

| Secretary of Agriculture's Cotton Import Quota Announcement | HTS sub-heading | News release date | Quota start date | 90-Day purchase date | 180-Day import date | Quota amount (kilograms) | 3-Month consumption base period |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Number 15 .....   | 9903.52.15      | 6/03/99           | 6/10/99          | 9/07/99              | 12/06/99            | 42,690,963               | February–April 1999.            |
| Number 16 .....   | 9903.52.16      | 6/10/99           | 6/17/99          | 9/14/99              | 12/13/99            | 42,690,963               | February–April 1999.            |
| Number 17 .....   | 9903.52.17      | 6/17/99           | 6/24/99          | 9/21/99              | 12/20/99            | 42,690,963               | February–April 1999.            |
| Number 18 .....   | 9903.52.18      | 6/24/99           | 7/1/99           | 9/28/99              | 12/27/99            | 42,388,357               | March–May 1999.                 |
| Number 19 .....   | 9903.52.19      | 7/1/99            | 7/8/99           | 10/5/99              | 1/3/00              | 42,388,357               | March–May 1999.                 |
| Number 20 .....   | 9903.52.20      | 7/8/99            | 7/15/99          | 10/12/99             | 1/10/004            | 42,388,357               | March–May 1999.                 |

Each special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to extra long staple cotton.

**Authority:** Sec. 136, P.L. 104–127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on July 26, 1999.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 99–19673 Filed 7–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Mining Activities on Piru Creek, Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, CA; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement**

The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for approval of proposed Plans of Operation for mining activities along Piru Creek from Lockwood Flat to Pyramid Lake on the Mount Pinos Ranger District. Management emphases in the Los Padres National Forest Land Resources Management Plan (1988) are to improve water quality, vegetative diversity, and to protect property and cultural resources. Management emphasis for the project area is to manage as a potential Wild and Scenic River candidate.

Potential resource issues which may affect alternative development include the presence of riparian-dependent sensitive amphibians and reptiles; the presence of an amphibian species which is listed as endangered; sensitive heritage resources; water quality; conflicts in recreational uses of Piru Creek; inclusion of Piru Creek into the

Wild and Scenic River System; maintaining biodiversity; and protecting the sensitive riparian ecosystem.

The California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are invited to participate as cooperative agencies to evaluate potential impacts on threatened and endangered species habitat. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board are invited to participate in resolving issues that deal with water quality. Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as industry; and other individual and organizations who may be interested in or affected by the decision, were invited to participate in the scoping process that was initiated during the fall of 1993 and completed in the spring of 1994. This process included:

1. Identification of potential issues and/or concerns.
2. Identification of issues to be identified in depth.
3. Identification of issues which may be eliminated from further analysis.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review and comment by October of 1999. EPA will publish a notice of availability for the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period will be 45 days from the date of the EPA's published notice of availability. All persons interested in the proposed project are urged to participate at that time. Comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the EIS or the merits of the alternatives considered. In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's positions and contentions. Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft EIS review stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final EIS. The reason for this is to ensure that

substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service in a timely manner so that the agency can respond to them in the final EIS.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by April, 2000. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received from the public and consulted agencies. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, laws, regulations and policies in making a decision regarding these project proposals. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to appeal.

Jeanine Derby, Forest Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest, Goleta, CA, is the responsible official. Written comments, questions, and suggestions concerning the analysis should be sent to Mark Bethke, District Ranger, Mount Pinos Ranger District, 34580 Lockwood Valley road, Frazier Park, California 93225, (phone 661–245–3731).

Dated: June 25, 1999.

**Jeanine A. Derby,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99–19645 Filed 7–30–99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of additional public meetings related to the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement each month, September through December 1999.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Regions 4 and 5 announce additional public meetings at the Sacramento, California office of the Sierra Nevada Framework Project on the first Wednesday of each month, September through December,