

address these same questions and also have until June 30 to submit their views in writing to the Committee.

Dated: April 29, 2002.

Elizabeth Estill,

Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation.

[FR Doc. 02-11111 Filed 5-3-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Idaho Panhandle National Forests' Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee will meet Friday, May 17, 2002 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: May 17, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is the Idaho Panhandle National Forests' Supervisor's Office, located at 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ranotta K. McNair, Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 765-7369.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda topics include reviewing project proposals and receiving public comment.

Dated: April 29, 2002.

Ranotta K. McNair,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-11113 Filed 5-3-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

United States Standards for Lentils

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice with opportunity to comment.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is proposing to revise the United States Standards for Lentils to modify the

definitions for "good" and "fair" color lentils; establish an additional color factor and definition, "poor color lentils;" establish a new grading factor, "contrasting lentils;" and expand the definition of damaged lentils to include "immature lentils." These changes are being made at the request of the lentil industry in order to improve the usability of the United States Standards for Lentils.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 30, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments must be submitted to Tess Butler, USDA, GIPSA, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604; faxed to (202) 690-2755, or e-mail: *H.Tess.Butler@usda.gov*.

All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.).

The current United States Standards for Lentils, along with the proposed changes, are available either through the above addresses or by accessing GIPSA's Home Page on the Internet at: www.usda.gov/gipsa/reference-library/standards/stds.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Giler, Chief, Policies and Procedures Branch, USDA, GIPSA, Stop 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3632; telephone (202) 720-0252; or e-mail to: *John.C.Giler@usda.gov*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices. * * *" GIPSA is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities. The United States Standards for Lentils do not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

GIPSA is proposing to change the United States Standards for Lentils using the procedures it published in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 1997 (62 FR 6705). Specifically, GIPSA is proposing to better define current color requirements; establish a new color requirement; expand the definition of damaged lentils; and include a new factor, "contrasting lentils."

GIPSA representatives work closely with the U.S.A. Dry Pea and Lentil Council (USADPLC) and others in the lentil industry to examine the

effectiveness of the U.S. Standards for Lentils in today's marketing environment. Through discussions, it appears that most of the current standards continue to meet consumer/processor needs. However, changing market trends demand that certain changes be made pertaining to the acceptable appearance of the lentils.

At the request of the lentil industry, GIPSA is proposing these changes be implemented by July 1, 2002, in order to be in place before harvest of the lentil crop year.

Lentil Color

The U.S. Standards for Lentils characterize lentil color as being "good lentil color" which is the minimum color requirement for U.S. No. 1 and "fair lentil color" which is the minimum color requirement for U.S. Nos. 2 and 3. However, the current written descriptions for these characterizations and the absence of any visual reference aids may cause confusion concerning the applications of color. Due to the economic significance general appearance (color) has for processors and end-users, GIPSA and the USADPLC worked together to more clearly define the terms used to describe lentil color and to create visual references that aid in the consistent applications of color.

The current definition of good lentil color is "Lentil that in mass are practically free from discoloration and have the natural color appearance characteristics of the predominating class." The proposed definition is "Lentils that are practically free from discoloration and have the uniform natural color and appearance characteristics of the predominating lentil type." The current definition of fair color lentils is "Lentils that are not of good color." The proposed definition is "Lentils that are lightly to moderately discolored from storage or other causes to the extent they cannot be considered of good color."

Also, the existing lentil color characterizations, "good" and "fair," do not sufficiently address the color degradation process and all possible degrees of color. Samples that are marginally discolored and those which are significantly discolored are both considered to be of "fair lentil color." Accordingly, GIPSA and the USADPLC established visual reference standards to distinguish between three-color categories: good, fair, and poor. The proposed definition for poor lentil color is: "Lentil that are severely discolored from storage or other causes to the extent they cannot be considered of fair color."