Kendall, R.J., and Dickerson, R.L., 1996. Principles and processes for evaluating endocrine disruption in wildlife. Environ. Toxicol. Chem. 15(8):1253–1254.

Ramamoorthy, K., Wang, F., Chen, I–C., Safe, S., Norris, J.D., McDonnell, D.P., Gaido, K.W., Bocchinfuso, W.P., and Korach, K.S., 1997. Potency of combined estrogenic pesticides. Science 275:405.

Smith, R.H., and Foshee, W.G., 1993. Effects of the boll weevil eradication program on insecticide use patterns on cotton in Alabama. Dept. of Entomology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

Stone, R., 1994. Environmental estrogens stir debate. Science 265:308–310.

Finding of No Significant Impact For Farm Service Agency Boll Weevil Eradication Loan Program Environmental Assessment

March 1997.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA), has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for its participation in the National Boll Weevil Cooperative Control Program (boll weevil program) through the provision of a loan program. The EA, incorporated into this document by reference, is also tiered to the ''Final Environmental Impact Statement for the National Boll Weevil Cooperative Control Program-1991.'' The EA is available from: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, 14th and Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20250–0513.

This EA is programmatic in scope and considered the impacts of two alternatives: (1) the no action alternative, and (2) the proposed alternative that encompasses the current control program. The current program includes chemical, biological, cultural, and mechanical control methods. The proposed program is needed in order to (1) reduce agricultural losses caused by the boll weevil and allow growers to remain economically competitive, (2) substantially reduce the amount of pesticides used against the boll weevil and other pests, (3) maintain the biological integrity and efficacy of the national program to eradicate the boll weevil, and (4) comply with relevant pest control statutes and regulations.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is consulting with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with regard to the protection of endangered and threatened species and their critical habitats. All boll weevil control activity will adhere to protective measures designed specifically for this program and mutually agreed to with FWS.

I find that implementation of the proposed boll weevil eradication program as described in the EA and all referenced documents will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

I have considered and base my findings of no significant impact on the quantitative and qualitative analyses and risk assessments of the proposed pesticides as well as a review of the program's overall operational characteristics. In addition, I find that the environmental process undertaken for the boll weevil eradication program is entirely consistent with the principles of ''environmental justice,'' as defined in Executive Order No. 12898. Furthermore, since I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with this program, there is no need to prepare an environmental impact statement and the program may proceed as described in the referenced documents.

Dated: April 15, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 97–10206 Filed 4–18–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revision of the Land and Resources Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest, Alaska

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and a revised land and resource management plan for the Chugach National Forest.

SUMMARY: The Chugach National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for revising the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), and a revised Forest Plan document, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5) and 36 CFR 219.12. The revised plan will supersede the current Forest Plan, which was approved on July 27, 1984 and which has been amended six times.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments pertaining to the revision of the Forest Plan to: Forest Plan Revision, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C St., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503–3998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Lehnhausen, Forest Planning Team Leader; (907) 271–2560 or FAX (907) 271–3992.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Forest Plans are ordinarily revised on a 10-year cycle, or at least every 15 years (U.S.C. 1604(f)(5) and 36 CFR 219.10(g)). Forest Plans guide the overall management of the National Forests through the following six management direction elements:

(1) Forest multiple-use goals and objectives, 36 CFR 219.11(b);

(2) Forest-wide management requirements (standards and guidelines) 16 U.S.C. 1604 and 36 CFR 219.13 to 219.27;

(3) Management areas and management area direction (management area prescriptions) 36 CFR 219.11(c);

(4) Designated suitable timber land (16 U.S.C. 1604(k) and 36 CFR 219.14) and an allowable timber sale quantity (16 U.S.C. 1611 and 36 CFR 219.16):

(5) Nonwilderness allocations or wilderness recommendations where 36 CFR 219.17 applies; and

(6) Monitoring and evaluation requirements (36 CFR 219.11(d)).

The Forest Service has determined there is a need to make some changes to the 1984 Forest Plan, as amended. The revised Plan will be developed to address management of the Chugach National Forest. The following preliminary issues have been identified through monitoring and evaluation, project planning and implementation activities, and public comments received during the life of the existing Plan.

Preliminary Issues

Roadless Area Management and Wilderness Recommendations

There is interest in the management of existing roadless areas. Some people feel that more of the Chugach National Forest should be allocated to protective designations, or recommend for wilderness, in order to conserve biological diversity, provide primitive recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for scientific research or baseline monitoring, protect unique features and resources, and provide for other non-commodity values and uses. Others are concerned that protective designations could limit or constrain recreation uses, fish and wildlife enhancement opportunities, increased access, commodity uses, and economic returns to local communities. Currently, about 98 percent of the 5.4 million acre Forest is roadless and potentially eligible for wilderness designation.

Recreation and Tourism

There is a concern about changes to tourism and recreation on the Forest. The recent decision by the State of Alaska to build a road to Whittier is expected to greatly increase recreation and tourism use of the Prince William

Sound area. The amount of use of the Forest by outfitters and guides for commercial recreation uses is also an emerging issue due to rising use levels on some popular trails and recreation areas.

Vegetation Management

There is public interest in how the Forest's vegetation should be managed and used. Proposed timber harvest activities within inventoried roadless areas have raised public concerns about the potential effect on the availability of those areas for wilderness or other protective designations. Proposed salvage sales, related road building, and the use of roads after harvest operations, have also been raised as issues by the public. In the 13 years of operation under the current Forest Plan, the Chugach has sold an average 3.38 million board feet per year and an average 2.26 million board feet of timber per year have been harvested. Most of this timer harvest has been concentrated on the Kenai Peninsula portion of the Forest.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The existing Forest Plan did not consider any rivers or streams for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. During the past two years, a comprehensive review of more than 760 named and unnamed rivers and glaciers on the Forest was conducted. Twenty rivers and three glaciers have been tentatively identified as containing one or more ''outstandingly remarkable'' values.

During the revision process rivers may be added or dropped from those found eligible and public involvement will be considered in determining potential classification of the rivers as wild, scenic or recreational. A suitability determination for each river/glacier will be made in the revision process. If a river is found suitable, the Regional Forester may recommend the river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Subject to valid existing rights, all rivers/glaciers found eligible will be given interim protection to preserve their potentially ''outstandingly remarkable'' characteristics and maintain the highest level of classification until a final suitability determination and recommendation is made in the revised Forest Plan.

Travel Management and Access

Many people value the recreation experience afforded by the lack of road access to most of the Forest. Others point out a need for additional public access either by road or trail for recreation use. Some people object to roads planned into roadless areas for resource development and are concerned with increased motorized use on new roads. Competition between ''muscle powered'' recreationists and motorized recreationists for areas to pursue their activities is increasing.

Additional Issues

Public comments received on this Notice of Intent and through further public participation activities will be used to create a list of significant issues for the EIS and the revised Forest Plan. The EIS and revised Forest Plan will also address other subjects in response to existing planning direction. These will include (among others):

—Biological diversity;
—Minerals management;
—Fish and wildlife habitat management;
—Scenic resource management;
—Research Natural Areas; and
—Electronic and communication sites.

Comments on the preliminary, or potential additional issues, and possible solutions to these issues are welcomed. Additional information concerning the scope of the revision will be provided through future mailings, news releases, and public meetings.

The Chugach National Forest will hold a series of open house and focus group meetings in communities in and near the Forest and host a revision forum in Anchorage, Alaska, to provide information about the process of revising the Forest Plan, and to gather public input on formulation of alternatives and the scope and nature of the decisions to be made. Meeting dates and locations will be announced in the media.

In preparing the EIS for revising the Plan, the Forest Service will estimate the potential impacts of various management alternatives on the Forest's physical and biological resources, as well as the potential economic and social impacts on local communities and the broader regional economy.

The draft EIS and proposed revised Forest Plan are tentatively scheduled for release and public review in September 1998. A 90-day public comment period will be provided for these documents. The final EIS, revised Forest Plan, and a record of decision are currently scheduled for completion in June 1999.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings relating to public participation in the environmental review process. Reviewers of draft EIS's must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and clearly informs an agency of the reviewer's position and contentions, *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.* v. *NRDC* U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Also environmental concerns 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 for those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 90-day comment period on the draft EIS, so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when they can be meaningfully considered and responded to in the final EIS.

The responsible official for the EIS and the revised Forest Plan is the Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802–1628.

Dated: April 8, 1997.

Kimberly Bown,

Acting Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 97–10197 Filed 4–18–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 35), this notice announces the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) request for an extension for and revision of a currently approved information collection in support of the reporting and recordkeeping requirements under regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, as amended (7 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.*).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 20, 1997.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Sharon Vassiliades, ARTS, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250–3649 or FAX