

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: International Trade and Tropical Deforestation

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB,
TB, SOR,) ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: Increasing global population and demand for food has led to increasing agricultural production and demand for land; often this has come from deforestation of tropical forests. These forests support diverse ecosystems and provide environmental benefits such as biodiversity and carbon storage. This study analyzes patterns of deforestation in select tropical countries to examine which commodities contribute most to deforestation. Deforestation in South America is linked with production of beef and soybeans, while deforestation in Indonesia and Malaysia is linked with production of palm oil and wood products. Although the U.S. does not have direct influence on land used for these products in tropical countries, the U.S. can influence world markets for these products by increasing supply, increasing yield, and identifying substitutes in the case of palm oil. A global economic model is used to identify potential policies that could impact tropical forest loss.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 08/11/16 End: 12/6/16 Withdrawn: X/X/16

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [x] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No