

development were to expand in the future. Many of these federal lands are adjacent to lands extensively impacted by past and ongoing mining activities.

The nonfederal lands offered for consideration by PolyMet are located throughout the SNF and compliment existing federal ownership by eliminating or reducing private inholdings. The non-federal tracts consist of forest and wetland habitat as well as some lake frontage, potentially enhancing public recreation opportunities.

### Proposed Action

The proposed action is a land exchange between the United States of America, acting through the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture SNF and PolyMet. The land exchange would transfer approximately 6,650 acres of federal land from public to private ownership, and approximately 6,722 acres of land from private to public ownership. An in-depth analysis of this proposed exchange will be disclosed in the supplemental draft and final environmental impact statements for the NorthMet project. The NorthMet project is described in the October 27, 2009 Draft EIS developed by MNDNR and USACE.

This exchange is proposed under the authority of the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911 as amended; General Exchange Act of March 20, 1922; Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988; and the Federal Land, Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976.

The federal land consists of a single contiguous tract of mostly forested land, approximately 6,650 acres in size, located in the west/central part of the SNF on the Laurentian Ranger District in the historic Iron Range of Northeastern Minnesota. The tract lies immediately south of the SNF proclamation boundary and is bounded on the south by the former LTV Steel Mining Company (LTVSMC) railroad grade and the Dunka Road. The Dunka Road is a private road with sections owned and leased by Cliffs Erie, PolyMet and Minnesota Power. Access is primarily via the Dunka Road and the LTVSMC railroad grade.

Nonfederal properties to the north and west of the federal land have been extensively impacted over the years by open-pit mining, mine waste rock stockpiles, tailings basins, mine processing facilities, railroad grades, and general mining activities. The federal land encompasses many acres of the 100-mile Swamp, a large black spruce, tamarack and cedar wetland. Yelp Creek and the Partridge River flow

through the tract. Mud Lake is also located on the federal land.

The nonfederal lands include five different tracts of land that total approximately 6,722 acres and include predominately forest and wetland habitat.

The largest nonfederal tract, identified as Tract 1, consists of approximately 4,650 acres (Hay Lake tract), located on the southeastern portion of the Laurentian Ranger District, west of and adjoining County Road 715 and north of the town of Biwabik in St. Louis County. The Hay Lake tract includes Hay Lake, identified as a Wild Rice Water by the MnDNR, and Little Rice Lake, which is used by trumpeter swans, a State Threatened species. Approximately eight miles of the upper Pike River flow through Tract 1.

Tract 2 ("Lake County lands") consists of approximately 320 acres of land formerly owned by Lake County. The tract includes various 40-acre parcels on the Laurentian Ranger District southeast of Seven Beaver Lake that are mostly surrounded by National Forest lands and offer significant wetland habitat.

Tract 3 ("Wolf Lands") consists of approximately 1,560 acres of land on the Laurentian and Tofte Ranger Districts, west and southwest of Isabella, MN. The tract includes four separate parcels that block in or compliment National Forest ownership and, like Tract 2, offer significant wetland habitat.

Tract 4 ("Hunting Club" lands) consists of approximately 160 acres on the LaCroix Ranger District, 5 miles southwest of Crane Lake. Two small unnamed lakes are partially included in the tract, as well as a large percentage of wetland habitats. Tract 4 is surrounded by National Forest, St. Louis County lands, and private ownership.

Tract 5 ("McFarland Lake") consists of approximately 32 acres on the Gunflint Ranger District in northeastern Cook County. The tract blocks in National Forest ownership and includes lake-front property on McFarland Lake, an entry point to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Access to the property is available by water from a landing off County Road 16 (Arrowhead Trail) approximately ten miles north of Hovland, MN. All tracts were assembled by PolyMet for the purpose of this proposed exchange.

### Responsible Official and Nature of Decision to be Made

The Responsible Official for the proposed land exchange is the Forest Supervisor for the SNF. The Responsible Official will decide in a Record of Decision whether the

proposed land exchange would result in an overall benefit to the public good.

### Scoping Process

Public scoping for the proposed SNF and PolyMet land exchange will include notices in the newspaper of record, mailing of the scoping package (detailed information of the purpose and need for the project, the proposed action, description of the project area, maps, and proposed federal and non-federal lands involved in the proposed exchange) to interested and affected publics and posting of the project on the agency's project planning web pages and notice in the Forest Service quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions.

### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development and incorporation of the proposed land exchange into the Northmet Project environmental impact statement. 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 29, 2010.

**Tamara E. Cameron,**

*Chief, Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers.*

Dated: October 4, 2010.

**James W. Sanders,**

*Forest Supervisor, USDA Superior National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 2010-25755 Filed 10-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3140-11-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting in Prather, California, November 17, 2010 and in Clovis, California, December 15, 2010. The purpose of the meetings will be to accept and review project proposals for the next funding cycle as well as review prior year accomplishments.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on November 17, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and December 15, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting on November 17th will be held at the High Sierra Ranger District, 29688 Auberry Rd., Prather, CA. The meeting on December 15th will be held at the Sierra National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1600 Tollhouse Rd., Clovis, CA. Send written comments to Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, c/o Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651 or electronically to [rekman@fs.fed.us](mailto:rekman@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, (559) 855-5355 ext. 3341.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Payments to States Fresno County Title II project matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Accept new project proposals and (2) Discuss accomplishments of previous projects.

Dated: October 4, 2010.

**Ray Porter,**

*District Ranger.*

[FR Doc. 2010-25588 Filed 10-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

---

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia State Technical Guide

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in the following practice standards: #314, Brush Management, #324, Deep Tillage, #330, Contour Farming, #332, Contour Buffer Strips, #344, Residue Management, Seasonal, #346, Residue Management, Ridge Till, #380, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, #484, Mulching, #512, Forage & Biomass Planting, and #603, Herbaceous Wind Barriers. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation practices.

**DATES:** Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John A. Bricker, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1691; Fax number (804) 287-1737. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS Web site: <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/draftstandards.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: October 4, 2010.

**W. Ray Dorsett,**

*Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.*

[FR Doc. 2010-25663 Filed 10-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

---

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia State Technical Guide

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in practice standards: #362, Diversion; #412, Grassed Waterway; #430, Irrigation Pipeline; #436, Irrigation Reservoir; #558, Roof Runoff Structure; #600, Terrace; #620, Underground Outlet; #313, Waste Storage Facility; #359, Waste Treatment Lagoon; #633,

Waste Utilization; #638, Water and Sediment Control Basin. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, woodland, and wildlife land.

**DATES:** Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with the date of this publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquire in writing to John A. Bricker, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1691; Fax number (804) 287-1737. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS Web site: <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/draftstandards.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: October 4, 2010.

**John A. Bricker,**

*State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.*

[FR Doc. 2010-25662 Filed 10-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

---

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

The Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), denied a petition (No. 2011019) for trade adjustment assistance (TAA) for Tilapia filed under the fiscal year (FY) 2011 program by three producers on behalf of Tilapia producers in Arkansas. The petition was accepted for review by USDA on August 24, 2010.