

Department of Justice or FAS has agreed to represent the employees; or

(4) The United States, when FAS determines that litigation is likely to affect FAS or any of its components, is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and the use of such records by the Department of Justice or FAS is deemed by FAS to be relevant and necessary to the litigation provided, however, that the disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which records were collected.

i. In the event that material in this system indicates a violation of law, whether civil, criminal, or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute, or by regulation, rule, or order issued pursuant thereto, the relevant records may be disclosed to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, State, local, or foreign, charged with the responsibility of investigating or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, rule, regulation, or order, issued pursuant thereto.

j. Relevant records may be disclosed to respond to a Federal agency's request made in connection with the hiring or retention of an employee, the letting of a contract or issuance of a grant, license or other benefit by the requesting agency, but only to the extent that the information disclosed is relevant and necessary to the requesting agency's decision on the matter.

k. Relevant records may be disclosed to the Office of Management or the General Accounting Office when the information is required for evaluation of the subsidy program.

l. Records may be disclosed to a contractor, expert, consultant, grantee, or volunteer performing or working on a contract, service, grant, cooperative agreement, or job for the Federal Government requiring the use of these records.

m. Relevant records may be disclosed to child care providers to verify a covered child's dates of attendance at the providers' facility.

n. Records may be disclosed by FAS in the production of summary descriptive statistics and analytical studies in support of the function for which the records are collected and maintained, or for related workforce studies. While published studies do not contain individual identifiers, in some instances the selection of elements of data included in the study may be structured in such a way as to make the data individually identifiable by inference.

o. Records may be disclosed to officials of the Merit Systems Protection Board or the Office of the Special

Counsel, when requested in connection with appeals, special studies of the civil service and other merit systems, review of FAS rules and regulations, investigations and alleged or possible prohibited personnel practices, and such other functions, e.g., as promulgated in 5 U.S.C. 1205 and 1206, or as may be authorized by law.

p. Records may be disclosed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission when requested in connection with investigations into alleged or possible discrimination practices in the Federal sector, compliance by Federal agencies with the Uniform Guidelines on Employee Selection Procedures or other functions vested in the Commission and to otherwise ensure compliance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 7201.

q. Records may be disclosed to the Federal Labor Relations Authority or its General Counsel when requested in connection with investigations of allegations of unfair labor practices or matters before the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

r. Relevant records may be disclosed to the Internal Service in connection with tax audit and tax record administration, as well as suspected tax fraud.

**PURPOSE:**

To establish and verify FAS employees' eligibility for the child day care assistance program in order for FAS to provide monetary assistance to its employees.

**POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**

**STORAGE:**

Information may be collected on paper or electronically and may be stored as paper forms or on computers.

**RETRIEVABILITY:**

By name; may also be cross-referenced to social security number.

**SAFEGUARDS:**

When not in use by an authorized person, paper records are stored in locked file cabinets or secured rooms. Electronic records are protected by the use of passwords.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:**

These records will be maintained permanently until their official retention period is established by the Agency or the National Archives and Records Administration.

**SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:**

Chief, Performance Management, Benefits and Awards Branch, FSA/HRD/

PMBAB STOP 0595, 1400 Independence Ave, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0595.

**NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:**

Individuals may submit a request on whether a system contains records about them to the system manager indicated. Individuals must furnish their full name and social security number for their records to be located and identified.

**RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:**

Individuals wishing to request access to records about them should contact the system manager indicated. Individuals must provide their full name and social security number for their records to be located and identified. Individuals requesting access must also follow the USDA's Privacy Act regulations regarding verification of identity and access to records (7 CFR part 1, subpart G).

**CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURE:**

Individuals wishing to request amendment of records about them should contact the system manager indicated. Individuals must furnish their full name and social security number for their records to be located and identified. Individuals requesting amendment must also follow the USDA's Privacy Act regulations regarding verification of identity and amendment of records (7 CFR part 1, subpart G).

**RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:**

Information is provided by FAS employees who apply for child day care assistance. Furnishing of the information is voluntary.

**SYSTEM EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:**

None.

Dated: September 20, 2001.

**Ann M. Veneman,**

*Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-10-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Tongass Forest Plan Revision Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to supplement an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) that evaluates and

considers roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest for recommendations as potential wilderness areas. The Record of Decision will disclose the Regional Forester's decision of whether to recommend lands on the Tongass National Forest for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Those recommendations will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designations.

**DATES:** A public mailing that outlines the project timeline and public involvement opportunities is planned for distribution in September 2001. The Draft SEIS is expected in January 2002 and will begin a 9-day public comment period. Public meetings will be scheduled during the 90-day comment period. The Final SEIS and Record of Decision are expected during the Summer of 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send written correspondence to: Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan SEIS, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the SEIS should be directed to Larry Lunde, SEIS Team Leader, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901. (Telephone 907-228-6303 or e-mail [llunde@fs.fed.us](mailto:llunde@fs.fed.us))

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In *Sierra Club v. Lyons* (J00-0009), the U.S. District Court, District of Alaska ordered the Tongass National Forest to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement that evaluates and considers roadless areas within the Tongass for recommendation as potential wilderness areas. The Court found that the Forest Service had violated the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the Forest Plan Revision by failing to consider any alternatives with new wilderness recommendations in the Revision Final EIS. The Forest Service will provide the relative contribution to the National Wilderness System in its analysis of the management situation, also included in the Court's order.

The Tongass Forest Plan Revision examined 110 inventoried roadless areas for potential wilderness recommendations. Each of the roadless areas was analyzed and results were recorded in Appendix C of the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS). The SEIS will update Appendix C of the AMS and the Forest Plan Roadless Inventory Map to reflect current

conditions. The 1997 Tongass Forest Plan will be used as a baseline for land allocation and to reflect the No Action alternative. A range of alternatives relative to wilderness recommendations for all roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest will be developed.

Opportunities for the public to participate in the development of the SEIS will be provided throughout the process. The Forest Service will use a combination of methods to engage and involve the public throughout the development of the SEIS. Methods include public mailings, establishment of an internet webpage specific for the SEIS, public meetings and the news media. The SEIS team will also use information from previous public input efforts related to wilderness and management of roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. These include public comments on the 1997 Forest Plan Revision Draft EIS documents, as well as, public input on the 2001 National Roadless Area Conservation Rule and the National Forest Transportation Rule and Policy documents specific to the Tongass National Forest. The comment period on the Draft SEIS will be a minimum of 90 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. A series of public meetings will be held during the 90-day public comment period. The Draft SEIS is projected to be filed with the EPA in January 2002.

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 draft environmental impact statements 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. NEDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2nd 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 by the close of the 90-day comment period 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 in

the final supplemental environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and comments on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft supplemental environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. 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. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

No permits are required for preparation of this SEIS.

The Regional Forester, Alaska Region of the Forest Service, Juneau, Alaska is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, response, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: September 14, 2001.

**Beth Giron Pendleton,**

*Acting Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources.*

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