

# Notices

This section of the **FEDERAL REGISTER** contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-02-04]

#### Nominations for Member of the National Organic Standards Board

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, as amended, requires the establishment of a National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB is a 15-member board that is responsible for developing and recommending to the Secretary a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances. The NOSB also advises the Secretary on all other aspects of the National Organic Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting nominations to fill the position of Environmentalist on the NOSB. The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint a person to serve a 5-year term of office that will commence on January 24, 2003, and run until January 24, 2008. USDA encourages eligible minorities, women, and persons with disabilities to apply for membership on the NOSB.

**DATES:** Written nominations, with resumes, must be post-marked on or before August 16, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations should be sent to Ms. Katherine E. Benham, Agricultural Marketing Information Assistant, USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4008-So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Katherine E. Benham, (202) 205-7806; E-mail: [katherine.benham@usda.gov](mailto:katherine.benham@usda.gov); Fax: (202) 205-7808.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The OFPA of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*), requires the Secretary to

establish an organic certification program for producers and handlers of agricultural products that have been produced using organic methods. In developing this program, the Secretary is required to establish an NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the National Organic Program.

The current NOSB has made recommendations to the Secretary regarding the establishment of the initial organic program. It is anticipated that the NOSB will continue to make recommendations on various matters, including recommendations on substances it believes should be allowed or prohibited for use in organic production and handling.

The NOSB is composed of 15 members; 4 organic producers, 2 organic handlers, a retailer, 3 environmentalists, 3 public/consumer representatives, a scientist, and a certifying agent. Nominations are being sought to fill an Environmentalist vacancy. Any individual desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at this time must demonstrate expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation.

Nominees will be supplied with a biographical information form that must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of its receipt. Completed biographical information forms are required for a nominee to receive consideration for appointment by the Secretary.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the NOSB in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the members of the NOSB take into account the needs of the diverse groups that are served by the Department, membership on the NOSB will include, to the extent practicable, individuals who demonstrate the ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The information collection requirements concerning the nomination process have been previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 0505-0001.

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**A.J. Yates,**  
*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Longleaf Ecosystem Restoration Project, National Forests in Alabama, Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee Ranger District, Tuscaloosa, Hale, Bibb, and Perry Counties, AL

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to emphasize restoration of the longleaf ecosystem across the Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee Ranger District in a systematic five-year program involving:

1. Intermediate thinning of approximately 3,726 acres of 20-70 year old off-site trees, primarily loblolly and shortleaf pine. Thinning would occur on 105 sites to remove damaged and diseased trees, to improve stand health, and to promote future longleaf pine establishment.

2. Intermediate thinning on approximately 2,324 acres to improve habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), primarily longleaf pine that ranges in age from 25 to 95 years.

3. Restoration of the native longleaf pine ecosystem on 200 sites (approximately 6,700 acres) currently identified as off-site, high-risk stands, of declining loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, and pine-hardwood. Generally, existing longleaf pine and clumps of fire tolerant, upland hardwoods, will be retained. Longleaf pine will be restored by planting except where enough longleaf pine remains to naturally reestablish itself.

**DATES:** Comments concerning this analysis should be received in writing by July 25, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Emanuel Hudson, District Ranger, Oakmulgee Ranger District, 9901 Highway 5, Brent, Alabama 35034.