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Dated: October 19, 2004.

Ann M. Veneman,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Public Meeting on Implementation of Electronic Warehouse Receipts and Other Electronic Documents for Grain and Rice

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a public meeting to solicit comments and options regarding the implementation of electronic warehouse receipts (EWRs) and other electronic documents (OEDs) for grain and rice as authorized by the Grain Standards and Warehouse Improvement Act of 2000 ((Pub. L. 106-472) (7 U.S.C. 241 *et seq.*) (United States Warehouse Act (USWA)), enacted November 9, 2000. The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to available space on a first-come basis. Attendees are asked to be prepared to share information concerning their views on implementing the EWRs and OEDs for grain and rice within the current operational environment as well as future e-commerce activities. No registration or fee is required to attend or participate in the public meeting.

DATES: November 9–10, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at USDA's Beacon Building, 6501 Beacon Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64133–4676.

Requests to address the meeting and written comments may be sent to: Roger Hinkle, USWA Program Manager, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0553, Washington DC 20250–0553; FAX: (202) 690–3123; e-mail: Roger.Hinkle@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Kirkland, (816) 823–1144 (telephone); or (816) 448–5622 (facsimile); or by e-mail at David.Kirkland@kcc.usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation to attend or participate in the meeting should contact Laurie Montgomery, telephone: (202) 205–7832; e-mail: laurie.montgomery@usda.gov, by November 1, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to provide all interested parties an opportunity to discuss the development and implementation of EWRs and OEDs for grain and rice as authorized under the USWA and its regulations at 7 CFR part 735. A copy of the USWA, its regulations and Provider Agreements can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/uswa.htm>. The USWA was enacted in part to be more relevant to today's agricultural marketing and financial systems. The USWA provides authorization for the issuance and transfer of EWRs and OEDs relating to the shipment, payment, and financing of the sale of agricultural products, and the standardization of such electronic documents.

The agenda will include, but is not limited to the following:

- (1) Current status of EWR and OED—Provider Agreements,
- (2) Review Draft Provider Agreements Addendum for grain and rice EWRs,
- (3) Completing the addendum, making sure all data requirements for grain and rice are included,
- (4) FSA-Price Support Division's (PSD's) requirements in developing a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) User Agreement for grain and rice EWRs,
- (5) Discuss requirements for a USWA and CCC pilot grain and rice EWR program,
- (6) Integration of Electronic Data Interfaces with grain and rice warehouse accounting software,
- (7) Discuss current and prospective EWR systems or concepts,
- (8) Expectations of grain and rice companies and cooperatives,
- (9) Expectations of grain and rice commodity exchanges,
- (10) Expectations of banks, lenders, sureties and insurance underwriters,
- (11) Expectations of current and prospective EWR providers, and
- (12) Next steps for USDA.

This meeting is open to the public. Persons wishing to make a brief presentation up to 15 minutes are asked to provide a written request with a description of the general subject to Mr.

Hinkle, at the address shown above, no later than noon, October 25, 2004. It is requested that 50 copies of the written statement be submitted at the time of the meeting for distribution and placement in the official file.

Persons with comments or suggestions should provide Mr. Hinkle, at the address shown above, with a written copy of their comments no later than October 25, 2004.

Signed at Washington, DC: October 15, 2004.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Manti-La Sal National Forest, Utah

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Manti-La Sal National Forest, with portions of the Forest located in Utah, Juab, Emery, Carbon, Sanpete, Grand, San Juan and Sevier Counties in Utah and Mesa and Montrose Counties in Colorado.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in conjunction with revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

This notice describes the needs for change in the current Forest Plan that have been identified by Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor, Alice B. Carlton, to be revised; the environmental issues to be considered in the revision; the estimated dates for filing the EIS; information concerning public participation; and the names and addresses of the responsible agency official and the individual who can provide additional information.

DATES: Comments regarding the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by December 21, 2004. The agency expects to file a Draft EIS in the fall of 2005 and a Final EIS in the late winter of 2006 or early spring of 2007.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Alice B. Carlton, Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marlene DePietro, Recreation and

Planning Staff Officer, Manti-La Sal National Forest, (435) 636-3539.

Responsible Official: Jack Troyer, Intermountain Regional Forester, 324 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Part 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to revise the Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan. According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), land and resource management plans shall ordinarily be revised on a 10 to 15 year cycle. The existing plan was approved November 5, 1986.

The Regional Forester gives notice that the Manti-La Sal National Forest is beginning an environmental analysis and the decision-making process for this proposed programmatic action to revise the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan.

The authorization of project-level activities on a forest occurs through project or site-specific decisions. Project-level decisions must comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures and must include a determination that the project is consistent with the forest plan.

Needs for Change in the Current Forest Plan

The current Forest Plan was approved 17 years ago and has been amended 18 times. Experience and monitoring have shown the need for changes in management direction for some resources or programs. Several sources have highlighted needed changes in the current Forest Plan.

- Public involvement has identified new information and public values.

- Monitoring and scientific research has identified new information and knowledge gained.

- Forest Plan implementation has identified management concerns to find better ways for accomplishing desired conditions.

- Changes have occurred in Agency policy and direction (*i.e.*, Four Threats, Forest Service Strategic Plan).

In addition to changing public views about how these lands should be managed, information and the scientific understanding of these ecosystems have evolved.

Each need for change was placed into one of three categories: required by law, requiring immediate attention; or able to be postponed and addressed later through the continuous assessment process.

Proposed Action

The following topics are being proposed for revision in the Forest Plan.

Needs for change are addressed in the following sections, with a short description of what each change entails and why it is necessary. The proposed action for each topic is identified by *italics*.

1. Goals and Objectives, Standards and Guidelines, and Identification of Suitable Uses

- We propose to clarify and expand, where necessary, the description of the desired conditions for all physical, biological, social, and economic components associated with the Forest, including addressing the unique components of each geographic area. The desired conditions will be utilized to clarify overall Forest-wide resource management goals and facilitate development of objectives to reach those goals and desired conditions. Additionally, these desired conditions will identify the Forest's niche, describe how the Forest contributes to the broader vision for the Intermountain Region and the Forest Service as a whole, and provide a vision of the Forest's contribution to the human dimension.

- We propose to identify objectives that when implemented will take the Forest resources and uses toward desired conditions. These objectives will be developed considering realistic future budget expectations and will be based on expected personnel availability to implement projects to meet the objectives.

- We propose to redefine the management boundaries, identifying geographic areas that will provide a sense of place for the local publics and communities, as well as other recreating publics, when discussing activities and uses within them. Forest-wide and geographic area suitable uses will be identified.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

Evaluation and monitoring provide knowledge and information to keep the Forest Plan viable. The appropriate selection of indicators, and monitoring and evaluation of key results helps determine if Forest Plan management direction is being met. Evaluation and monitoring also helps determine if there should be changes made to the goals and objectives, or monitoring methods.

The tie between monitoring and Forest Plan desired conditions, goals, and objectives needs to be strengthened. Priorities need to be established for monitoring elements to ensure that important items are accomplished with available funding.