

report, by the State agencies administering TEFAP. States use the form to report how Federal administrative funds are utilized, in three separate categories. States may use funds to pay costs incurred by the State agency itself, or to pay costs incurred by local recipients agencies—emergency feeding organizations (EFOs) that distribute USDA commodities to eligible households states also “pass down” to EFOs a certain percentage of Federal administrative funds received, as required by legislation and Federal regulations. The information reported on the form is used by the Food and Nutrition Service to ensure that States meet this requirement, as well as the requirement that States match all Federal administrative funds that are not passed down to the local agencies, or used to pay costs on their behalf.

*Affected Public:* State Agencies.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 55 (States, Territories, and The District of Columbia).

*Estimated Time Per Response:* .5 to 8 hours per response/average 3.5

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 962.5 hours annually (55 State agencies \* 5 responses = 275 responses; 275 responses @ 3.5 hours. A total of five reports, four quarterly, and a final close-out report, are submitted).

Dated: December 1, 1999.

**Samuel Chambers, Jr.,**

*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-32363 Filed 12-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-061N]

#### **Codex Alimentarius: Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)**

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, and the Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture; and the Food and Drug Administration, United States Department of Health and Human Services, are sponsoring two public meetings to provide information and receive public comments on issues that will be discussed at the CCFICS, which will be held in Adelaide, Australia, February 21-25, 2000. The

Departments recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the Eighth Session of the CCFICS and to address items on the Agenda.

**DATES:** The first public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2000, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to review the technical content of the various documents coming before the Session. The second public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2000, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to review the U.S. Government positions on the agenda items.

**ADDRESSES:** Both public meetings will be held in Room 1409, Federal Office Building 8, 200 C Street SW, Washington, DC (Metro Rail Stop is Federal Center SW)

Send an original and two copies of comments to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #99-061N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Comments should be submitted by February 4, 2000. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Patrick J. Clerkin, Associate U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700, Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Mr. Clerkin at the above numbers.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled.

The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems was established to develop principles and guidelines for food import and export inspection and

certification systems to facilitate trade through harmonization and to supply safe, high quality foods to consumers. Recognition of quality assurance systems through the development of guidelines will help ensure that foods conform to the essential requirements.

Issues to be Discussed at both Public Meetings

- Proposed Draft Guidelines/Recommendations for Food Import Control Systems
- Proposed Draft Guidelines and Criteria for Official Certificate Formats and Rules Relating to the Production and Issuance of Certificates
- Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Utilization and Promotion of Quality Assurance Systems
- Discussion Paper on the Judgement of Equivalence on Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems
- Discussion Paper on the Judgement on Equivalence of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems

**Additional Public Notification**

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of these public meetings, FSIS will announce them and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC, on; December 6, 1999.

**F. Edward Scarbrough,**  
*U.S. Manager for Codex.*

[FR Doc. 99-32286 Filed 12-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the National Forests in Mississippi

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Forester for the Southern Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for revision of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the National Forests in Mississippi. According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), Forest Plans are ordinarily revised on a 10-15 year cycle. The existing Forest Plan for Mississippi was approved on September 16, 1985.

The agency invites written comments within the scope of the analysis described below. In addition, the agency gives notice that an open and full environmental analysis and decision making process (collaborative planning effort) will occur so that interested and affected citizens may participate and assist in identifying and developing recommendations on the management of the National Forests in Mississippi.

This Notice of Intent covers the following Mississippi counties which contain National Forest System lands: Adams, Amite, Benton, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Copiah, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Lafayette, Lincoln, Marshall, Newton, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Perry, Pontotoc, Scott, Sharkey, Smith, Stone, Tippah, Union, Wayne, Wilkinson, Winston, and Yalobusha.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received on or before February 14, 2000. The agency expects to file the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with the Environmental Protection Agency and make it available for public comment in September, 2001. The agency expects to file the final EIS in September, 2002. See Supplementary Information (Section VI. Involving the Public) for meeting dates.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to Forest Supervisor, National Forests in

Mississippi, 100 W. Capitol St., Suite 1141, Jackson, MS 39269.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Long, Land Management Planning Revision Team Leader, (601) 965-4391.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** The Regional Forester for the Southern Region located at 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30367.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The National Forests in Mississippi Forest Plan covers the six proclaimed National Forests in Mississippi: Bienville, DeSoto, Delta, Holly Springs, Homochitto and Tombigbee. Pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(g), the Forest Supervisor is required to review the conditions on the land covered by the Forest Plan at least every five years to determine whether conditions and/or demands of the public have changed significantly. This regulation further states that the Forest Plan may be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that significant changes have occurred. In 1991, staff of the National Forests in Mississippi conducted a five-year review of the Forest Plan. The Forest Service completed a ten-year review in 1996 and annual reviews for fiscal years 1997 and 1998.

Concurrent with the ten-year review, the Forest's interdisciplinary Land Management Planning Team updated resource inventories, estimated supply capabilities and resource demands, and determined initial needs to change management direction. Together with the reviews and public comments solicited on its findings, this work forms the basis for the preliminary issues identified in this Notice of Intent. These preliminary issues along with any additional issues raised during public scoping activities, to begin in January 2000, will be examined during the plan revision process.

In the past, a "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement" marked the very beginning of the planning process. For this plan revision, however, an effort was made to define the current situation and to present detailed proposed actions as part of this notice. We trust this will lead to improved "scoping" and provide more concise and specific public comments. These, in turn, will make it possible to develop more responsive alternatives for analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement. Our desired results are improve public participation opportunities facilitated by open decision making process throughout the Forest Plan revision process.

##### Two Stage Decision Making Process

National Forest System resource allocation and management decisions are made in two decision stages or steps. Programmatic (strategic) management decisions occur in the first stage and are documented in the Forest Plan. Programmatic decisions in the Forest Plan are implemented by authorization of site-specific activities. This project level decision-making is the second stage.

The first decision stage establishes programmatic management direction spanning a ten to fifteen year time span. A Forest Plan is analogous to a county or city zoning plan. Decisions made in the Forest Plan identify actions that may take place but do not represent a commitment by the agency to implement site-specific projects. Forest Plans do not compel the agency to undertake particular site-specific projects; rather, they establish overall goals and objectives (or desired resource conditions) that an individual National Forest will strive to achieve in order to maintain or assure ecological sustainability and to contribute to economic and social sustainability of local communities affected by national forest management activities. Forest Plan decisions do not normally make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources. Forest Plans also establish limitations on what actions may be authorized, and what conditions must be met during project decision-making.

The following decisions are made in a Forest Plan:

- (1) Establishment of the forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives (36 CFR 219.11(b)).
- (2) Establishment of forest-wide management requirements (36 CFR 219.13 to 219.27).
- (3) Establishment of multiple-use prescriptions and associated standards and guidelines for each management area (36 CFR 219.11(c)).
- (4) Determination of land that is suitable for the production of timber (16 U.S.C. 1604(k) and 36 CFR 219.14).
- (5) Establishment of allowable sale quantity for timber within a time frame specified in the plan (36 CFR 219.16).
- (6) Establishment of monitoring and evaluation requirements (36 CFR 219.11(d)).
- (7) Recommendation of roadless areas as potential wilderness areas (36 CFR 219.17).
- (8) Where applicable, designation of those lands administratively available for oil and gas leasing; and when appropriate, authorizing the Bureau of Land Management to offer specific lands for leasing (36 CFR 228.102 (d) and (e)).