

the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by October 12, 2004 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: September 29, 2004.

James F. Giachino,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 04-22324 Filed 10-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Integrated Resource Contracts FS-2400-13 and FS-2400-13T

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of interim contracts, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is implementing Integrated Resource Contracts, FS-2400-13, for use when timber products are measured after harvest, and FS-2400-13T, for use when timber products are measured before harvest. The contracts are for use in stewardship end result contracting pursuant to section 323 of Public Law 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution (16 U.S.C. 2104 note), when the value of timber exceeds the cost of service work. Except for additions addressing new stewardship contracting authorities, both contracts parallel the recently revised Timber Sale Contracts FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T which became effective upon notice in the **Federal Register** on May 6, 2004 (69 FR 25367). The Integrated Resource Contracts are available electronically and in paper copy, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Comments received will be considered when the Forest Service prepares the final Integrated Resource Contracts.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before November 4, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments by mail to USDA Forest Service, Director Forest Management, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 1103, Washington, DC 20250-0003; via e-mail to:

integratedresourcecontracts@fs.fed.us; or via facsimile to (202) 205-1045.

Comments may also be submitted via the World Wide Web Internet Web site at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments including names and addresses when provided are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The Integrated Resource Contracts are available for public review on the Forest Service World Wide Web/Internet site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/contracts>.

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Alternatively, these can be viewed in the office of the Director of Forest Management, Third Floor, Northwest Wing, Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-0893 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard Fitzgerald, Forest Management Staff, (202) 205-1753, or Lathrop Smith, Forest Management Staff, (202) 205-0858.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 323 of Public Law 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution (16 U.S.C. 2104 note), established new authorities for stewardship contracting not addressed in existing Forest Service timber sale contract forms. In general, the new authorities allow the Forest Service to enter into stewardship contracts with public or private entities or persons to perform services to achieve land management goals for National Forest System lands that meet local and rural community needs. By combining components of both service and timber sale contracts into a single integrated resource contract the value of timber or other forest products removed can be used as an offset against the cost of services received. Integrated Resource Contracts FS-2400-13 and FS-2400-13T are for use with stewardship end result contracting when the value of timber exceeds the cost of service work. Except where they deviate to address the new authorities and the limitation of compensation in the event of a sovereign act that would affect a stewardship contract, the FS-2400-13 and FS-2400-13T contracts parallel the recently revised Timber Sale Contracts FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T which became effective upon notice in the **Federal Register** on May 6, 2004 (69 FR 25367). The revisions were the first substantive changes to the standard timber sale contract provisions in over 30 years. A notice with request for comment on the proposed FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T contract revisions was published in the **Federal Register** on December 19, 2003 (68 FR 70758). The Forest Service made appropriate changes to the contracts in response to the public comments and those are incorporated in the FS-2400-13 and FS-2400-13T contracts as well. Timber Sale Contracts FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T are available on the World Wide Web/Internet site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/infocenter/newcontracts/index.shtml>.

Description of Interim Integrated Resource Contracts FS-2400-13 and FS-2400-13T

Integrated Resource Contracts FS-2400-13 and FS-2400-13T were patterned after the FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T contracts respectively. However, in order to address new authorities in section 323 of Public Law 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution (16 U.S.C. 2104 note), the following conditions and provisions were added to the Integrated Resource Contracts:

1. *E/ET.2.2 Stewardship Credits.* These are credits that the contractor will establish for performing stewardship work. These may be used to pay for included timber value subject to certain limits set in the contract.

2. *E/ET.2.2.1 Progress Estimate.* This requires the Forest Service to make timely estimates of a contractor's progress on stewardship projects.

3. *E/ET.2.2.2 Excess Stewardship Credits.* In the event that stewardship credits exceed the value of timber, the Forest Service may either add more timber, or make a cash payment to the contractor for unused stewardship credits.

4. *E/ET.2.2.3 Excess Timber Value.* In the event that the value of included timber exceeds the value of mandatory stewardship projects, the Forest Service may authorize additional optional projects if any were identified and/or require a cash payment from the contractor for excess timber value.

5. *E/ET.2.2.4 Cash Payment for Stewardship Projects.* In lieu of providing timber for established stewardship credits, Forest Service may elect to provide the contractor a cash payment.

6. *G/GT.3.1.1 Technical Proposal.* This replaces B/BT.6.311 Plan of Operations in the FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T timber sale contracts. Bidders will be required to submit a technical proposal detailing how they will perform the contract work. This provision makes the technical proposal from the accepted bidder a binding part of the contract.

7. *G/GT.9 Stewardship Projects.* This provision requires the contractor to perform all mandatory stewardship projects listed in the specific conditions section of the contract and addresses procedures for identifying optional projects to include.

8. *G/GT.9.1 Refund of Unused Stewardship Credits.* This provision provides for making a refund to the contractor for any unused stewardship credits in event that the Contracting Officer requests that the contractor

interrupt or delay operations for more than 60 days.

In addition to the changes listed above, the Integrated Resources Contract provisions differ from the timber sale contracts in the following areas:

1. Integrated resource contract provision I/IT2.3-Contract Term Extension, combines timber sale contract provisions B/BT8.23-Contract Term Extension, and B/BT8.231, Conditions for Contract Term Extension.

2. Integrated resource contract provisions J/JT.4-Damages for Failure to Complete Contract or Termination for Breach, expands timber sale contract provision B/BT6.31 to address stewardship projects.

3. The timber sale contracts under provision B/BT6.9 required the purchaser to provide access to records to enable the Forest Service to develop and evaluate appraisal data. The Integrated Resource Contracts do not contain a comparable requirement because the services components of these contracts would skew operating costs rendering the data unreliable for comparative purposes.

Conclusion

Comments will be considered when the Forest Service prepares the final Integrated Resource Contracts, FS-2400-13 and FS-2400-13T. When the Integrated Resource Contracts are finalized, a subsequent notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 22, 2004.

Dale N. Bosworth,
Chief.

[FR Doc. 04-22338 Filed 10-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Supplemental Watershed Plan No. 1 East Fork of the Grand River Watershed and Environmental Assessment for East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Approved 1996), Ringgold and Union Counties, IA, and Harrison and Worth Counties, MO

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40

CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Supplemental Watershed Plan No. 1 for East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Approved 1996), Ringgold and Union Counties, Iowa, and Harrison and Worth Counties, Missouri.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard Van Klaveren, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 210 Walnut Street, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, IA 50309-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Richard Van Klaveren, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

This document sets forth a supplement to the East Fork of the Grand Watershed Plan-EIS that slightly relocates and enlarges multipurpose structure GB-3 from a permanent pool of 350 acres to 565 acres. The 565 acre site will be renamed Gooseberry Lake. The increase in size is to meet additional other agricultural water management and recreation needs.

Gooseberry Lake and its 6210 acre watershed are northeast of Mount Ayr and are located entirely in Ringgold County, Iowa.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. The FONSI is also available at the Iowa NRCS Web site at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov>. A copy of the Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment may be obtained by contacting Richard Van Klaveren.

No administrative action will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 28, 2004.

Richard Van Klaveren,
State Conservationist.

Finding of No Significant Impact for the Supplemental Watershed Plan No. 1 East Fork of the Grand River Watershed and Environmental Assessment Ringgold County, Iowa

Introduction

The Supplemental Watershed Plan No. 1 East Fork of the Grand River Watershed and Environmental Assessment (EA) describes the recommended alternative which is a modification of the GB-3 multipurpose site that was part of the East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Supplemental Watershed Plan No. 1-EA compares the effects that will arise from the installation of Gooseberry Lake to those that would have occurred from the installation of the original GB-3 structure.

This modification of the GB-3 site is necessary to meet the Sponsors' request to increase the water supply and recreation resources from those originally planned for GB-3 lake site in order to satisfy increased demands for these resources from the public.

The East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Plan and EIS was approved in 1996 under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Public Law No. 566, 83rd Congress).

This supplemental plan-EA is being planned and will be implemented under the same authority. It is being planned and is in compliance with all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (NHPA) provisions. The policies and procedures of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*) are being utilized for the planning and implementation of this project.

An environmental evaluation was undertaken by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in conjunction with the development of this supplemental plan-EA. This evaluation was undertaken in consultation with local, State and Federal agencies as well as interested organizations and individuals. Copies of the supplemental plan-EA are available for public review from the following location: Natural Resources Conservation Service, 210 Walnut Street, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, IA 50309-2180.

Recommended Action

Site GB-3 will be moved downstream and increased in size. This relocated structure site is renamed Gooseberry Lake. The Gooseberry Lake Association will acquire the 2,365 acres needed for Gooseberry Lake and surrounding area for public use as a fish and wildlife area. The Gooseberry Lake will have a permanent pool of 565 acres, 1,393 acres managed as wildlife habitat, and 182 acre county park. The dam and floodwater storage pool comprise the balance of the 2,365 project acres.