

Notices

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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

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-053N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods; Renewal

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Rechartering of Committee.

This notice announces the rechartering of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. The Committee is being renewed in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The establishment of the Committee was recommended by a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods."

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is charged with the enforcement of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA). Under these Acts, USDA is responsible for the wholesomeness and safety of meat, poultry, and egg products intended for human consumption. Similarly, the Secretary of HHS is charged with the enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Under this Act, HHS is responsible for ensuring the safety of human foods other than meat, poultry, and egg products and of animal feeds.

In order to continue to meet the responsibilities of FMIA, PPIA, EPIA, and FFDCA, the National Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods is being reestablished. The Committee will be tasked with advising and providing recommendations to the Secretaries on the development of microbiological

criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed, including criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether foods have been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Reestablishment of this Committee is necessary and in the public interest because the development of a sound public policy in this area can best be accomplished by a free and open exchange of information and ideas among Federal, State, and local agencies, and other interested parties. This complexity of the issues to be addressed assures that more than one meeting will be required to accomplish the Committee's tasks.

Members will be appointed by the Secretary of USDA after consultation with the Secretary of HHS. Because of their interest in the matters to be addressed by this Committee, advice on membership appointments will be requested from the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Defense's Veterinary Service Activity.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Amelia L. Wright, Advisory Committee Specialist, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Suite 6913 Franklin Court, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Background materials are available for inspection by contacting Ms. Wright at (202) 501-7343.

Reba Evans,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Routt Divide Blowdown Analysis; Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District, Routt County, Colorado

September 16, 1998.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the

environmental effects the South Fork Salvage Analysis of a portion of the Routt Divide Blowdown outside the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District.

The purpose of this action is to implement the Land and Resource Management Plan 1997 Revision for the Routt National Forest in the South Fork Analysis Area, considering the effects, both short and expected long term, resulting from the Routt Divide Blowdown. Actions proposed by the Forest Service include (1) commercial salvage of the windthrown trees in Management Areas 5.11 and 5.13. Associated with this action will be road construction and reconstruction. (2) Silvicultural treatments of timber stands in Management Areas 5.11, 5.13, and 7.1 designed to increase the resistance of these stands to attack by spruce bark beetle. Associated with this action will be road construction and reconstruction.

Additionally, we are attempting to determine the levels of spruce bark beetle infestation and tree mortality that would threaten the wild river, recreational or winter range values in Management areas 1.5, 4.3, 5.41, and whether or not management actions might be effective in protecting those values. If potential spruce beetle attack would threaten those values, then we will determine the actions that would be appropriate to prevent or respond to a beetle epidemic.

There is a need to contribute toward meeting the needs of the nation for timber products in Management Areas 5.11 General Forest and Rangelands—Forest Vegetation Emphasis and 5.13 Forest Products. Within Management Area 1.5 there is a need to protect the Wild River characteristics. Within Management Area 4.3 there is a need to protect recreational opportunities. Within Management Areas 5.11 and 5.13 there is a need to restrict the outbreak of spruce bark beetles. Within Management Area 7.1 there is a need to reduce the risk of spruce bark beetle from spreading into the management area.

DATES: Public Scoping will begin with a mailing to people who expressed an interest in the North Fork Salvage Analysis, land owners within the Forest Service boundaries adjacent to the analysis area, and State, County, and local officials.