, (3) Fee Schedule for Export Elevators, (4) Hedge to Arrive Contracts, (5) Equipment Approval Process, (6) Status of Electronic Data Entry Activities, (7) Grain Inspection Automation Policy, (8) Moisture Instrument Selection Update, and (9) Online Presentation of the GIPSA Homepage.

The meeting will be open to the public. Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chairman to orally address the Committee. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee or submit written statements before or after the meeting, should contact the Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, telephone (202) 720-0219 or FAX (202) 205-9237.

Dated: March 20, 1997.

James R. Baker,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-7740 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

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