

and acquisition. The purpose of such releases is to ensure that the program of outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers is widely publicized and accessible to all.

(2) USDA will disclose information in the system to a court or adjudicative body in a proceeding when: (a) The agency or any component thereof; or (b) any employee of the agency in his or her official capacity; or (c) any employee of the agency in his or her individual capacity where the agency has agreed to represent the employee; or (d) the United States Government is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and by careful review, determines that the records are both relevant and necessary to the litigation and the use of such records is therefore deemed by the agency to be for a purpose compatible with the purpose for which the agency collected the records.

(3) When a record on its face, or in conjunction with other records, indicates a violation or potential violation of law, whether civil, criminal or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute or particular program statute, or by regulation, rule, or order issued pursuant thereto, disclosure may be made to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, foreign, State, local, or tribal, or other public authority responsible for enforcing, investigating or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, or rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto, if the information disclosed is relevant to any enforcement, regulatory, investigative or prospective responsibility of the receiving entity.

(4) USDA will disclose information in the system to a Member of Congress or to a Congressional staff member in response to an inquiry of the Congressional office made at the written request of the constituent about whom the record is maintained.

(5) Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the National Archives and Records Administration or to the General Service Administration for records management inspections conducted under 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

(6) USDA will disclose information in the system to agency contractors, grantees, experts, consultants or volunteers who have been engaged by the agency to assist in the performance of a service related to this system of records and who need to have access to the records in order to perform the activity. Recipients shall be required to comply with the requirements of the

Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Records will be stored by the USDA Office of Outreach as electronic files; from time to time portions may be converted to and maintained in paper format.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Files will be referenced by county location of farmland.

SAFEGUARDS:

Records, both paper and electronic, are accessible only to authorized personnel and are maintained in offices that are locked during non-duty hours. Organizations requesting access to the Voluntary Minority Farm Register records for specific farmland retention related activities must make application to the USDA Office of Outreach, outlining their proposed use of the records. If the proposal is approved, the Office of Outreach will create the appropriate print or electronic files to meet the request. In case of requests for names and addresses in just a few counties, an alternative access procedure may be used in which the USDA Office of Outreach informs USDA County Service Centers what organizations have been approved. In those cases, an approved organization can obtain printed files at the appropriate county offices.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

The current Voluntary Minority Farm Register will be recreated at biennial intervals, in order to update name and address information and to ensure the inclusion of any changes in farmland ownership recorded in Farm Service Agency records. A letter will be sent to all Register participants. The letter will clarify that there is no need for action if name, address or farmland circumstances have not changed. A master file of each generation of the Voluntary Minority Farm Register will be kept in locked file cabinets until 6 years after creation and then destroyed by shredding or burning in accordance with approved record retention schedules.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Office of the Director, Office of Outreach, USDA, James L. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Any individual may request information regarding this system of records from the system manager.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Any individual who has volunteered to be included on the Voluntary Minority Farm Register may gain access to register records which pertain to him or her by submitting a written request to the system manager or by visiting his or her local USDA Service Center and submitting a written request.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Any individual may contest a record in the Register that pertains to him or her by submitting pertinent written information to the system manager.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information in this system comes only from the individuals who voluntarily sign up for the Register.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-058-1]

National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a meeting of the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee.

PLACE, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING: The meeting will be held at the USDA Center at Riverside in the Conference Center, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. The meeting will be held on August 24-25, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Martin Mendoza, Jr., Director, Operational Support Staff, WS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7921.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture concerning policies, program issues, and research needed to conduct the Wildlife Services (WS) program. The Committee also serves as a public forum enabling those affected by the WS program to have a voice in the program's policies.

The meeting will focus on operational and research activities and will be open to the public. Due to time constraints, the public will not be able to participate in the Committee's discussions. However, written statements concerning meeting topics may be filed with the Committee before or after the meeting by sending them to Mr. Martin Mendoza at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, or may be filed at the meeting. Please refer to Docket No. 99-058-1 when submitting your statements.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of August 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Forestwide Noxious Weed Control, EIS, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, Silver Bow, Granite, and Powell Counties, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of mechanical, manual, biological, ground-based chemical, and aerial chemical noxious weed control methods across the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

The proposed action authorizes treatment of 37,762 acres; 15,082 acres by aerial application of chemicals, 22,640 acres by ground-based application of chemicals, 34 acres by biological methods, and 6.6 acres by mechanical methods. The objectives of the proposal are to: Protect the biodiversity of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest by preventing or limiting the spread of noxious weeds; eliminate new invaders before they become established; reduce known and potential weed seed sources; prevent or limit the spread of established weeds into areas containing little or no infestation; and protect sensitive and unique habitats.

DATES: Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received

in writing no later than September 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The responsible official is Mike Paterni, acting Forest Supervisor, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, 420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725. Send written comments to the responsible official.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Petroni, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, also at the Supervisor's Office in Dillon, or phone: (406) 683-3900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Aerial application of herbicides would be authorized to treat about 40% of the identified infestations. An integration approach would be used to treat all infestations, including biological, mechanical, and ground-based chemical control methods. New infestations would be evaluated to determine if the site fits within the scope of the EIS and then prioritized for treatment. Sites selected for control would be treated using the parameters established and the analysis conducted in this EIS. Treatment of additional sites would be based on a site type stratification process which defined each site by landscape position, soil type and depth, habitat type or community, slope, and aspect. Pretreatment surveys would be conducted to determine management objectives for the site, special considerations (sensitive plants, presence of live water, threatened and sensitive fish, etc.), recommended treatment methods, and other site-specific information.

The project areas are located throughout the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The scope of this proposal is limited to noxious weed control measures on known infestations and new infestations as they are identified, and related mitigation requirements within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Public participation is important to this analysis. Part of the goal of public involvement is to identify additional issues and to refine the general, tentative issues. A scoping notice describing the project was mailed to those who requested information about noxious weed control on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Coordination with Montana Department of Environmental Quality/Water Quality Division will occur regarding effects to water quality. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted concerning effects to threatened and endangered species.

Preliminary issues identified by Forest Service specialists include effects to soils, water quality, and potential public concerns about aerial application

of herbicides. The analysis will consider all reasonably foreseeable activities, including actions on lands adjacent to the National Forest.

People may visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. Two periods are specifically designated for comments on the analysis: (1) During the scoping process and (2) during the draft EIS period.

During the scoping process, the Forest Service is seeking additional information and comments from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. The agency invites written comments and suggestions on this action, particularly in terms of identification of issues and alternative development.

The draft EIS should be available for review in May, 2000. The final EIS is scheduled for completion in September, 2000.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The responsible official will make the decision on this proposal after considering comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and reasons for the decision will be document in a Record of Decision.

Dated: July 30, 1999.

Mike Paterni,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

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