

R26E, Sec. 7. Although containing outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values, this segment of river is not considered free flowing and, therefore, is not eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS.

Possible Alternatives

The alternatives briefly summarized below have been discussed by the interdisciplinary team; others will be developed in response to public issues.

- (1) *Increase extent of Management Area 22.* Increase Management Area 22 (renewal of the shortleaf pine-bluestem ecosystem) to encompass more acreage, including most of the land tentatively proposed for allocation to Management Areas 14 and 23.
- (2) *Establish a single Management Area 23 (Broken Bow Lake Management Area) east of Highway 259, divided into 23a (Habitat Management Area for Red-cockaded Woodpecker) and 23b [lower Lake area] instead of 22 and 23.* This alternative would be developed to show a more integrated picture of management direction within the Broken Bow Lake/Mountain Fork River area. Standards and guidelines would change little.
- (3) *Increase the extent of Management Area 14.* Allocate more land to the Management Area that yields most of the wood products from the Ouachita National Forest.

Further Information Concerning Public Comments on the Draft EIS

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, that it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements 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 environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement 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 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 environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. 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 part 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Responsible Official: The Responsible Official is Elizabeth Estill, Regional Forester, Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service, located at 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30367.

Dated: March 24, 1999.

George Wayne Kelley,

Deputy Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Central Illinois (IL) Area

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces designation of Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc. (Central Illinois) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the October 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 52678), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic area assigned to Central Illinois to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by October 30, 1998. There were two applicants: Central Illinois and Turner Grain Services, Inc. (Turner). Central Illinois applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them. Turner, currently operating an unofficial grain inspection business not designated by GIPSA under the authority of the Act, applied for designation to provide official services in a portion of the Central Illinois area. Turner applied for the area bounded on the North by Interstate 74; bounded on the East by Interstate 155; bounded on the South by Illinois Route 136; and bounded on the West by the western Tazewell County line, and the western Peoria County line north to Interstate 74.

The October 1, 1998, **Federal Register** also asked for comments on the services provided by Central Illinois. GIPSA did not receive any comments.

In the December 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 66118), GIPSA asked for comments on the applicants for the Central Illinois area. GIPSA received two comments by the deadline: both were from grain companies that said they were familiar with the services provided by Central Illinois and Turner, and both supported designation of both organizations.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Central Illinois is better able to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied.

Effective June 1, 1999, and ending May 31, 2002, Central Illinois is designated to provide official services in the Central Illinois geographic area specified in the October 1, 1998, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Central Illinois at 309-827-7121.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: March 17, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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