

communities, other organizations, and individuals in a collaborative manner to ensure that concerns about roadless values are heard and addressed through a fair and open process?

3. *Protecting Forests.* How should inventoried roadless areas be managed to provide for healthy forests, including protection from severe wildfires and the buildup of hazardous fuels as well as to provide for the detection and prevention of insect and disease outbreaks?

4. *Protecting Communities, Homes, and Property.* How should communities and private property near inventoried roadless areas be protected from the risks associated with natural events, such as major wildfires that may occur on adjacent federal lands?

5. *Protecting Access to Property.* What is the best way to implement the laws that ensure States, tribes, organizations, and private citizens have reasonable access to property they own within inventoried roadless areas?

6. *Describing Values.* What are the characteristics, environmental values, social and economic considerations, and other factors the Forest Service should consider as it evaluates inventoried roadless areas?

7. *Describing Activities.* Are there specific activities that should be expressly prohibited or expressly allowed for inventoried roadless areas through Forest Plan revisions or amendments?

8. *Designating Areas.* Should inventoried roadless areas selected for future roadless protection through the local forest plan revision process be proposed to Congress for wilderness designation, or should they be maintained under a specific designation for roadless area management under the forest plan?

9. *Competing Values and Limited Resources.* How can the Forest Service work effectively with individuals and groups with strongly competing views, values, and beliefs in evaluating and managing public lands and resources, recognizing that the agency can not meet all of the desires of all of the parties?

10. *Other Concerns.* What other concerns, comments, or interests relating to the protection and management of inventoried roadless areas are important?

Regulatory Findings

This advance notice of proposed rulemaking is being issued to obtain public comment regarding the protection and management of inventoried roadless areas. Because the Department is not proposing any specific approach for managing

inventoried roadless areas, there are no regulatory findings associated with this notice. Comments received will help the Department determine the extent and scope of any future rulemaking.

Conclusion

The Department of Agriculture is considering how to best proceed with long-term protection and management of inventoried roadless areas. Through this advance notice of proposed rulemaking, the Department is seeking public input as responses to a series of questions about inventoried roadless area protection and management. Public input and comment on management of inventoried roadless areas and their values will help inform the Department's consideration of how best to proceed with long-term protection and management of these areas. How the Department ultimately addresses protecting roadless values will depend on a number of factors. These include court decisions, public comments, and practical options for amending the current rule or EIS or both, using other administrative tools to implement inventoried roadless area protections.

Dated: July 3, 2001.

Dale N. Bosworth,
Chief.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[TX 28-1-7382b; FRL-7008-2]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Houston/Galveston Ozone Nonattainment Area Vehicle Miles Traveled Offset Plan

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to approve the Houston/Galveston Ozone Nonattainment Area (HGA) Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Offset State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the Governor of Texas on August 25, 1997 and the revision submitted on May 17, 2000. In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revisions as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipates no adverse comments. The rationale for the

approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and it will not take effect, and all public comments received during the 30-day comment period set forth below will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting must do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by August 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to Thomas H. Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), at the EPA Region 6 office listed below. Copies of documents relevant to this action are available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Anyone wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least two working days in advance.

Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 6, Air Planning Section (6PD-L),
1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

Texas Natural Resource Conservation
Commission, Office of Air Quality,
12124 Park 35 Circle, Austin, Texas
78753.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Brooke M. Ivener, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), EPA Region 6, telephone (214) 665-7362.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document concerns the HGA VMT Offset SIP. For additional information, see the direct final rule which is published in the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: June 13, 2001.

Jerry Clifford,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 6.
[FR Doc. 01-16807 Filed 7-9-01; 8:45 am]

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