

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 97-064-1]

Boll Weevil Control Program; Availability of Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared two environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact for proposed programs to eradicate the boll weevil in Mississippi and in the Red River Valley area of Arkansas and Louisiana. The environmental assessments provide the basis for our conclusion that the implementation of the proposed boll weevil eradication programs in Mississippi and in the Red River Valley area of Arkansas and Louisiana will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bill Grefenstette, Senior Operations Officer, National Boll Weevil Eradication Program, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 138, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8676. Copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact may be obtained by contacting Mr. Grefenstette.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 147a, 148, and 450, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with the States and certain other organizations and individuals to control and eradicate plant pests.

The boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis Boheman*) is a destructive pest of cotton which causes annual economic losses to the agricultural industry and consumers. Since its introduction in southern Texas in the late 1800's, the boll weevil has spread across the area of

the United States known as the Cotton Belt. Since the early 1950's, the United States agricultural community has acknowledged the need for a beltwide strategy for controlling the boll weevil. Since the first pilot program in 1971, programs implemented in an incremental fashion have been successful in eradicating the boll weevil from over 3.5 million acres in major areas of the Cotton Belt.

On December 24, 1991, we published in the **Federal Register** (56 FR 66615-66616, Docket No. 91-173) a notice announcing the availability of a final environmental impact statement for the National Boll Weevil Cooperative Control Program (national program). This comprehensive programmatic environmental impact statement evaluated the impacts of the national program to eradicate boll weevil.

The national program relies on integrated control methods, including the use of chemicals, on cotton crops. Therefore, as the national program expands to include new areas, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepares site specific environmental assessments to analyze the potential effects of eradication program alternatives and actions on the quality of the human environment in the local area of the proposed eradication program.

APHIS, in cooperation with the other Federal and State agencies, cotton growers, and cotton grower organizations in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, proposes to add Mississippi and the Red River Valley area of Arkansas and Louisiana to the national program to eradicate boll weevil from cotton fields in these areas.

APHIS has prepared site specific environmental assessments for the proposed eradication activities in Mississippi and in the Red River Valley area of Arkansas and Louisiana. The analyses for these sites focused on potential effects of chemical pesticides and potential outbreaks of secondary pests. In addition to the routine operational procedures and mitigation measures that are followed in all areas of the national program, these site specific environmental assessments recommend additional protective measures to further reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects.

These site specific environmental assessments and the programmatic environmental impact statement provide the basis for our conclusion that the implementation of the proposed boll weevil eradication programs in Mississippi and in the Red River Valley area of Arkansas and Louisiana will not have a significant impact on the quality

of the human environment in either area.

The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of July 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19362 Filed 7-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food and Consumer Service****Agency Information Collection****Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request, Food Stamp Program Form FCS-521, Food Coupon Deposit Document**

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collection. The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) requires that all verified and encoded redemption certificates accepted by insured financial institutions from authorized retail food stores shall be forwarded with the corresponding coupon deposits to the Federal Reserve Bank along with the accompanying Food Coupon Deposit Document (Form FCS-521). Requirements in the Food Stamp Regulations are the basis for the information collected on Form FCS-521, Food Coupon Deposit Document.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of

the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Suzanne M. Fecteau, Chief, Redemption Management Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection form and instructions should be directed to Suzanne M. Fecteau, (703) 305-2418.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Coupon Deposit Document.

OMB Number: 0584-0314.

Expiration Date: 9/30/97.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection for which approval expires on September 30, 1997.

Abstract: The Food and Consumer Service (FCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the Federal Agency responsible for the Food Stamp Program. The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires that the Agency provide for the redemption, through financial institutions, of food coupons accepted by retail food stores from program participants. Section 278.5 of the Food Stamp Program regulations governs financial institution and Federal Reserve participation in the food coupon redemption process. Form FCS-521, Food Coupon Deposit Document (FCDD) is required to be used by all financial institutions when they deposit food coupons at Federal Reserve Banks. Without the FCDD, no vehicle would exist for financial institutions, Federal Reserve Banks, and the FCS to track deposits of food coupons.

Affected Public: Federal Agencies or employees, and businesses or other-for-profit financial institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 37.8.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 378,000.

Estimate of Burden: Estimated to average .006944 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 3,675 hours.

Dated: July 10, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19276 Filed 7-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Finger Mountain Timber Sale(s), Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Chatham Area, Sitka, Alaska; Revision

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Revision.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has revised the proposed action for the Finger Mountain Project described in the notice of intent published June 30, 1997 (**Federal Register**: Volume 62, Number 125, Pages 35145-35146). The revised proposed action includes: (1) Timber harvest and subsequent regeneration on approximately 2,300 acres of forested land resulting in the production of approximately 50 million board feet of sawlog and utility timber. (2) Construction of approximately 40 miles of permanent road, 14 miles of temporary road, and reconstruction of approximately 14 miles of existing road. (3) Construction of two new log transfer facilities and reconstruction of one existing log transfer facility. This proposed action is one alternative for meeting for purpose and need for the project.

The Finger Mountain Project Area is now expected to provide between 10 and 70 million board feet of timber to the timber industry in one or more timber sales. The actual range of alternatives considered in the Environmental Impact Statement will be determined during analysis.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action.

No other revisions are made to the original notice of intent published June 30, 1997.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by August 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Finger Mountain Planning Team, Sitka Ranger District, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Winn, Team Leader, Sitka Ranger District, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835, phone (907) 747-6671, fax (907) 747-4331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the notice of intent published June 30, 1997 (**Federal Register**: Volume 62, Number 125, Pages 35145-35146) for supplementary information regarding this project.

Dated: July 15, 1997.

Gary A. Morrison,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-19361 Filed 7-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 6:00 p.m. and adjourn at 8:00 p.m. on August 7, 1997, at the Plaza, 1001 County Line Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss draft report and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, July 15, 1997.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 97-19273 Filed 7-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-U

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Missouri Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on