

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Information Collection; Request for Comments; Public Perceptions of Pacific Northwest National Forest System Land Management Practices**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to establish a new information collection. This information will help the Forest Service learn more about the people who live in western Washington, western Oregon, and northern California and who visit the National Forests.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before November 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Linda Kruger, Research Social Scientist, Seattle Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Forest Service, USDA, 4043 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (206) 553-7709 or by email to lkruger/r6pnw_seattle@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director, Seattle Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Forest Service, USDA, 4043 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Kruger, Seattle Forestry Sciences Laboratory, at (206) 553-7817.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

In 1994, the Forest Service adopted the Northwest Forest Plan in response to perceptions the public had that Forest Service land management practices on National Forests in western Washington, western Oregon and northern California might have negative impacts on timber resources and threatened and endangered species, such as the northern spotted owl.

The Northwest Forest Plan includes new guidelines, such as whether or not to harvest trees, and if trees are harvested, the geographic location from which they may be harvested, as well as the methods that may be used to harvest them.

Forest Service personnel now need a better understanding as to whether or not the new guidelines meet the natural resource management expectations of the public.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the new information collection:

Title: Public Perceptions of New Approaches to Forest Management.

OMB Number: New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of Request: The following describes a new collection requirement and has not received approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: The data from this information collection will help the Forest Service gain a better understanding of the western Washington, western Oregon, and northern California residents' perceptions of the agency's land management practices on the National Forests in these areas, such as how the agency decides where timber harvests will occur and how the agency manages the harvests.

The Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station People and Natural Resources Program has entered into a cooperative agreement with the University of Oregon to facilitate this collection of information. University of Oregon staff, in collaboration with Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station staff, will write the survey, administer the survey, and analyze the survey results.

Residents in western Washington, western Oregon, and northern California will be asked to view photographs of forests that have been harvested using a variety of harvesting methods; residents also will view photographs of forests that have not been harvested. Interviewers will explain why certain areas were chosen for timber harvesting and the reasons for the specific harvesting method. The residents will indicate their level of approval or disapproval for each photograph, in addition to their perceptions of how a particular harvesting method or lack of harvesting affected the scenic beauty of the area, the wildlife habitat, or the water quality.

Residents will be asked which of the National Forest resources are most important to them: the recreational facilities, the potential economic opportunities, or the aesthetic qualities. Residents also will be asked to respond to questions about their ethnic background, their economic status, their age, their educational level, the type of residence in which they live, and how long they have lived in the Pacific Northwest.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 20 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Respondents will include people who live in rural and urban settings in western Oregon, western Washington, and northern

California, and members of organizations interested in management of the National Forests in western Oregon, western Washington and northern California.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1700.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 567 hours.

Comment is Invited

The agency invites comments on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes or the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (b) the accuracy of this agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including name and address when provided, will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

Robert Lewis, Jr.,

Deputy Chief for Research & Development.

[FR DOC 99-25630 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration****Designation for the Los Angeles Area**

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (California) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act) in the Los Angeles area.

EFFECTIVE DATES: October 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., 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 August 13, 1999, **Federal Register** (64 FR 156), GIPSA announced that Los Angeles Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Los Angeles) asked GIPSA to cancel their designation August 27, 1999. GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic area formerly assigned to Los Angeles to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by September 13, 1999. California applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Los Angeles area.

Since California was the only applicant, GIPSA did not ask for comments.

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 California is able to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied.

California is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the August 13, 1999, **Federal Register**, effective October 1, 1999, and ending January 31, 2000, concurrently with the end of California's present designation.

Interested persons may obtain official services by calling California at 916-654-0743.

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

Dated: September 23, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Lincoln (NE), Memphis (TN), Omaha (NE), Jamestown (ND), Sioux City (IA), and Fort Dodge (IA) Areas and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in April and June 2000. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the areas served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. GIPSA is also asking for comments on the services provided by these currently designated agencies:

Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc. (Lincoln);

Memphis Grain Inspection Service

(Memphis);

Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc.

(Omaha);

Grain Inspection, Inc. (Jamestown);

Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service

Company (Sioux City); and

A. V. Tischer and Son, Inc. (Tischer).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before October 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Applications and comments must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604.

Applications and comments may be submitted by FAX on 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications and comments will be made available for public inspection at this address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, during regular business hours.

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.

Section 7(f)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies shall end not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of the Act.

1. Current Designations Being Announced for Renewal

Official agency	Main office	Designation start	Designation end
Lincoln	Lincoln, NE	5/1/1997	4/30/2000
Memphis	Memphis, TN	5/1/1997	4/30/2000
Omaha	Omaha, NE	5/1/1997	4/30/2000
Jamestown	Jamestown, ND	7/1/1997	6/30/2000
Sioux City	Sioux City, IA	7/1/1997	6/30/2000
Tischer	Fort Dodge, IA	7/1/1997	6/30/2000

a. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Iowa and Nebraska, is assigned to Lincoln.

Bounded on the North (in Nebraska) by the northern York, Seward, and Lancaster County lines; the northern Cass County line east to the Missouri River; the Missouri River south to U.S. Route 34; (in Iowa) U.S. Route 34 east to Interstate 29;

Bounded on the East by Interstate 29 south to the Fremont County line; the northern Fremont and Page County lines; the eastern Page County line south to the Iowa-Missouri State line; the Iowa-Missouri State line west to the Missouri River; the Missouri River south-southeast to the Nebraska-Kansas State line;

Bounded on the South by the Nebraska-Kansas State line west to County Road 1 mile west of U.S. Route 81; and

Bounded on the West (in Nebraska) by County Road 1 mile west of U.S. Route 81 north to State Highway 8; State Highway 8 east to U.S. Route 81; U.S. Route 81 north to the Thayer County line; the northern Thayer County line east; the western Saline County line; the southern and western York County lines.

Lincoln's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Lincoln's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following