

The comment period on the supplement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of supplemental draft EIS 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 Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage, but are not raised until the completion of the final EIS, may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1002 (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 important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so 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 EIS.

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

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the supplemental draft EIS, as well as applicable laws, regulations and policies considered, in making a decision regarding the proposal. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in December 2004. The Responsible Official is James A. Caplan, Forest Supervisor for the Umpqua National Forest. The Responsible Official will document the decision and rationale for the decision in the Record of Decision. Comments received, including the

names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: September 1, 2004.

James A. Caplan,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-20306 Filed 9-7-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Fish Creek Watershed Project, Umpqua National Forest, Douglas County, OR

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation notice.

SUMMARY: On June 1, 2001, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fish Creek Watershed Project on the Diamond Lake Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest, was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 29763). The Forest Service has decided to cancel the preparation for this EIS. The NOI is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions may be directed to Debbie Anderson, Forest Environmental Coordinator, Umpqua National Forest, Supervisors Office, 2900 NW., Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470, or (541) 957-3466.

Dated: September 1, 2004.

James A. Caplan,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-20307 Filed 9-7-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Exodus Timber Sale Project, Umpqua National Forest, Douglas County, OR

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation notice.

SUMMARY: On August 20, 2001, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Exodus Timber Sale Project on the North Umpqua Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest, was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 43568). The Forest Service has decided to cancel the preparation for this EIS. The NOI is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions may be directed to Debbie Anderson, Forest Environmental Coordinator, Umpqua National Forest, Supervisors Office, 2900 NW., Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470, or (541) 957-3466.

Dated: September 1, 2004.

James A. Caplan,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

A Public Forum on Weighing Practices and Use of Stored Tare in Weighing Trucks Used for Commercial Purposes

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Announcement of a public forum on weighing practices and the use of stored tare with the weighing of trucks for commercial purposes.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Public Forum on Weighing Practices and the Use of Stored Tare with the Weighing of Trucks for Commercial Purposes will be held September 28, 2004, at the Department of Commerce, Washington, DC. This meeting is open to industry representatives, consumers, scale-owners-users, exporters, importers, retailers, Federal and State agencies, and other interested parties. Meeting registration can be found on the National Institute of Standards, Weights and Measures Web site (<http://www.nist.gov/owm>).

DATES: September 28, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The forum will be held at Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Written correspondence can be directed to the NIST Weights and Measures Division, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2600, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2600, or via e-mail at owm@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: G. Thomas Coleman, Weights and Measures Division, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2600, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2600, or via e-mail at t.coleman@nist.gov, or fax at 301-926-0647.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Forum

To review State laws and regulations relating to commercial transactions concerning net weight and scale

accuracy and use requirements as they relate to vehicle tare weights stored in computer memory.

To examine weights and measures laws which require commercial transactions to be computed on the basis of net weight. There are numerous weighing applications (e.g., solid waste disposal and landfills, quarries, mining, agriculture, household moving and others) where net weights of commodities and/or service charges are determined using vehicle scales. Most commercial vehicle scales are required to be accurate to approximately ± 0.2 percent (e.g., ± 160 lbs at 80,000 lb), however, stored tare weights have been found to have errors of several thousand pounds. This forum will discuss the issues and alternatives that should be considered in an effort to balance buyer and seller interests in the accuracy of these transactions.

To provide an opportunity for industry representatives, consumers, scale-owners-users, exporters, importers, retailers, Federal and State agencies, and other interested parties to understand how state and local weights and measures officials supervise the weighing of trucks and other vehicles to ensure accuracy and equity in the marketplace.

To pursue partners to work with NIST, along with state and local weights and measures officials, in a national working group to identify industry and regulatory concerns (e.g., economic impact of incorrect weights versus the cost, in terms of time and money to weigh vehicles for both gross and tare weight).

Another purpose is to solicit industry cooperation in reducing weighing inaccuracies through the identification and use of good weighing practices.

Participation—Advance Registration Required

The forum is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Advance registration is required for Department of Commerce security purposes and to ensure that all participants receive a name badge (required to obtain access to the building) and handout materials. The deadline for registration is 5 p.m. EDT on September 21, 2004.

Dated: August 31, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 04-20341 Filed 9-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051404A]

Notice of Availability of Final Stock Assessment Reports

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; response to comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has incorporated public comments into revisions of marine mammal stock assessment reports (SARs). The 2003 final SARs are now complete and available to the public.

ADDRESSES: Send requests for printed copies of reports to: Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 3226, Attn: Stock Assessments. Copies of the Alaska Regional SARs may be requested from Robyn Angliss, Alaska Fisheries Science Center (F/AKC), NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE BIN 15700, Seattle, WA 98115 0070, email Robyn.Angliss@noaa.gov. Copies of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional SARs may be requested from Gordon Waring, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543, email Gordon.Waring@noaa.gov or Lance Garrison, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, FL 33149, e-mail Lance.Garrison@noaa.gov. Copies of the Pacific Regional SARs may be requested from Cathy Campbell, Southwest Regional Office (F/SWO3), NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90802 4213, e-mail Cathy.E.Campbell@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Eagle, Office of Protected Resources, 301 713 2322, e-mail Tom.Eagle@noaa.gov; Robyn Angliss 206-526-4032, regarding Alaska regional stock assessments; Gordon Waring, 508-495-2311, regarding Northwest Atlantic regional stock assessments; Lance Garrison, 305-361-4488, regarding Mid-Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regional stock assessments; or Cathy Campbell, 562-980-4020, regarding Pacific regional stock assessments.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

All stock assessment reports and the guidelines for preparing them are available via the Internet at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Stock_Assessment_Program/sars.html.

Background

Section 117 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) requires NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to prepare stock assessments for each stock of marine mammals that occurs in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States. These reports must, among other things, contain information regarding the distribution and abundance of the stock, population growth rates and trends, estimates of annual human caused mortality and serious injury from all sources, descriptions of the fisheries with which the stock interacts, and the status of the stock. Initial reports were completed in 1995.

The MMPA requires NMFS and FWS to review the SARs at least annually for strategic stocks and stocks for which significant new information is available and at least once every 3 years for nonstrategic stocks. NMFS and the FWS are required to revise a SAR if the status of the stock has changed or can be more accurately determined.

Draft 2003 SARs were made available for a 90 day public review and comment period on August 27, 2003 (68 FR 51561). Prior to their release for public review and comment, NMFS subjected the draft reports to internal technical review and to scientific review by regional Scientific Review Groups (SRGs) established under the MMPA. Following the close of the comment period, NMFS revised the reports as needed to prepare final 2003 SARs. Printed copies may be obtained by request (see ADDRESSES), and electronic copies are available on the Internet (see Electronic Access).

The most recent versions of the SARs for polar bears, sea otters, walrus, and manatees, prepared by FWS, are appended to NMFS' final 2003 SARs. These reports were included so that interested constituents would have reports for all regional stocks in a single document.

Comments and Responses

NMFS received three letters with comments on the draft 2003 SARs. The comments and responses below are separated according to the regional scope of the comments. Many of the comments on specific SARs addressed minor editorial points for clarification.