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.
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 6C, 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.