

Summary

The Forest Service proposes to revise the Forest Service Timber Sale Preparation Handbook (FSH 2409.18) to remove the harvest volume data from the recomputation formula and require the use of volume of timber purchased data to determine the small business share. The agency also proposes to reduce the time period for structural change implementation.

Regulatory Impact

This proposed policy has been reviewed under USDA procedures and Executive Order 12866 on Regulatory and Review. It has been determined that this is not a significant policy. This proposed policy will not have an annual effect of \$100 million or more on the economy nor adversely affect productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, nor State or local governments. This proposed policy will not interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency nor raise new legal or policy issues. Finally, this proposed action will not alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients of such programs. Accordingly, this proposed policy is not subject to OMB review under Executive Order 12866.

Moreover, this proposed policy has been considered in light of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et. seq.), and it has been determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined by that Act.

Environmental Impact

Section 31.1b of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 (57 FR 43180; September 18, 1992) excludes from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement "rules, regulations, or policies to establish Service-wide administrative procedures, program processes, or instructions." The agency's preliminary assessment is that this proposed policy falls within this category of actions and that no extraordinary circumstances exist which would require preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. A final determination will be made upon adoption of the final policy.

Unfunded Mandates Reform

Pursuant to Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538), which the President signed into law on March 22, 1995, the Department has assessed the effects of

this policy on state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector.

This policy does not compel the expenditure of \$100 million or more by any State, local, or tribal governments or anyone in the private sector. Therefore, a statement under section 202 of the Act is not required.

Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public

This policy does not contain any recordkeeping or reporting requirements or other information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320 and, therefore, imposes no paperwork burden on the public. Accordingly, the review provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3510 et seq.) and implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320 do not apply.

Dated: April 13, 1999.

Robert Lewis, Jr.,

Acting Associate Chief.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Michigan**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Michigan, US Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Michigan NRCS FOTG, Section IV for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Michigan to issue revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards include: Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) Grade Stabilization Structure (410) Cross Wind Trap Strip-Filter (589C) Cross Wind Trap Strip-Field (589C) Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management (780) Fueling Facility, Above Ground Storage (701) Dry Hydrant-Interim (995) Conservation Crop Rotation (328) Narrow Strip Cropping-Interim (996) Well Decommissioning (351) Cross Wind Stripcropping (589B) Residue Management, No-Till or Strip Till (329A) Residue Management, Mulch Till (329B) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Waste Storage Facility (313) Waste Utilization (633) Alley Cropping (311) Filter Strip (393A) Wetland Creation (658) Wetland Enhancement (659) Wetland Restoration (657)

DATES: Comments will be received until June 28, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Kevin Wickey, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1405 S. Harrison Rd., Room 101, E. Lansing, MI 48823. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to kwickey@mi.nrcs.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Wickey, 517-337-6701 ext. 1242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 393 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Michigan will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Michigan regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: May 14, 1999.

Jane E. Hardisty,

State Conservationist, E. Lansing, Michigan.

[FR Doc. 99-13590 Filed 5-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality will meet for the second time in FY 1999 to discuss the relationship between agricultural production and air quality. Special emphasis will be placed on promoting a greater understanding of agriculture's impact on air quality and the role it plays in the local and national economy. The meeting is open to the public.

DATE: The meeting will convene Tuesday, June 22, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. and