

sample collection teams for collecting N-60 samples in establishments. FSIS has concluded that the Agency does not have the resources to implement this recommendation. The use of the specialized sample collection teams would be cost-prohibitive.

#### 2012 OIG Audit Report

In a more recent audit, reported in May 2012, OIG studied the variation of the beef industry's *E. coli* O157:H7 sampling and testing protocols among slaughter plants, and how FSIS and the beef industry use the test results to improve food safety.<sup>5</sup> OIG found that the beef industry was conducting thousands of tests daily and generally complying with FSIS's guidance for how to perform those tests.

OIG made several additional recommendations to FSIS, and the Agency has already responded to some of them. For example, OIG recommended that FSIS issue guidance for industry on sampling and how the industry might plan for and react to high-event periods (HEPs)—when slaughter establishments have a high rate of positive test results for *E. coli* O157:H7 or other STEC or virulence markers in trim samples.

On May 7, 2012, FSIS announced the availability of compliance guidance for establishment sampling and testing for Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) organisms or virulence markers (77 FR 26725). This guidance includes criteria that establishments can use to determine if they are experiencing an HEP. The document explains that extensive sampling of trimmings and careful evaluation of test results can help establishments identify places in their processes where controls are poor, and where they can take corrective actions. It recommends that establishments continually strive to reduce the percentage of test results that are positive for *E. coli* O157:H7 (or STEC organisms or virulence markers).

During an HEP, adulteration may be more widespread than a positive-testing lot of product may indicate. By following the guidance and withholding adulterated product from commerce during HEPs, establishments are more likely to avoid costly recalls. While establishments can use the guidance now, FSIS requested comments on it and will update it as necessary in response to the comments.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, May 2012, Application of FSIS Sampling Protocol for Testing Beef Trim for *E. coli* O157:H7, Audit Report 24601-0001-31, Washington, DC. This report is posted at: <http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/24601-0001-31.pdf> (accessed June 20, 2012).

OIG also recommended that FSIS re-evaluate and improve its policies on inspector collection of trim samples by, for example, ensuring that inspectors randomly select product for sampling, ensuring that inspectors collect samples of proper weight, and ensuring that they do not take multiple samples from single pieces of trim.

To ensure that all raw ground beef, beef manufacturing trimmings, and bench trim samples are the necessary weight, FSIS recently issued instructions to inspection program personnel on the use of new sample collection bags that have fill-lines.<sup>6</sup> In addition, in response to other recommendations, FSIS will evaluate its instructions for sampling and determine what other changes may be needed.

OIG recommended that FSIS improve communication with industry by issuing guidance to assist establishments in selecting laboratories according to the laboratories' testing capabilities. On March 8, 2012, FSIS announced the availability of guidance for establishments in the selection of commercial and private microbiological testing laboratories (77 FR 13999). The guidance includes a checklist for industry on the issues to consider and also the types of documents that establishments should maintain to support their testing programs.<sup>7</sup> Establishments can use the guidance now. FSIS asked for comments on the guidance and will make any necessary changes to it after evaluating the comments.

OIG further recommended that FSIS determine whether to increase sampling of trim, assess its performance measures for *E. coli* O157:H7, clarify current instructions to inspection personnel in its directive on verification of controls for the pathogen (FSIS Directive 10,10.1), and assess the quality of inspection in Talmadge-Aiken establishments. FSIS is evaluating these issues and will respond to these recommendations.

#### Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/Federal\\_Register\\_Notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp).

FSIS will also make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update,

<sup>6</sup> The notice is available at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/35-12.pdf> (accessed June 20, 2012).

<sup>7</sup> The guidance is available at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Guidance\\_Selecting\\_Micro\\_Testing\\_Lab.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Guidance_Selecting_Micro_Testing_Lab.pdf) (accessed June 20, 2012).

which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Email\\_Subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Email_Subscription/). Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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Done at Washington, DC, on: September 13, 2012.

**Alfred V. Almanza,**  
Administrator.

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BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Salmon, Idaho. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110-343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with the title II of the Act. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to review and recommend projects to be funded under Public Law 112-141.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held September 28, 2012 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Public Lands Center, 1206 S. Challis Street, Salmon, Idaho 83467.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at Public Lands Center, 1206 S. Challis Street, Salmon, Idaho 83467. Please call ahead to 208-756-5100 to facilitate entry into the building to view comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Baumer, Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, 208-756-5145 (voice) or 208-756-5151 (fax) or email [abaumer@fs.fed.us](mailto:abaumer@fs.fed.us).

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Requests for reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings may be made by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following business will be conducted: review and recommendation of projects to be funded under Public Law 112-141. An agenda will be posted at the following Web site address in advance of the meeting date: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnf/>. A summary of the meeting will be posted at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnf/within> 21 days of the meeting.

Dated: September 12, 2012.

**Stefani Melvin,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 2012-23013 Filed 9-18-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**White Pine-Nye Resource Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The White Pine-Nye Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Eureka, Nevada. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110-343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with title II of the Act. The meetings are open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to provide updates on projects approved for fiscal year 2012.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held October 15, 2012, at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Eureka County Annex, 701 S. Main Street, Eureka, Nevada 89316. Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at Tonopah Ranger District Office, 1400 S. Erie Main Street, Tonopah, Nevada. Please call ahead to 775-482-6286 to facilitate entry into the building to view comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Steven Williams, RAC Designated Federal Official, Austin Ranger District, 100 Midas Canyon Road, P.O. Box 130, Austin, Nevada 89310, 775-964-2671, email [swilliams01@fs.fed.us](mailto:swilliams01@fs.fed.us).

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Requests for reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings may be made by contacting the person listed For Further Information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following business will be conducted: Review and approve previous meeting's minutes and business expenses, Review projects approved and implemented in fiscal year 2012, and Public Comment. More information is available at:

[https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure\\_rural\\_schools.nsf](https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure_rural_schools.nsf). Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by October 8, 2012 to be scheduled on the agenda.

Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 3940, Tonopah, Nevada 89049, or by email to [lebernardi@fs.fed.us](mailto:lebernardi@fs.fed.us) or via facsimile to 775-482-3053.

Dated: September 12, 2012.

**Jeanne M. Higgins,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Prince of Wales Resource Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Prince of Wales Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Craig, AK. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 112-141) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with the title II of the Act. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to review and recommend projects authorized under title II of the Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held September 28, 2012 at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Craig Ranger District, 504 9th Street, Craig, Alaska 99921. If you wish to attend via teleconference please call 907-826-3271 for instructions.

Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Craig Ranger District. Please call ahead to 907-826-