

Finally, State and local WIC officials in each of the participating States will be interviewed about the expenses of implementing cost containment, the extent to which savings have been used to increase participation, and other impacts on program operations. Interviews with the six State WIC directors will be conducted in person. The director of each selected local agency and other staff with key responsibilities related to cost containment will also be interviewed; these interviews will be conducted by telephone. The information collected from State and local WIC staff is essential for evaluating the effects of cost-containment practices on program participation and costs.

The above-mentioned information collection is needed to complete the Assessment of WIC Cost-Containment Practices mandated by Congress and to equip FNS and State WIC administrators with a comprehensive understanding of the potential impacts of cost containment as they make decisions in the future regarding the implementation of these practices. No existing data source can provide all of the information needed to complete the evaluation. Existing WIC information system databases from the six States will be used to construct the survey sample frames and to obtain demographic data on participants and WIC vendors affected by cost containment. Computer-assisted telephone interviewing will be used to minimize respondent burden and interviewer error in the Survey of WIC Participants. Focus group samples will be drawn from a limited geographic area to minimize travel time and expense for focus group participants. The survey questionnaire and screener and local agency interviews will be kept as simple and respondent-friendly as possible. Responses are voluntary and confidential. Survey and interview data will be combined with other data for statistical purposes and reported only in aggregate or statistical form.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this data collection is estimated to vary by the type of respondent. Responses to the Survey of WIC participants are estimated to average 30 minutes. Responses from WIC participants who did not pick up their WIC vouchers are estimated at 5 minutes, on average, for a screening interview and an average of 90 minutes for the focus group session. The Survey of Food Prices will involve an estimated 15 minutes of time from the store cashier for scanning. Responses by local agency WIC staff are estimated to total 60 minutes, on average. The estimates

include time for listening to instructions, gathering data needed, and responding to questionnaire or interview/discussion items.

Respondents: Participants in the local WIC agency staff, and WIC-authorized food store cashiers in six selected States.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,052 in total: 1,200 active WIC participants, 600 WIC participants who failed to pick up their vouchers, 72 WIC participants for focus groups, 18 local WIC agency staff, and 162 food store cashiers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: Total of 816.5 hours. Survey of WIC Participants: 600 hours, Screener Survey for Focus Groups: 50 hours, Focus Groups: 108 hours, Local Agency Interview: 18 hours, and Survey of Food Prices and Item Availability: 40.5 hours. Copies of the information to be collected can be obtained from Phil R. Kaufman, Food Markets Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M. St., NW, Room N2118, Washington, D.C. 20036-5801, 202-694-5376.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments should be sent to the address stated in the preamble. All responses to this notice will be considered and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 22, 2000.

Betsey Kuhn,

Director, Food and Rural Economics Division.
[FR Doc. 00-16255 Filed 6-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Northwest Sacramento Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Northwest Sacramento Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on Friday, July 14, 2000, at the French Gulch Hotel, French Gulch, California. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. topics for the meeting are: (1) An update on the Northwest Forest Plan Implementation; (2) update on the Clear Creek/Resource Conservation District proposal; (3) discussion on the French Gulch community fuels area; and (4) public comment periods. All PAC meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, 11263 N. Highway 3, Fort Jones, California 96032; telephone 530-468-1281; TDD (530) 468-2783; email: chendryx@fs.fed.us.

Dated: June 22, 2000.

Constance J. Hendryx,

PAC Support Staff.

[FR Doc. 00-16278 Filed 6-27-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Subsistence Management Regulations for Federal Public Lands in Alaska; Delegations of Authority

AGENCIES: Forest Service, USDA; Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of interim delegations of authority.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the regulatory authority found at 36 CFR 242.10(d)(6) and 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6), the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) announces interim delegations of authority for the 2000 fishing season under the Federal Subsistence Management Program (64 FR 1276). The purpose of these delegations is to be responsive to changing local conditions which require immediate opening or closing of fisheries to provide subsistence opportunities for rural subsistence users or to assure conservation of the subsistence resources.

DATES: These delegations are effective June 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Any comments concerning this notice may be sent to the Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, c/o Thomas H. Boyd, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention: Thomas H. Boyd, Office of Subsistence Management; (907) 786-3888. For questions specific to National Forest System lands, contact Ken Thompson, Regional Subsistence Program Manager, USDA, Forest Service, Alaska Region, (907) 786-3592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Federal Subsistence Board assumed subsistence management responsibility for public lands in Alaska in 1990, after the Alaska Supreme Court ruled in *McDowell v. State of Alaska*, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska, 1989), *reh'g denied* (Alaska 1990), that the rural preference contained in the State's subsistence statute violated the Alaska Constitution. This ruling put the State's subsistence program out of compliance with Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and resulted in the Secretaries assuming subsistence management on the public lands in Alaska. The "Temporary Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Final Temporary Rule" was published in the **Federal Register** (55 FR 27114-27170) on June 29, 1990. The "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; Final Rule" was published in the **Federal Register** (57 FR 22940-22964) on May 29, 1992. The Secretaries published an amended Final Rule (64 FR 1276) on January 8, 1999, that redefined the area of Federal jurisdiction to include waters subject to a subsistence priority. The regulatory amendments in that document conformed the Federal subsistence management regulations to the court decree issued in *State of Alaska v. Babbitt*, 72 F.3d 698 (9th Cir. 1995) *cert denied* 517 U.S. 1187 (1996).

In-Season Management

Most salmon fisheries in Alaska are subject to in-season management by State emergency order by local State managers who have been given delegated authority by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to enact regulatory changes within a prescribed scope and for prescribed purposes. Because the annual run strengths of migratory fish

species, such as salmon, are relatively unpredictable making it difficult to forecast numbers of fish available for harvest while meeting conservation objectives, harvest openings or closings are often made at or near the time and place where the fish are taken. These are local decisions, best made by the local State managers. In-season management by delegated authority is used to avoid violating conservation mandates where delayed closures would lead to over-fishing, optimize fishing opportunities where fish runs are unpredictable, and to encourage local involvement in management decisions.

Local Federal managers will face situations where the subsistence fisheries in Federal waters will need to be opened or closed quickly in order to meet local subsistence needs or to achieve a conservation objective. Local Federal managers may also need to act quickly to close Federal waters to non-subsistence fishing, in order to protect a subsistence opportunity. Local Federal managers will need to have regulatory authority similar to that available to State managers during the 2000 season to ensure that conservation and subsistence use mandates on Federal lands are met. The need for local delegated authority will occur when Federal managers identify the need to take immediate action affecting fisheries in Federal waters.

Delegation of authority to a field manager avoids violations of conservation mandates through timely response to resource shortages. Conservation and subsistence use objectives may not be met if decisions on fishing restrictions exceed 24 hours to process. Field officials with delegated authority provide focused points of contact for local subsistence users and facilitate local liaison with State managers and other user groups. Decisions are viewed as local and in the best interests of the resource and local subsistence users. Timely in-season management decisions optimize the opportunity to harvest fish when and where they are available, without jeopardizing spawning escapement goals for specific stocks. Delayed in-season decisions by the Board, if authority is not delegated, may often miss opportunities to provide for a local subsistence priority, because a targeted fish run will have passed or stock segregation will have created a conservation risk. Emphasis on local liaison creates an environment that encourages consultation with local State managers and subsistence users to help identify restrictions necessary to conserve the resource and to provide for the subsistence priority, and does so

with consideration to providing for non-subsistence fisheries when harvestable surpluses are sufficient. Delegation of authority to field managers could significantly reduce the time-consuming involvement of the Board otherwise required for in-season management decisions. The Board can establish and amend limitations on delegations, management objectives, and procedural guidelines to ensure that Board intent is implemented by field managers.

Guidelines

Pursuant to the regulatory authority found at 36 CFR 242.10(d)(6) and 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6), the Federal Subsistence Board establishes the following guidelines for Federal officials delegated to act for the Board. Affected field managers must remain involved in the decision making process with the delegated Federal official responsible for making a final decision.

a. All delegated Federal officials will become familiar with the management history of the fisheries in their area, with the current State and Federal regulations and management plans, and be up-to-date on in-season stock and harvest status information.

b. All delegated Federal officials will review Special Action requests or situations that may require a Special Action and supporting information and determine (1) if the request/situation falls within the scope of delegated authority, (2) if significant conservation problems or subsistence harvest concerns are indicated, and (3) what the consequences of taking an action may be on potentially-affected subsistence users and non-subsistence users. Requests not within the delegated authority of the delegated Federal official must be forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board for consideration.

c. All delegated Federal officials will notify the Federal Subsistence Board and notify/consult with local ADF&G managers, Regional Advisory Council representatives, and other affected Federal conservation unit managers concerning admissible Special Actions being considered.

d. Delegated Federal officials will issue timely decisions to effectuate the outcomes sought. Users will be notified before the effective date/time of decisions. If an action is to supersede a State action not yet in effect, the decision will be communicated to affected users at least 6 hours before the State action would be effective. If a decision is to take no action, the requestor will be notified immediately. Regional Advisory Councils will be kept informed and consulted as appropriate.

Delegation of Authority

1. Only the Federal officials identified below are delegated authority to issue Special Actions to address fish stock conservation concerns or unmet subsistence harvest needs. Such action must be substantiated by clear evidence in resource monitoring information and/or corroboration from affected users/

communities, and evaluated in relation to historical information.
 2. Delegated authority to issue Special Actions is limited to opening or closing Federal subsistence fishing periods or areas provided for under regulations found at 36 CFR 242.26–242.27 and 50 CFR 100.26–100.27, or closing non-subsistence fishing in Federal waters. All requests to modify Federal subsistence management regulations,

such as those relating to harvest limits, permit requirements, gear restrictions, or customary and traditional use determinations, must be directed to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3. The following Federal officials are delegated to act for the Federal Subsistence Board as delineated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, for the fishery regulatory year 2000:

Geographic region	Delegated Federal official
Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound, excluding Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.	Western Arctic Parklands Superintendent.
Yukon River Drainage and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	Fairbanks Fisheries Resource Office Project Leader.
Kuskokwim, Goodnews and Kanektok River Drainages	Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager.
Bristol Bay/Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik	King Salmon Fisheries Resource Office Project Leader.
Kodiak Region	Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager.
Copper River	Wrangell/St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent.
Remainder Prince William Sound Area and Cook Inlet	Cordova District Ranger.
Southeast Alaska/Yakutat:	
Yakutat Area	Yakutat District Ranger.
Baranof and Chichagof Islands	Sitka District Ranger.
Admiralty Island and northern southeast Alaska inside waters	Juneau District Ranger.
Prince of Wales and associated islands	Craig District Ranger.
Kuiu, Kupreanof, and Zarembo Islands and Stikine River	Petersburg District Ranger.
Southern southeast Alaska inside waters	Ketchikan District Ranger.

Drafting Information: William Knauer drafted this policy document under the guidance of Thomas H. Boyd, of the Office of Subsistence Management, Alaska Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska. Curt Wilson, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management; Bob Gerhard, Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service; Greg Bos, Alaska Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Ida Hildebrand, Alaska Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Ken Thompson, USDA-Forest Service provided additional guidance.

Dated: June 15, 2000.

Kenneth E. Thompson,

Acting Regional Forester, USDA—Forest Service.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

Thomas H. Boyd,

Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Extension of Comment Period for the Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Programs Manual—Part 513: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U. S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This Public Notice announces an extension of the comment period deadline for comments on the draft the Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Programs Manual—Part 513: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program.

DATES: Comments will be received until July 28, 2000. All comments post-marked by July 28, 2000, will be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to: Terry D’Addio, National RC&D Program Manager, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 14th & Independence Ave, SW, Room 6013 South Building, Washington, DC, 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry D’Addio, Natural Resources Conservation Service; telephone: (202)

720–0557; fax: (202) 690–0639, e-mail terry.daddio@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The first Public Notice was released on April 14, 2000. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is asking for comments from individuals, private consultants, Tribal, State, and local governments or subgroups thereof, universities, colleges, environmental groups, community development groups, and other organizations. These comments will assist USDA in the policy development and implementation of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program. This manual is intended for use by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other USDA staff, conservation partners, State and local field staffs, RC&D Council members, and others that will be developing RC&D applications or participating in the RC&D program. The Conservation Programs Manual: Part 513—RC&D Program is a document intended for use by NRCS and other USDA staff, conservation partners, State and local field staffs, RC&D Council members, and others that either will be developing RC&D applications or participating in the RC&D program. The purpose of this document is to provide policy guidance for the RC&D program, not to establish regulatory requirements. The RC&D Program was authorized to encourage and improve the capability of State and local units of government and