

Garner Valley Commons, 61600  
Devil's Ladder Road, Garner Valley,  
CA

Additional meetings may be scheduled and notices will be available through the local Forest website or Forest contact, the Forest Plan website, toll-free telephone number, or mailings. During the scoping period, the agency will seek information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The scoping process includes:

1. Determining the scope and the potential significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement.
2. Identifying and eliminating from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review, narrowing the discussion of these issues in the statement to a brief presentation of why they will not have a significant effect on the human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere.
3. Exploring alternatives that address one or more significant issues while meeting the purpose and need for this proposal.
4. Verifying and updating scenery management data for use in the revision process.

**Related Environment Analyses:** Additional public environmental assessments and other environmental impact statements which are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the impact statement include: the Oil and Gas EIS on the Los Padres National Forest, the joint Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Santa Rosa/San Jacinto National Monument Management Plan EIS, the Bureau of Land Management Off-shore Monument EIS, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary EIS.

The Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service, will be invited to participate as cooperating agencies to evaluate potential impacts on threatened and endangered species habitat.

**Alternatives:** A range of alternatives for revising these four Forest Plans and providing programmatic direction over the next 10–15 years will be developed in response to significant issues identified during scoping. One of these

alternatives is the proposed action, which is the current Forest Plan direction as modified by the recent consultations with the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service and additional direction as recommended by an internal agency review and early public input regarding changes that are needed in the existing Forest Plans. The additional direction specifically addresses shooting, recreation residences, land adjustment plans, communication sites, and fire management. The details of this proposal can be viewed on the website listed above.

**Release and Review of the EIS:** The Forest Service anticipates filing a Draft EIS with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and making that DEIS available for comment in fall 2002. At that time, EPA will publish a notice of availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 90 days from the date the EPA publishes the NOA in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions; *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but are not raised until after completion of the Final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts; *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate throughout the process, so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the proposed action. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, the agency will analyze, consider,

and respond to comments in preparing the Final EIS. The FEIS is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2003. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making decisions regarding these revisions. The responsible official will document the decision for each of the four Forests and reasons for each decision in one Record of Decision.

The decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217.

Dated: September 14, 2001.

**Bernard Weingardt,**

*Deputy Regional Forester.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410–11–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Municipal Interest Rates for the Fourth Quarter of 2001

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the fourth quarter of 2001.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the fourth calendar quarter of 2001.

**DATES:** These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning October 1, 2001, and ending December 31, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gail P. Salgado, Management Analyst, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4024–S, Stop 1560, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–1560. Telephone: 202–205–3660. FAX: 202–690–0717. E-mail: [GSalgado@rus.usda.gov](mailto:GSalgado@rus.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the fourth calendar quarter of 2001 for municipal rate electric loans. RUS regulations at § 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to § 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the “Bond Buyer” for the four weeks prior to the fourth Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or

longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in § 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 2001 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based on the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under § 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.000 percent.

In accordance with § 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the fourth calendar quarter of 2001.

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2022 or later .....	5.000
2021 .....	5.000
2020 .....	4.875
2019 .....	4.875
2018 .....	4.750
2017 .....	4.750
2016 .....	4.750
2015 .....	4.625
2014 .....	4.500
2013 .....	4.375
2012 .....	4.250
2011 .....	4.125
2010 .....	4.000
2009 .....	3.875
2008 .....	3.750
2007 .....	3.625
2006 .....	3.500
2005 .....	3.250
2004 .....	3.000
2003 .....	2.750
2002 .....	2.500

Dated: August 18, 2001.

**Blaine D. Stockton,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*  
[FR Doc. 01-23770 Filed 9-21-01; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 091401A]

**Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The 78th meeting of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will convene October 9 through 11, 2001, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**DATES:** The SSC meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 9 and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 10-11, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The 78th SSC meeting will be held at the Council office conference room, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii; telephone: 808-522-8220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone 808-522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SSC will discuss and may make recommendations to the Council on the agenda items below. The order in which agenda items will be addressed can change.

**Agenda A (1st hearing)**

*Tuesday, October 9, 2001, 9 a.m.*

A. Crustaceans fisheries - Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) lobsters

1. NMFS tagging research 2000 and 2001
2. 1999 Annual Report
3. Public comment (Hearing if Draft Environmental Impact Statement is out for comment)

B. Bottomfish fisheries

1. NWHI framework action: removal of NWHI landing requirements
2. Marine Protected Area (MPA) effects on calculating Spawning potential ratios (SPR), catch per unit effort (CPUE), etc.
3. Status of Hawaiian monk seal biological opinion and litigation
4. Status of bottomfish observer program and data collection
5. Status of Digital Video Observer Pilot project
6. Public comment (Hearing if Draft Environmental Impact Statement is out for comment)

C. Hawaiian monk seals

1. Quarterly report on activities of the Marine Mammal Research Program
2. Report on NWHI shark activities
  - a. Great white shark
  - b. Culling

*Wednesday, October 10, 2001, 8:30 a.m.*

D. Pelagic fisheries

1. 2nd quarter 2001 Hawaii and American Samoa longline reports
2. Annual Report
3. Distribution and abundance of billfish larvae off Kona
4. American Samoa
  - a. Longline fishery expansion in 2001 and management needs (limited entry program)
  - b. Pilot Observer program
  5. Turtle conservation and management
    - a. Litigation
    - b. Status of turtle recovery plans
    - c. Workshop
    - d. Turtle research (progress since May 2001)
    - e. Tagging
      1. Validating tag performance
      2. Other (modeling, population assessments, etc.)
      3. Status of Section 10 fishing experiment
      4. FMP regulatory amendment for turtle mitigation
      5. Seabird conservation and management
        - a. Litigation
        - b. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service STAL Handling Guidelines
        - c. 2nd International Fishers Forum
        - d. Underwater setting chute deployment in Hawaii longline fishery
        - e. Exemption of basket gear from mitigation regulations
        - f. Marine Mammal Protection Act List Of Fisheries
        6. Impacts of closure of Suisan auction in Hilo
        7. Report on the 2001 Protected Species Workshops
        8. International meetings (14th Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, 3rd Billfish Symposium)

F. Precious Corals Fisheries

1. Precious coral framework action
  2. Public hearing on framework action
- The Council proposes to restructure the management regime for the exploratory area to be based on current knowledge of the resource and industry practices. This will permit increased landings as well as reduce pressure on the known beds. The proposed measure removes the 1,000 kg annual quota, and incorporates site-specific restrictions which will allow harvest of a sustainable percentage based on the size