

government and in accordance with Executive Order 13563, the Board requests input from the public on the rural determination process and regulations, and ways to improve them for the benefit of rural Alaskans.

The Board has identified the following components in the process for review: Population thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregation of communities, timelines, and information sources. We describe these components below and include questions for public consideration and comment.

**Population thresholds.** The Federal Subsistence Board currently uses several guidelines to determine whether a specific area of Alaska is rural. One guideline sets population thresholds. A community or area with a population below 2,500 will be considered rural. A community or area with a population between 2,500 and 7,000 will be considered rural or nonrural, based on community characteristics and criteria used to group communities together. Communities with populations more than 7,000 will be considered nonrural, unless such communities possess significant characteristics of a rural nature. In 2008, the Board recommended to the Secretaries that the upper population threshold be changed to 11,000. The Secretaries have taken no action on this recommendation.

*(1) Are these population threshold guidelines useful for determining whether a specific area of Alaska is rural?*

*(2) If they are not, please provide population size(s) to distinguish between rural and nonrural areas, and the reasons for the population size you believe more accurately reflects rural and nonrural areas in Alaska.*

**Rural characteristics.** The Board recognizes that population alone is not the only indicator of rural or nonrural status. Other characteristics the Board considers include, but are not limited to, the following: Use of fish and wildlife; development and diversity of the economy; community infrastructure; transportation; and educational institutions.

*(3) Are these characteristics useful for determining whether a specific area of Alaska is rural?*

*(4) If they are not, please provide a list of characteristics that better define or enhance rural and nonrural status.*

**Aggregation of communities.** The Board recognizes that communities and areas of Alaska are connected in diverse ways. Communities that are economically, socially, and communally integrated are considered in the aggregate in determining rural and

nonrural status. The aggregation criteria are as follows: Do 30 percent or more of the working people commute from one community to another; do they share a common high school attendance area; and are the communities in proximity and road-accessible to one another?

*(5) Are these aggregation criteria useful in determining rural and nonrural status?*

*(6) If they are not, please provide a list of criteria that better specify how communities may be integrated economically, socially, and communally for the purposes of determining rural and nonrural status.*

**Timelines.** The Board reviews rural determinations on a 10-year cycle, and out of cycle in special circumstances.

*(7) Should the Board review rural determinations on a 10-year cycle? If so, why; if not, why not?*

**Information sources.** Current regulations state that population data from the most recent census conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, as updated by the Alaska Department of Labor, shall be utilized in the rural determination process. The information collected and the reports generated during the decennial census vary between each census; as such, data used during the Board's rural determination may vary.

*(8) These information sources as stated in regulations will continue to be the foundation of data used for rural determinations. Do you have any additional sources you think would be beneficial to use?*

*(9) In addition to the preceding questions, do you have any additional comments on how to make the rural determination process more effective?*

This notice announces to the public, including rural Alaska residents, Federally recognized Tribes of Alaska, and Alaska Native corporations, the request for comments on the Federal Subsistence Program's rural determination process. These comments will be used by the Board to assist in making decisions regarding the scope and nature of possible changes to improve the rural determination process, which may include, where the Board has authority, proposed regulatory action(s) or in areas where the Secretaries maintain purview, recommended courses of action.

Dated: December 5, 2012.

**Peter J. Probasco,**

*Assistant Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board.*

Dated: December 6, 2012.

**Steve Kessler,**

*Subsistence Program Leader, USDA-Forest Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012-31359 Filed 12-28-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P ; 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Transfer of Land to the Department of Interior

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Land Transfer.

**SUMMARY:** Approximately 353.63 acres of National Forest System lands are transferred to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Interior pursuant to the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act (Pub. L. 100-580; 102 Stat. 2924 (1988)). Transfer of Jurisdiction of Certain National Forest System Lands in California to the Department of the Interior for the benefit of the Yurok Tribe.

**DATES:** This notice becomes effective December 31, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Louisa Herrera, National Title Program Manager, (202) 205-1255, Lands and Realty Management.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act (Pub. L. 100-580; 102 Stat. 2924 (1988)), hereafter "Act", provides at section 2(c) that, subject to valid existing rights, certain enumerated National Forest System lands shall be "held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Yurok Tribe and shall be part of the Yurok Reservation" (102 Stat. 2926). A condition precedent to such lands being held in trust is adoption of a resolution of the Interim Council of the Yurok Tribe as provided in section 2(c)(4) of the Act (102 Stat. 2926).

On March 21, 2007, the Yurok Tribal Council enacted Resolution No. 07-037, waiving certain claims and consenting to uses of tribal funds pursuant to the Act. The Department of the Interior has determined that the resolution meets the requirements of section 2(c)(4) of the Act, and that determination has been accepted by the Department of Agriculture.

Therefore, the conditions of transfer having been met, subject to valid existing rights, administrative jurisdiction over the following Federally

owned lands, including improvements, is hereby vested in the Secretary of the Interior, to be held in trust for the Yurok Tribe. The lands are described as follows:

**Six Rivers National Forest, Northern Redwood Purchase Unit, California**

*Humboldt Meridian, Del Norte County, California*

T.13 N., R. 1 E.

Sec. 3, Lot 3 excepting parcel 3C, Lot 4 excepting parcel 4D, SW1/4NW1/4 excepting parcel E, SE1/4NW1/4 excepting parcel F, NE1/4SW1/4 excepting parcel J, NW1/4SE1/4 excepting parcel J, SW1/4SE1/4 excepting parcel K, all as shown on the Bureau of Land Management plat of the resurvey of T.13 N., R.1 E., H.M., approved June 24, 1971; Sec. 10, Lot 1 excepting parcel 1C, Lot 6 excepting parcel 6D, NW1/4NE1/4 excepting parcel B, SE1/4NE1/4 excepting parcel E, NE1/4SE1/4 excepting parcel F, all as shown on the Bureau of Land Management plat of the resurvey of T.13 N., R.1 E., H.M., approved June 24, 1971, and (1) excepting from lands in Sec. 10, a piece or parcel of land conveyed to the State of California by Willis C. Ward, *et al.*, by deed dated June 18, 1934, and recorded August 21, 1935, on pages 92 to 95 of Book 54 of Deeds, Records of Del Norte County, California, said piece or parcel of land being fully described in said deed, and (2) also excepting those lands in Sec. 10 conveyed to the County of Del Norte by the United States of America by deed dated November 3, 1970, and recorded January 3, 1971, on pages 7 to 10 of Book 154 of Official Records of Del Norte County, California, said lands being fully described in said deed, and (3) also together with that parcel in Lot 6 of Sec. 10 conveyed to the United States of America by the County of Del Norte, by deed dated August 10, 1970, and recorded August 25, 1970, on pages 374 to 375 of Book 151 of Official Records of Del Norte County, California, said parcel being fully described in said deed;

Sec. 15, Portion of Lot 2 lying southerly of the northern boundary and the easterly prolongation of the northern boundary of parcels 2A and B, excepting parcel 2A, Lot 3 excepting parcel 3C, and Lot 6 excepting parcel 6G, all as shown on the Bureau of Land Management plat of the resurvey of T.13 N., R.1 E., H.M., approved June 24, 1971.

T.13 N., R.2 E.

Sec. 19, Lot 1 and Lot 5;

Sec. 20, W1/2SW1/4NW1/4

T. 14 N., R. 1 E.

That portion of Lot 6, Sec. 28, as per map titles Record of Survey for Six Rivers National Forest, recorded in Book 10 of Maps at Pages 154 to 157 in the office of Del Norte County Recorder, State of California, described as follows: Beginning at a monument marked AP-1 distant N 89° 14'42"W 350.00 feet from the Center 1/4 corner of said Sec. 28,

North 117.17 feet to a monument marked AP-2,

N 40°00'00" W 507.49 feet to a monument marked AP-3,

N 47°04'17" W 263.59 feet to a monument marked AP-4,

N 04°15'38" E 367.17 feet to a monument marked AP-5,

N 89°14'42" W 456.56 feet to a monument marked AP-6,

S 04°15'43" W 426.05 feet along the N-S Centerline of the

NW1/4, Sec. 28, to a monument marked AP-7,

Thence along a non-tangent curve concave southwesterly with a radius of 2040 feet through a central angle of 04°32'48" a distance of 161.89 feet (chord length) to a monument marked M29R,

S 22°44'12"E 516.87 feet along the easterly right of way line for Highway 101 to a monument marked AP-9,

S 89 14'42"E 711.98 feet along the south line of the NW1/4, Sec. 28, to the point of beginning,

*EXCEPT* that parcel lying east of the N-S Centerline of the NW 1/4, Sec. 28, between AP-6 and AP-7, conveyed to Freda D. Davidson by the United States of America by deed dated April 18, 1991, and recorded May 1, 1991, on pages 512 to 514 of Book 373 of Official Records of Del Norte County, California, said land being further described on the Record of Survey filed in Book 10 of Maps at Page 199 in the office of Del Norte County Recorder, State of California.

And including: correction deed recorded June 5, 1991, on pages 811 and 812 of Book 374 of the Official Records of Del Norte County, California. The correction deed changed the location of the conveyance parcel from being in a portion of the NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 28, T14N R1E HM to a portion of Lot 6 in the same section, township and range.

Dated: December 19, 2012.

**Calvin N. Joyner,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012-31342 Filed 12-28-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**National Institute of Food and Agriculture**

**Solicitation of Veterinary Shortage Situation Nominations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and solicitation for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting nominations of veterinary service shortage situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) for fiscal year (FY) 2013, as authorized under the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA), 7 U.S.C. 3151a. This notice initiates a 60-day nomination period and prescribes the procedures and criteria to be used by State, Insular Area, DC and Federal Lands to nominate veterinary shortage situations. Each year all eligible nominating entities may submit nominations, up to the maximum indicated for each entity in this notice. NIFA is conducting this solicitation of veterinary shortage situation nominations under a previously approved information collection (OMB Control Number 0524-0046).

**DATES:** Shortage situation nominations, both new and carry over, must be submitted on or before March 1, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Submissions must be made by email at [vmrlp@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:vmrlp@nifa.usda.gov) to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Sherman; National Program Leader, Veterinary Science; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2220; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2220; Voice: 202-401-4952; Fax: 202-401-6156; Email: [vmrlp@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:vmrlp@nifa.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background and Purpose**

A landmark series of three peer-reviewed studies published in 2007 in