

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 03-001-2]

Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency Because of Exotic Newcastle Disease in Nevada

Exotic Newcastle disease (END) has been confirmed in the State of Nevada. The disease has been confirmed in backyard poultry, which are raised on private premises for hobby, exhibition, and personal consumption. Previously, END had been confirmed in the State of California, and on January 6, 2003, the Secretary of Agriculture signed a declaration of extraordinary emergency with respect to the END situation in California (see 68 FR 1432, Docket No. 03-001-1, published January 10, 2003).

END is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting domestic, wild, and caged poultry and birds. It is one of the most infectious diseases of poultry in the world, and is so virulent that many birds die without showing any clinical signs. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks. END can infect and cause death even in vaccinated poultry. This disease in poultry and birds is characterized by respiratory signs accompanied by nervous manifestations, gastrointestinal lesions, and swelling of the head.

END is spread primarily through direct contact between healthy birds or poultry and the bodily discharges of infected birds or poultry. Within an infected flock, END is transmitted by direct contact, contaminated feeding and watering equipment, and aerosols produced by coughing, gasping, and other respiratory disturbances. Dissemination between flocks over long distances is often due to movement of contaminated equipment and service personnel, such as vaccination crews. Movement of carrier birds and those in an incubating stage accounts for most of the outbreaks in the pet bird industry.

The existence of END in Nevada represents a threat to the U.S. poultry and bird industries. It constitutes a real danger to the national economy and a potential serious burden on interstate and foreign commerce. The United States Department of Agriculture (the Department) has reviewed the measures being taken by Nevada to control and eradicate END and has consulted with the appropriate State government and Indian tribal officials in Nevada. Based on such review and consultation, the Department has determined that the measures being taken by the State are inadequate to control or eradicate END. Therefore, the Department has determined that an extraordinary emergency exists because of END in Nevada.

This declaration of extraordinary emergency authorizes the Secretary to (1) hold, seize, treat, apply other remedial actions to, destroy (including preventative slaughter), or otherwise dispose of, any animal, article, facility, or means of conveyance if the Secretary determines the action is necessary to prevent the dissemination of END and (2) prohibit or restrict the movement or use within the State of Nevada, or any portion of the State of Nevada, of any animal or article, means of conveyance, or facility if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of END. The appropriate State government and Indian tribal officials in Nevada have been informed of these facts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This declaration of extraordinary emergency shall become effective January 17, 2003.

Ann M. Veneman,
Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 03-1610 Filed 1-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yakutat, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting is to continue business of the Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee.

The committee was formed to carry out the requirements of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000. The agenda for this meeting is to finalize the form that the Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee will use to solicit project proposals and to determine what criteria they will use to select projects. The intent of the meeting is also to share with the public the project proposal process.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 7, 2003 from 6-9 p.m. and will continue on February 8, 2003 from 9-12 a.m., if necessary.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Kwaan Conference Room, 712 Ocean Cape Drive, Yakutat, Alaska. Send written comments to Tricia O'Connor, c/o Forest Service, USDA, PO Box 327, Yakutat, AK 99689, (907) 784-3359 or electronically to poconnor@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tricia O'Connor, District Ranger and Designated Federal Official, Yakutat Ranger District, (907) 784-3359.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members. However, persons who wish to bring resource projects or other Resource Advisory Committee matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by January 31, 2003 will have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions.

Dated: January 14, 2003.

Patricia M. O'Connor,
*District Ranger, Yakutat Ranger District,
Tongass National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 03-1570 Filed 1-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List services