

below) to remove encroachment and ladder fuels from ponderosa pine dominated stands.

- Construct a minimum temporary road system to carry out the proposed action. Roads would be decommissioned after use.
- Pre-commercially thin approximately 1865 acres to reduce stand densities improve forest health and reduce fuels.
- Restore approximately 42 acres of bunchgrass communities through prescribed burning and revegetation with native grasses to improve wildlife winter range through reestablishment of native grasses and forbs.
- Apply approximately 1,400 acres of low and mixed severity prescribed fire within the Clear Creek Roadless area to restore natural fire regimes, reduce fuels, improve wildlife habitat and create mosaic forest conditions. Proposed activities are consistent with Idaho Roadless Rule. There is no timber cutting planned within the Clear Creek Roadless area.

Reduce Sediment Production and Address Transportation Needs

- Conduct maintenance on or improve 100–130 miles of system roads including culvert installation or replacement, ditch cleaning, and riprap placement for drainage improvement. It may also include gravel placement, road grading and dust abatement.
- Additional site specific maintenance or improvements would occur to improve watershed conditions on up to 20 miles of roads outside of proposed treatment areas.
- Decommission 2–5 miles of system roads no longer considered necessary for transportation needs.

Possible Alternatives the Forest Service will consider include a no-action alternative, which will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. The proposed action will be considered along with additional alternatives that will be developed to meet the purpose and need for action, and to address significant issues identified during scoping.

The Responsible Official is the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Supervisor, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

The Decision To Be Made is whether to adopt the proposed action, in whole or in part, or another alternative; and what mitigation measures and management requirements will be implemented.

The Scoping Process for the EIS is being initiated with this notice. The scoping process will identify issues to be analyzed in detail and will lead to the development of alternatives to the proposal. The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribal Governments; and organizations and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Comments received in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be a part of the project record and available for public review.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The second major opportunity for public input will be when the draft EIS is published. The comment period for the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in February 2013.

Dated: December 19, 2011.

Rick Brazell,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2012–3004 Filed 2–8–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the State of Alabama; Saginaw, TX; Essex, IL; Springfield, IL; Savage, MN; and State of Washington Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA is announcing the designation of the Alabama Department

of Agriculture and Industries (Alabama); Gulf Country Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Gulf Country); Kankakee Grain Inspection, Inc. (Kankakee); Springfield Grain Inspection, Inc. (Springfield); State Grain Inspection, Inc. (State Grain); and Washington Department of Agriculture (Washington) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 1, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Eric J. Jabs, Chief, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, QADB, 10383 North Ambassador Drive Kansas City, MO 64153.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric J. Jabs, 816–659–8408 or *Eric.J.Jabs@usda.gov*.

Read Applications: All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the June 1, 2011 **Federal Register** (76 FR 31580), GIPSA requested applications for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas presently serviced by Alabama, Gulf Country, Kankakee, Springfield, State Grain, and Washington. Applications were due by July 1, 2011.

Alabama, Gulf Country, Kankakee, Springfield, State Grain, and Washington were the sole applicants for designation to provide official services in these areas. As a result, GIPSA did not ask for additional comments.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in section 79(f) of the USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)) and determined that the applicants Alabama, Gulf Country, Kankakee, Springfield, State Grain, and Washington are qualified to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the **Federal Register** on June 1, 2011. This designation action to provide official services in these specified areas is effective January 1, 2012 and terminates on December 31, 2014.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting this agency at the following telephone numbers:

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone	Designation start	Designation end
Alabama	Montgomery, AL, (251) 438–2549	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Gulf Country	Saginaw, TX, (817) 306–5900	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Kankakee	Essex, IL, (815) 365–2268	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Springfield	Additional Location: Tiskilwa, IL. Springfield, IL, (217) 522–5233	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
State Grain	Savage, MN, (952) 808–8566	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Washington	Olympia, WA, (360) 753–1484	1/1/2012	12/31/2014

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone	Designation start	Designation end
	Additional Locations: Colfax, Othello, Pasco, Quincy, Spokane, and Yakima, WA.		

Section 79(f) of the USGSA authorizes the Secretary to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services (7 U.S.C. 79 (f)).

Under section 79(g) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for no longer than three years unless terminated by the Secretary; however, designations may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 79(f) of the USGSA.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71–87k.

Alan R. Christian,

Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 2012–3006 Filed 2–8–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Topeka, KS; Cedar Rapids, IA; Minot, ND; and Cincinnati, OH Areas; Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Servicing These Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end on June 30, 2012. We are asking persons or governmental agencies interested in providing official services in the areas presently served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. In addition, we are asking for comments on the quality of services provided by the following designated agencies: Kansas Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Kansas); Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc. (Mid-Iowa); Minot Grain Inspection, Inc. (Minot); and Tri-State Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Tri-State).

DATES: Applications and comments must be received by March 12, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit applications and comments concerning this notice using any of the following methods:

- *Apply for Designation on the Internet:* Use FGISOnline (https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default_home

FGIS.aspx) and then click on the Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR) link. You will need to obtain an FGISOnline customer number and a USDA eAuthentication username and password prior to applying.

- *Submit Comments Using the Internet:* Go to Regulations.gov (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Instructions for submitting and reading comments are detailed on the site.

- *Mail, Courier or Hand Delivery:* Eric J. Jabs, Chief, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, QADB, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153.

- *Fax:* Eric J. Jabs, 816–872–1258.

- *Email:* Eric.J.Jabs@usda.gov.

Read Applications and Comments: All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric J. Jabs, 816–659–8408 or Eric.J.Jabs@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 79(f) of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) authorizes the Secretary to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services (7 U.S.C. 79(f)). Under section 79(g) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for three years unless terminated by the Secretary, but may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 79(f) of the USGSA.

Areas Open for Designation

Kansas

Pursuant to section 79(f)(2) of the USGSA, the following geographic area, in the States of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming, is assigned to this official agency:

1. The entire State of Colorado.

2. The entire State of Kansas.

3. *In Nebraska and Wyoming:*

Bounded on the North by the northern Scotts Bluff County line; the northern Morrill County line east to Highway 385; Bounded on the East by Highway 385 south to the northern Cheyenne County line; the northern and eastern Cheyenne County lines; the northern and eastern Deuel County lines;

Bounded on the South by the southern Deuel, Cheyenne, and Kimball County lines; and Bounded on the West by the western Kimball, Banner, and Scotts Bluff County lines. Goshen, Laramie, and Platt Counties, Wyoming.

Mid-Iowa

Pursuant to section 79(f)(2) of the USGSA, the following geographic area, in the States of Minnesota and Iowa, is assigned to this official agency:

1. *In Minnesota:* Wabasha, Olmstead, Winona, Houston, and Fillmore Counties.

2. *In Iowa:* Bounded on the North by the northern Winneshiek and Allamakee County lines; Bounded on the East by the eastern Allamakee County line; the eastern and southern Clayton County lines; the eastern Buchanan County line; the northern and eastern Jones County lines; the eastern Cedar County line south to State Route 130; Bounded on the South by State Route 130 west to State Route 38; State Route 38 south to Interstate 80; Interstate 80 west to U.S. Route 63; and Bounded on the West by U.S. Route 63 north to State Route 8; State Route 8 east to State Route 21; State Route 21 north to D38; D38 east to State Route 297; State Route 297 north to V49; V49 north to Bremer County; the southern Bremer County line; the western Fayette and Winneshiek County lines.

Minot

Pursuant to section 79(f)(2) of the USGSA, the following geographic area, in the State of North Dakota, is assigned to this official agency: Bounded on the North by the North Dakota State line east to the eastern Bottineau County line; Bounded on the East by the eastern Bottineau County line south to the northern Pierce County line; the northern Pierce County line east to State Route 3; State Route 3 south to State Route 200; Bounded on the South by State Route 200 west to State Route 41; State Route 41 south to U.S. Route 83; U.S. Route 83 northwest to State Route 200; State Route 200 west to U.S. Route 85; U.S. Route 85 south to Interstate 94; Interstate 94 west to the North Dakota State line; and Bounded on the West by the North Dakota State line.

Tri-State

Pursuant to section 79(f)(2) of the USGSA, the following geographic area,