

appropriate for the proposed area. Please support your comments with specific information. Examples include name evidence and data about growing conditions or area boundaries.

Although we do not acknowledge receipt, we will consider your comments if we receive them on or before the closing date. We will consider comments received after the closing date if we can. We regard all comments as originals.

#### *Comment Confidentiality*

We do not recognize any submitted material as confidential. We will disclose all information on comments and commenters. Do not enclose in your comments any material you consider confidential or inappropriate for disclosure.

#### *Disclosure*

You may view copies of the petition, the proposed regulation, the appropriate maps, and any comments received by appointment at the ATF Reference Library, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226. You may also obtain copies at 20 cents per 8.5 x 11 inch page. Contact the ATF Librarian at the above address or telephone 202-927-7890 to schedule an appointment or to request copies of comments.

For your convenience, we will post this notice and the comments received on the TTB Web site. All posted comments will show the names of commenters but not street addresses, telephone numbers, or e-mail addresses. We may also omit voluminous attachments or material that we consider unsuitable for posting. In all cases, the full comment will be available in the ATF Reference Library. To see the online copy of this notice, visit <http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm>. Select the "View comments" link under this notice number to view the posted comments.

#### *Submission of Comments*

You may submit comments in any of four ways.

- *By mail:* You may send written comments to TTB at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

- *By facsimile:* You may submit comments by fax to 202-927-8525. Faxed comments must—

- (1) Be on 8.5 by 11 inch paper;
- (2) Contain a legible, written signature; and

- (3) Be five or less pages long. This limitation assures electronic access to our equipment. We will not accept faxed comments that exceed five pages.

- *By e-mail:* You may e-mail comments to [nprm@ttb.gov](mailto:nprm@ttb.gov). Comments transmitted by electronic-mail must—

- (1) Contain your e-mail address;
- (2) Reference this notice number on the subject line; and
- (3) Be legible when printed on 8.5 by 11 inch paper.

- *By online form:* We provide a comment form with the online copy of this notice on our Web site at <http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm>. Select the "Send comments via email" link under this notice number.

You may also write to the Administrator before the comment closing date to ask for a public hearing. The Administrator reserves the right to determine, in light of all circumstances, whether a public hearing will be held.

#### **Regulatory Analyses and Notices**

##### *Paperwork Reduction Act*

We propose no requirement to collect information. Therefore, the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, do not apply.

##### *Regulatory Flexibility Act*

We certify that this regulation, if adopted, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, including small businesses. The proposal imposes no new reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative requirements.

The establishment of viticultural areas represents neither our endorsement nor approval of the quality of wine made from grapes grown in the areas. Rather, it is a system that identifies areas distinct from one another. In turn, identifying viticultural areas lets wineries describe more accurately the origin of their wines to consumers and helps consumers identify the wines they purchase. Thus, any benefit derived from using a viticultural area name results from the proprietor's efforts and consumer acceptance of wines from that area. Therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required.

##### *Executive Order 12866*

This proposed rule is not a "significant regulatory action" as defined by Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, no regulatory assessment is required.

#### **Drafting Information**

The principal author of this document is Bernard J. Kipp, Regulations Division (Portland, Oregon), Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

#### **List of Subjects in 27 CFR Part 9**

Wine.

#### **Authority and Issuance**

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposes to amend Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9, American Viticultural Areas, as follows:

#### **PART 9—AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS**

1. The authority citation for part 9 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 27 U.S.C. 205.

2. Subpart C is amended by adding § 9.\_\_\_\_ to read as follows:

#### **Subpart C—Approved American Viticultural Areas**

\* \* \* \* \*

##### **§ 9.\_\_\_\_ Columbia Gorge**

(a) *Name.* The name of the viticultural area described in this section is "Columbia Gorge".

(b) *Approved Maps.* The appropriate maps for determining the boundaries of the Columbia Gorge viticultural area are 11 USGS, 1:24,000 scale topographic maps. They are—

- (1) Hood River Quadrangle, Oregon—Washington, 1994;
- (2) Northwestern Lake Quadrangle, Washington, 1983;
- (3) Husum Quadrangle, Washington—Klickitat Co., 1994;
- (4) Appleton Quadrangle, Washington—Klickitat Co., 1994;
- (5) Lyle Quadrangle, Washington—Oregon, 1994;
- (6) Brown Creek Quadrangle, Oregon, 1994;
- (7) Ketchum Reservoir Quadrangle, Oregon, 1994;
- (8) Parkdale Quadrangle, Oregon—Hood River Co., 1994;
- (9) Dee Quadrangle, Oregon—Hood River Co., 1994; and
- (10) Mt. Defiance Quadrangle, Oregon—Washington, 1994.

(c) *Boundaries.* The Columbia Gorge viticultural area is located in Hood River and Wasco Counties, Oregon, and Skamania and Klickitat Counties, Washington. The starting point of the boundary is on the Hood River map, at the intersection of State highway 14 and the range line between R9E and R10E, on the north bank of the Columbia River.

(1) From this point, go north along the R9E/R10E range line to the northwest corner of section 19, T3N, R10E;

(2) Then go east along the section line to the northeast corner of section 20, T3N, R10E;