

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 1419, FOB 8, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC. Send an original and two copies of written comments to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket # 99-001N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th St., SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Clerkin, Associate U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700, Telephone: (202) 205-7760; Fax: (202) 720-3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for protecting the health and economic interests of consumers and encouraging fair international trade in food. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled.

The Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants establishes or endorses maximum or guideline levels for individual food additives, contaminants (including environmental contaminants), and naturally occurring toxicants in foodstuffs and animal feeds. In addition, the Committee prepares priority lists of food additives and contaminants for toxicological evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives; recommends specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the Commission; considers methods of analysis for their determination in food; considers and elaborates standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such; and review process for food irradiation.

Issues to be discussed at the public meeting:

General Issues

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees
3. Summary Report of the 51st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
4. Action Required as a Result of Changes in ADI Status and other Toxicological Recommendations
5. Discussion Paper on the Application of Risk Analysis Principles for Food Additives and Contaminants

Food Additives

1. Endorsement and/or Revision of Maximum Levels for Food Additives in Codex Standards
2. Consideration of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives
3. Discussion Paper on the Use of Colours in Foods
4. Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives Arising from the 51st JECFA Meeting
5. Proposed Amendments to the International Numbering System

Contaminants

1. Endorsement and/or Revision of Maximum Levels for Contaminants in Codex Standards
2. Comments on Section 3.2 (Health Related Limits for Certain Substances) of the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Water
3. Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods: Report of the ad hoc Working Group on Contaminants and Toxins
4. Methodology and Principles for Exposure Assessment in the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods
5. Mycotoxins in Food and Feed
 - (a) Ochratoxin
 - (b) Zearalenone
 - (c) Patulin
6. Industrial and Environmental Contaminants in Foods
 - (a) Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Food with Chemicals
 - (b) Lead
 - (c) Tin
 - (d) Cadmium
 - (e) Arsenic
 - (f) Dioxins

General Issues

1. Proposals for Priority Evaluation of Food Additives and Contaminants by JECFA
2. Other Business and Future Work
 - (a) Comments on Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Food Additives and Contaminants in Foods

- (b) Comments on the Inventory of Processing Aids
- (c) Comments on Packaging Provisions to Maintain the Stability of Iodized Salt in the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt

At the February 9, 1999, public meeting, the agenda items will be described and discussed and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments.

Comments may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to CCFAC activities of the Thirty-first Session.

Done at Washington, DC on January 26, 1999.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex.

[FR Doc. 99-2222 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

The Summit at Snoqualmie Master Development Plan; Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests, King and Kittitas Counties, Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, USDA, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Ski Lifts, Inc. (The Summit at Snoqualmie) ski area proposal to develop its Master Development Plan. The Summit at Snoqualmie consists of four ski areas: Alpentel; Summit West; Summit Central and Summit East. The proposed action would expand the area under special use permit to 1,905 acres, an increase of 41 acres, to provide for additional parking at Summit West and to connect the Summit Central and Summit East ski areas. The proposed development includes the replacement and addition of chair and surface lifts; addition of a multi-user gondola at Alpentel; new lifts and terrain within the existing SUP boundary; and expanded night skiing at Alpentel and Summit Central. In addition, the proposal includes the expansion and addition of parking lots at Summit West, Summit Central and Alpentel, day lodges and other related facilities, maintenance facilities and utilities to support the skiing and other recreational opportunities. The project also includes reforestation at Summit West and Summit Central, as well as

identified watershed restoration projects.

At Alpental, implementation of the proposed MDP would increase the Skiers-At-One-Time (SAOT) capacity from 1,710 to 2,800. Accordingly, the peak day capacity of the facility would increase from 1,881 Persons-at-One-Time (PAOT) to 3,080. At The Summit at Snoqualmie (excluding Alpental), the MDP proposes to increase the SAOT capacity from 7,410 to 10,900. Consequently, the peak day capacity of The Summit at Snoqualmie will increase from 8,151 to 11,990.

DATES: Comment concerning the scope of this analysis should be in writing and postmarked by March 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Daniel T. Harkenrider, Acting Forest Supervisor, 21905 64th Avenue West, Mountlake Terrace, Washington, 98043, Attention: The Summit At Snoqualmie Master Development Plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Donovan, Winter Sports Specialist, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor's Office, 21905 64th Avenue West, Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043-2278. Phone (425) 744-3403. Internet: Idonovan/r6pwn__mbs@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Summit at Snoqualmie operates under a Special Use Permit from the USDA Forest Service. Presently, alpine skiing/snowboarding and other four-season resort activities are provided to the public through a Special Use Permit administered by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Currently, there are four master plans for the Summit at Snoqualmie, dating from the time each of the four areas (Alpental, Summit West, Summit Central and Summit East) were managed as separate ski areas. The purpose (objective) of this project is to develop one Master Development Plan for the management and development of The Summit at Snoqualmie over the next 7-10 years. The goal of the Master Development Plan is to ensure the long-term economic viability of The Summit at Snoqualmie, maintain the competitive position of The Summit at Snoqualmie with other ski areas in the Puget Sound Basin; maintain and restore a healthy ecosystem; and be consistent with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Plan.

The proposed action is the submitted Master Development Plan proposal. At Alpental it would include: replacement of one existing chairlift, re-alignment of one existing chairlift, construction of one new chairlift and construction of a gondola, providing for year-round

access to the top of the facility. Two existing lifts would remain unchanged and the two existing surface tows would be removed. Downhill terrain would be expanded by 18.5 acres and night skiing terrain would increase by 34 acres. The proposed action would include the addition of 17,500 square feet of visitor support facilities, including a mountain-top restaurant. Parking would be expanded from 8.4 acres to 8.5 acres. The proposed action would also include watershed restoration projects as identified in the Upper South Fork Snoqualmie and Coal Creek Watershed Condition Assessment. Implementation could begin in the summer of 2000 and would continue for approximately 7-10 years.

At the Summit at Snoqualmie (Summit West, Summit Central and Summit East), the Master Development Plan proposal would include 23 chairlifts and surface tows. It includes the elimination, replacement or realignment of 21 of the 22 existing chair and surface lifts. When coupled with new chairlift construction there would be a total of 17 chairlifts and 6 surface tows. Downhill terrain would be expanded by 54 acres and night skiing would increase from 386 acres to 440 acres. The proposed action would include the addition of 60,708 square feet of guest support facilities, including a new mountain-top restaurant at Alpental and remodeling the existing mountain-top restaurant at Summit West. Parking would be expanded from 26.3 to 32.7 acres. The proposed action would also include watershed restoration projects as identified in the Upper South Fork Snoqualmie and Coal Creek Watershed Condition Assessment. Implementation could begin in the summer of 2000 and would continue for approximately 7-10 years.

The site-specific environmental analysis provided in The Summit at Snoqualmie Master Development Plan EIS will assist the Forest Supervisor in determining which improvements are needed to meet the goals and objectives, as stated above.

An EIS will be produced, which will display alternatives considered including (1) no action (continued management of the ski area under the existing master development plans), and (2) the proposed action. Three additional alternatives have been tentatively identified: (3) reduced development in the area between Summit Central and Summit East (Section 16); (4) no development in the area between Summit Central and Summit East (Section 16); and (5) reduced disturbance to riparian reserves. The EIS will analyze the

direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the alternatives. Past, present and projected activities on both private and National Forest System lands will be considered. The EIS will disclose the effects of site-specific mitigation.

Comments from the public will be used to:

- Identify potential issues.
- Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Eliminate minor issues or those that have been covered by a previous environmental analysis, such as the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie or Wenatchee Land and Resource Management Plans.
- Identify alternatives to the proposed action.

Issues identified as the result of internal scoping include:

- Consistency with the Forest Plan/Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.
- Consistency with the Snoqualmie Pass Adaptive Management Area Plan (1997).
- Ability to maintain or increase the north/south Late-Successional connective corridors in the areas between Summit Central and Summit East; and Summit West and Summit Central.
- Ability to maintain snag and large downed wood habitat with the development of ski runs and chairlifts.
- Maintenance of habitat for Threatened & Endangered, Sensitive and Survey & Manage species.
- Potential removal/degradation of wetland habitat.
- Opportunity to implement restoration projects that will improve visual quality and reduce erosion.
- Potential disruption of the back-country skiing route to Nordic Pass.

Scoping and public involvement are continuing. An initial scoping letter was mailed on January 15, 1999. Two public scoping meetings will be held: February 8, 1999, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Cle Elum Ranger Station, 803 West 2nd Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922; and February 10, 1999, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the West Coast Bellevue Hotel, 625 116th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. The information and comments received will be used in the preparation of the draft EIS.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under

36 CFR 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be submitted with or without the name and address within 30 days.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed in May 1999. Following the release of the draft EIS, there will be a public comment period of at least 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes that 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 the 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 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 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 EIS. (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 completed in December 1999. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. The lead agency is the Forest Service. The Forest Supervisors of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forest are the responsible officials. The responsible officials will document the decision and the reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations 36 CFR Parts 215 or 251.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Daniel T. Harkenrider,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-1974 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ski Lifts, Inc. Master Plan, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, King and Kittitas Counties, Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation Notice.

SUMMARY: On July 16, 1993, a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Ski Lifts, Inc. Master Plan on the lands administered by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest was published in the **Federal Register** (58 FR 38358). This notice is being withdrawn because an updated Notice of Intent that reflects the submitted Master Development Plan proposal, current issues and preliminary alternatives will be published. The 1993 Forest Service Notice of Intent is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this cancellation to Larry Donovan, EIS Team Leader, Supervisor's Office, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 21905 64th Avenue W., Mountlake Terrace, Washington, phone 425-744-3403.

Dated: January 20, 1999.

Daniel T. Harkenrider,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-2147 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Willamette Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Willamette PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, February 11, 1999. The meeting will be held at the Salem BLM Office; 1717 Fabry Road SE; Salem, Oregon 97306; phone (503) 375-5642. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 4:00 p.m. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Introduction and orientation of new members, (2) Wilderness Management, (3) Willamette River Initiative and Corp of Engineer floodplain restoration projects, (4) Recommended topics for joint IAC/PAC meeting, (5) Public Forum.

The Public Forum is expected to occur at approximately 10:30 a.m., and time allotted for individual presentations will be limited 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may also be submitted prior to the meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester; Willamette National Forest, 211 East Seventh Avenue; Eugene, Oregon 97401; (541) 465-6924.

Dated: January 25, 1999.

H. Woody Fine,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-2148 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Northeast Indiana (IN) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces designation of Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc. (Northeast Indiana), to provide