

U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a Western Regional Listening Session of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended by section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-127), will send representatives of its membership (5 members, the Executive Director, and a USDA administrative support person) to the Western Region Joint Summer Meeting to hold a Western Regional Listening Session, 8:00 a.m. until noon on July 8, 1998.

The Western Regional Listening Session will engage western regional stakeholders (small farmers, producers/ranchers, academia including 1890 and 1994 institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholder groups) in panel sessions to present statements to Advisory Board members on agricultural research and education priorities and other issues of significant concern to the Western Region. Findings of this Listening Session will be presented to the full Advisory Board for consideration in its ongoing effort to advise USDA on future agricultural research and education priorities. Time will be allowed at the end of Listening Session panels for open discussion and audience participation.

DATES: Western Regional Listening Session, July 8, 1998, 8:00 a.m. until noon.

PLACE: Yarrow Hotel, Park City, Utah.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open to the public.

COMMENTS: The public may file written comments before or within 2 weeks after the meeting with the contact person. All statements will become a part of the official records of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Office of the Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Washington, D.C. 20250-2255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3918 South Building, U.S.

Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of May 1998.

I. Miley Gonzalez,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. TB-97-17]

Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of referendum results.

SUMMARY: This document announces the results of the referendum on the merger of Tabor City-Whiteville, North Carolina, and Loris, South Carolina, flue-cured tobacco markets. A mail referendum was conducted during the period of April 27-May 1, 1998, among tobacco growers who sold tobacco on these markets in 1997. A required two-thirds majority of voters did not favor merging these markets into a single consolidated market.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William O. Coats, Associate Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, PO Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone number (202) 205-0508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice was published in the April 20, 1998, issue of the **Federal Register** (63 FR 19414) announcing that a referendum would be conducted among active flue-cured producers who sold tobacco on either Tabor City-Whiteville or Loris during the 1997 season to ascertain if such producers favored the consolidation.

The notice of referendum announced the determination by the Secretary that the consolidated market of Tabor City-Whiteville, North Carolina, and Loris, South Carolina, would be designated as a flue-cured tobacco auction market and receive mandatory Federal grading of tobacco sold at auction for the 1998 and succeeding seasons, subject to the results of the referendum. The determination was based on the

evidence and arguments presented at a public hearing held in Tabor City, North Carolina, on November 5, 1997, pursuant to applicable provisions of the regulations issued under the Tobacco Inspection Act, as amended. The referendum was held in accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Inspection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 511d) and the regulations set forth in 7 CFR 29.74.

Ballots for the April 27-May 1, 1998, referendum were mailed to 1,470 producers. Approval required votes in favor of the proposal by two-thirds of the eligible voters who cast valid ballots. The Department received a total of 375 responses: 89 eligible producers voted in favor of the consolidation; 189 eligible producers voted against the consolidation; and 97 ballots were determined to be invalid.

Dated: May 26, 1998.

Enrique E. Figueroa,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas, and West Oklahoma

Amendment of Land and Resource Management Plans in the Southwestern Region

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service is planning to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to amend National Forest land and resource management plans to incorporate standards and guidelines for management of habitat for American peregrine falcon, Little Colorado River spinedace, loach minnow, spikedace, Apache trout, Chihuahua chub, Gila trout, Gila top minnow, razorback sucker, southwest willow flycatcher, cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, Sonora tiger salamander, New Mexico ridgenose rattlesnake, and Pima pineapple cactus. The amendment would add new standards and guidelines which strengthen and clarify existing direction for the protection of federally listed threatened and endangered species. The amendment would apply to all subsequent project-level resource management decisions which will