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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

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-025N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Fifth Session of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), are sponsoring a public meeting on August 30, 2005, to provide draft U.S. positions and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Fifth Session of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in Chiba, Japan, September 19-23, 2005. The Under Secretary and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to comment on the agenda items that will be debated at this forthcoming Session of the FBT.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2005, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 107A, Jamie Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC.

Documents related to the Fifth Session of the FBT will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROMs, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to the FSIS Docket Clerk, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102, Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20730. All comments received must include the Agency name and docket number 05-025N. All comments submitted in response to this notice, will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2005_Notices_Index/.

Participation by Conference Call: A call-in number has been arranged: 1-888-405-9176, participant code CODEX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE FBT CONTACT: U.S. Delegate, Bernice Slutsky, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Biotechnology, Office of the Secretary, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone (202) 720-3631, Fax: (202) 720-6314, E-mail: Bernice.Slutsky@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT: Ellen Matten, International Issues Analyst, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius (Codex) was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for protecting the health and economic interests of consumers and encouraging fair international trade in food. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and the

Environmental Protection Agency manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology was established by the 23rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1999 to elaborate standards, guidelines, or other principles as relates to foods derived from biotechnology. The Task Force completed its mandates within its four year time frame and was dissolved by the 26th Session of the Commission. The 27th Session re-established the Task Force for another four year period. The Task Force is hosted by the government of Japan.

Issues to be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the Fifth Session of FBT will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred to the Committee from other Codex bodies.
- Review of the Work by International Organizations on the Evaluation of the Safety and Nutrition Aspects of Foods Derived from Biotechnology.
- Consideration of the Elaboration of Standards, Guidelines or other Texts for Foods Derived from Biotechnology.

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Japanese Secretariat to the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

Public Meeting

At the August 30, 2005, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on these agenda items will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the Fifth Session of FBT, Dr. Bernice Slutsky, (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE FBT CONTACT**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the Fifth Session of the FBT.

Additional Public Information

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and, in particular, minorities, women, and persons with

disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2005_Notices_Index/.

FSIS also will make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The update also is available on the FSIS Web page. Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides an automatic and customized notification when popular pages are updated, including **Federal Register** publications and related documents. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/ and allows FSIS customers to sign up for subscription options across eight categories. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to protect their accounts with passwords.

Done at Washington, DC on August 4, 2005.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 05-15729 Filed 8-8-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Commercial Pack Station and Pack Stock Outfitter/Guide Permit Issuance; Inyo National Forest; Inyo, Mono, and Tulare Counties, CA and Mineral County, NV

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement to document and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposal to

issue long term permits for a variety of commercial pack stock related activities to twelve existing Resort Special Use Permit holders (commercial service supported by horse). The DEIS also analyzes a proposal from one current outfitter and guide (commercial service supported by burros) and a proposal from one new outfitter and guide (commercial service supported by llamas) to issue permits for their proposed commercial activities. The services as proposed would occur on the Inyo National Forest in the Ansel Adams (AA), John Muir (JM), Golden Trout (GT), and South Sierra (SS) Wildernesses, and the non-wilderness portions of the Inyo National Forest. This EIS tiers to the Record of Decision that will be signed for the Trail and Commercial Pack Stock Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement for all activities and uses proposed in the AA and JM Wildernesses. Current activities provided by pack stations include full service guided trips (guide remains for the entire trip), dunnage trips (transport of material and supplies), spot trips (transport of people and supplies to a location and guide leaving), day rides, wild horse viewing in the Pizona Area (from a base camp finding and viewing wild horses), and stock drives (movement of stock to and from winter range to operating areas). Activities currently conducted by the Outfitter and Guides include use of burros and llamas to provide dunnage service, backpacking trips, and camp re-supply services.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received no later than September 30, 2005. A draft environmental impact statement is expected to be published in February 2006, with public comment on the draft material requested for a period of 45 days. The final EIS is expected in August 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Commercial Pack Station and Pack Stock Outfitter/Guide Permit Issuance, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. Electronic comments may be sent to: comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us. Include "Commercial Pack Station and Pack Stock Outfitter/Guide Permit Issuance" in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Porter, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514, (760) 873-2449.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need for action on permit applications from twelve resort pack stations to issue their term permits for their existing facilities, activities and uses, and new uses on all portions of the Inyo National Forest, including the AA, JM, GT, and SS Wildernesses and non-wilderness areas. The action is needed because many of the existing permits are due to expire in the near future. The twelve resort pack stations are: Bishop Pack Outfitters, Cottonwood Pack Station, Frontier Pack Train, Glacier Pack Train, Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit, McGee Creek Pack Station, Mt. Whitney Pack Trains, Pine Creek Pack Station, Rainbow Pack Outfitters, Reds Meadow/Agnew Meadows Pack Stations, Rock Creek Pack Station, and Sequoia Kings Pack Trains. There is also a need for action on a permit application from one existing outfitter and guide to issue their term permit (Three Corner Round Pack Outfit) and for action on a permit from one new outfitter and guide providing llama service.

This project is also needed to respond to a Court Order issued in 2001. The Court Order required that the Forest Service reevaluate the existing management direction and impacts of commercial pack stock operations on the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses prior to issuing permits for these operations. The court also ordered that the cumulative effects analysis be completed by December 2005 followed by a second NEPA process to issue individual special use permits by December 2006. The first planning effort—the Trail and Commercial Pack Stock Management in the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses EIS—will analyze the management direction and cumulative impacts of these operations. This Commercial Pack Station and Pack Stock Outfitter/Guide Permit Issuance EIS will respond to the portion of the Court Order requiring the second level of NEPA analysis related to the re-issuance of commercial pack station permits.

The purpose of the project is to continue to provide commercial pack stock services as a part of a wide range of available recreational activities available on the Inyo National Forest and to provide these services in a manner consistent with existing forest plan direction.

The Final EIS (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for this project will tier to the Trail and Commercial Pack Stock Management in the John Muir/Ansel Adams FEIS and ROD. The Trail and