

provided in the petition, other relevant information as described in the EA, and comments provided by the public, APHIS has determined that LY038 will not pose a plant pest risk for the following reasons: (1) It exhibits no plant pathogenic properties (although it was originally engineered with regulatory sequences derived from plant pathogens, these plants are neither infected nor can incite disease); (2) it exhibits no characteristics that would cause it to be more weedy than the non-transgenic parent corn line or other cultivated corn; (3) gene introgression from LY038 into wild relatives in the United States and its territories is extremely unlikely and is not likely to increase the weediness potential of any resulting progeny nor adversely affect genetic diversity of related plants any more than would introgression from traditional corn hybrids; (4) disease and insect susceptibility is similar to non-transgenic corn; (5) it exhibits no potential to have a significant adverse impact on organisms beneficial to agriculture; (6) compared to current agricultural practices, cultivation of line LY038 and its progeny should not reduce the ability to control insects or weeds in corn or other crops. In addition to our finding of no plant pest risk, there will be no effect on threatened or endangered species resulting from a determination on nonregulated status for LY038 and its progeny.

Therefore, APHIS has concluded that the subject corn and any progeny derived from hybrid crosses with other non-transformed corn varieties will be no more of a plant pest than corn varieties in traditional breeding programs that are not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340. The effect of this determination is that Monsanto LY038 corn is no longer considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. The requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the subject corn or its progeny. However, importation of LY038 corn and seeds capable of propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319 and imported seed regulations in 7 CFR part 361.

National Environmental Policy Act

An EA was prepared to examine any potential environmental impacts and plant pest risk associated with the determination of nonregulated status for the Monsanto LY038 corn. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a FONSI with regard to the determination that Monsanto LY038 corn and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and FONSI are available from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of January 2006.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–1481 Filed 2–2–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to renew the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee charter and request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture is considering the renewal of the charter of the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region. Nominations of persons to serve on the LTFAC are invited.

DATES: Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received in writing by March 24, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send nominations and applications (Form AD–755) with telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for membership on the Committee to: FACA Nomination, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terri Marceron, Forest Supervisor, or Mark Struble, Acting Legislative &

Public Affairs Officer, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, telephone (530) 543–2758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture is considering the renewal of the charter of the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the Federal Interagency Partnership (Partnership) on how the Partnership can best fulfill its duties pursuant to Executive Order 13057, issued July 26, 1997; how to facilitate the integration and coordination of appropriate Federal programs and funds to help achieve the goals of the Lake Tahoe Regional Environmental Improvement Program; and other matters raised by the Secretary.

The Secretary of Agriculture established the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee (Committee) on July 13, 1998; renewed the Committee's charter on June 19, 2000; amended the charter on April 17, 2001, to provide advice to the Partnership; and renewed the charter on June 13, 2002 and June 3, 2004. The current charter for the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will expire June 7, 2006, and is currently being considered for renewal by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Secretary has previously determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the Department of Agriculture.

Representatives will be selected from the following sectors: (1) Gaming, (2) environmental, (3) national environmental, (4) ski resorts, (5) North Shore economic/recreation, (6) South Shore economic/recreation, (7) resort associations, (8) education, (9) property rights advocates, (10) member-at-large, (11) member-at-large, (12) science and research, (13) California local government, (14) Washoe Tribe, (15) State of California, (16) State of Nevada, (17) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, (18) labor, (19) transportation and (20) Nevada local government.

Nominations to the Committee should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee. The Committee Chair will be approved by the Designated Federal Official. Vacancies on the Committee will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Members of the Committee serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for

travel expenses. Committee members serve a two year term and will meet as often as is necessary to complete its business, but no less than four times a year.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include to the extent practicable individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

Terri Marceron,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-999 Filed 2-2-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Alaska; Baht Roaded Timber Sale Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: This NOI revises the proposed action, dates, and contact information in the original Notice of Intent published in the **Federal Register** Number 217 (pages 63755-63757) on November 10, 2003. The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest timber in the Baht Roaded Timber Sale project area, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. The proposed action is to harvest an estimated 42 million board feet on approximately 1,410 acres with about 11 miles on new road construction. The Tongass National Forest Supervisor will decide whether or not to harvest timber from this area, and if so, how this timber would be harvested. The decision will be documented in a Record of Decision based on information disclosed in the EIS and the goals, objectives and desired future conditions as stated in the Tongass Land Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

DATES: Individuals interested in receiving a scoping package should contact us at the address below. Comments will be most helpful if

received by March 3, 2006. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2006 and will begin a 45-day public comment period. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision are anticipated to be published in September 2006.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to Wrangell Ranger District; Tongass National Forest, Attn: Baht EIS; P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929. The fax number is 907-874-7595. Electronic comments can be e-mailed to comments-alaska-tongass-wrangell@fs.fed.us. Please include the word "Baht" in the subject line. In all correspondence, include your name, address, and organization name if you are commenting as a representative of an organization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to Mark Hummel, District Ranger, or Linda Christian, IDT Leader, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929; telephone (907) 874-2323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Baht Environmental Impact Statement, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (NOI) was published in the **Federal Register** Number 217 (pages 63755-63757) on November 10, 2003. This NOI revises the proposed action, dates, and contact information in the original Notice of Intent. The Baht Roaded Timber Sale project area is located within Tongass Forest Plan Value Comparison Units 456, 457, 458 and 459 on the northern half of Zarembo Island, Alaska, Wrangell Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. The projected area is located approximately 17 air miles west of Wrangell, Alaska. The project area covers approximately 57,600 acres, of which approximately 18,000 acres are considered suitable for timber management. The Baht Project Area contains portions of four different LUDs: Timber Production represents 58.9% of the project area, Scenic Viewshed 37%, Old-growth Habitat 4% and Semi-Remote Recreation .01%. The sale is currently listed on the Tongass 5-year action plan and is to be sold in 2007. The Baht Roaded Timber Sale project is consistent with the 1997 Forest Plan.

The purpose and need for the proposed action responds to the goals and objectives the Forest Plan, as amended, and helps move the area toward the desired conditions as described in the forest plan. The

Tongass Forest Plan goals and objectives applicable to the Baht Project Area: Contribute to the production of even-flow, long-term sustained yield of timber, as well as a mix of other resource activities; seek to provide a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual and planning cycle market demand for Tongass National Forest timber; provide a diversity of opportunities for resource uses that contribute to the economies of Southeast Alaska; and support a wide range of natural resource employment opportunities within Southeast Alaska's communities.

The proposed action is to harvest an estimated 42 million board feet on approximately 1,410 acres with about 11 miles of new road construction. The proposed action will use clearcutting to manage the area under an even aged management prescription. The Baht Project Area includes old-growth habitat reserves (OGRs) as designated in the Forest Plan. To meet Forest Plan criteria for old-growth reserves, changes to a small OGR boundary will be proposed as part of this project. A non-significant Forest Plan amendment will be required to address this change.

A range of alternatives will be developed to respond to the significant issues. In addition to the no-action alternative, alternatives will likely propose harvest of 15-45 million board feet of timber on an estimated 500-1,500 acres offered in one or more timber sales.

Preliminary Issues: Tentative issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project on and the relationship of the project to: Old-growth ecosystem management and the maintenance of habitat for viable populations of wildlife species, timber sale economics, road construction/ access management and water quality. Public participation is an integral component of the analysis process. This notice of intent re-initiates the scoping process that guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest Service will seek additional information, comments and assistance from tribal governments, Federal, state and local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed activities. Written scoping comments were solicited through a preliminary scoping package that was sent to persons on the project mailing list in July 2003. Additional written scoping comments are being solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list concurrent with the publication of this NOI. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input,