

# 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.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by the U.S. Agency for International Development; Comments Requested

**SUMMARY:** U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is making efforts to reduce the paperwork burden. USAID invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act for 1995. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed or continuing collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before June 1, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Johnson, Bureau for Management, Office of Administrative Services, Information and Records Division, U.S. Agency for International Development, Room 2.07-106. RRB, Washington, DC, 20523, (202) 712-1365 or via e-mail [bjohnson@usaid.gov](mailto:bjohnson@usaid.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB No.: OMB 0412-0012.

Form No.: AID 282.

Title: Supplier's Certificate Agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development Invoice-and-Contract Abstract.

Type of Review: Renewal of information collection.

**Purpose:** The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) finances goods and related services under its Commodity Import Program which are contracted for by public and private entities in the countries receiving the USAID Assistance. Since USAID is not a party to these contracts, USAID needs some means to collect information directly from the suppliers of the goods and related services and to enable USAID to take an appropriate action against them in the event they do not comply with the applicable regulations. USAID does this by securing from the suppliers, as a condition for the disbursement of funds a certificate and agreement with USAID which contains appropriate representations by the suppliers.

**Annual Reporting Burden:**

**Respondents:** 800.

**Total annual responses:** 2,400.

**Total annual hours requested:** 2,400 hours (½ hour per response).

Dated: March 26, 2004.

**Cynthia Staples,**

*Acting Chief, Information and Records Division, Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for Management.*

[FR Doc. 04-7305 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6116-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-112-3]

#### Vaccination of Wild Bison; Confirmation of Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are confirming our finding that the assistance of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in the subcutaneous vaccination of wild, free-ranging bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area with Strain RB51 vaccine to help prevent the spread of brucellosis will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Additionally, we are advising the public of the availability of our discussion of issues raised by the public in response to an environmental

assessment regarding that vaccination and the finding of no significant impact.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain copies of the environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, and our discussion of comments received, contact the National Center for Animal Health Programs, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-4923. The documents are also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/vsdocs.html>. At that Web site page, click on the link for "Subcutaneous Vaccination of Wild, Free-ranging Bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area, Environmental Assessment, November 2003."

You may also read the environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, and comments received and our discussion of those comments in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Arnold Gertonson, Yellowstone Brucellosis Coordinator, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, Building B MSC 3E13, 2150 Centre Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117; (970) 494-7363.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Brucellosis is a contagious disease caused by *Brucella* bacteria. It can infect cattle, bison, elk, other animals, and humans. In cattle, bison, and elk, the specific disease organism is *Brucella abortus*. In infected cattle and bison, the disease organism localizes in lymph nodes, reproductive organs, and/or the udder, causing abortion in females and systemic effects in both males and females. Brucellosis is transmitted through contaminated and untreated

milk and milk products and through direct contact with an infected aborted fetus or calf, afterbirth, or other reproductive tract discharges.

Brucellosis is considered one of the most serious diseases of livestock. While its hallmark symptom is abortion, brucellosis can also result in decreased milk production, weight loss in animals, infertility, and lameness. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has worked for years to eliminate this disease from the United States.

The only known reservoir of *Brucella abortus* in the United States occurs in wild, free-ranging populations of bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), which comprises areas of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The significance of wildlife in the GYA as a reservoir of brucellosis and potential source of infection for cattle in the GYA has been widely recognized. Additionally, free-ranging bison herds in the GYA are a natural resource of great importance.

To address the issue of brucellosis in the GYA, the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service, the State of Montana, and their cooperators (including the U.S. Department of Agriculture) developed an Interagency Bison Management Plan for the bison herd in Yellowstone National Park (YNP). One of the disease management requirements of the plan is for eligible bison to be vaccinated against brucellosis. The Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) has requested APHIS's assistance with the vaccination against brucellosis of wild, free-ranging bison calves and non-pregnant yearlings that leave YNP and migrate onto State, private, or other Federal lands.

On December 5, 2003, we published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 68020–68021, Docket No. 03–112–1) a notice in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) examining the potential environmental effects of APHIS's involvement in the vaccination described above. Additionally, we announced the availability of a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) in which we set forth our determination that subcutaneous vaccination of free-ranging bison of the GYA with Strain RB51 vaccine would not significantly impact human health or the environment.

In the notice of availability, we solicited comments on the EA and FONSI for 30 days ending on January 5, 2004. On January 14, 2004, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 2110, Docket No. 03–112–2) in which we reopened the

comment period and extended it until January 20, 2004. We received a total of 143 comments by January 20, 2004.

The commenters addressed a wide range of issues, including:

- Whether the EA met the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Some commenters expressed the view that APHIS's release of a FONSI before the public had a chance to comment on the EA constituted a violation of NEPA. Others questioned whether the EA contained all of the elements required of an EA under NEPA.
- Which alternative presented in the EA should be adopted
- Whether bison are affected by brucellosis and whether there have been any reported cases of free-ranging bison transmitting the disease to cattle.
- The natural role of brucellosis in the environment.
- Issues regarding the potential impacts of vaccination on bison and nontarget species, including the efficacy and safety of the Strain RB51 vaccine, the potential for stress-related maladies in bison because of vaccination, and potential erosion of the wild nature of the YNP bison herd due to handling during the vaccination process.
- Whether the EA addressed the concerns of Native Americans.
- Requests that APHIS conduct an economic analysis to assess the costs and benefits of a vaccination program and the potential effects on the local economy.

We have reviewed and considered all issues raised by the commenters. Based on that review, we are confirming our determination that APHIS' assistance with the vaccination will not significantly impact human health or the environment. We are also making available to the public our discussion of all issues raised by the commenters in a document titled "Analysis of Comments Received on Subcutaneous Vaccination of Wild, Free-Ranging Bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area, Environmental Assessment/FONSI." Instructions for viewing that document, the EA, and the FONSI are included under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice.

Done in Washington, DC, this 26th day of March 2004.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 04–7309 Filed 3–31–04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### McSutten Decision Area; Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, MT

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA–Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to disclose the environmental effects of timber harvest, prescribed burning, and road management in the McSutten Decision Area (Decisions Area) on the Rexford Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest. The Decision Area is located approximately 12 miles southwest of Eureka, Montana.

**DATES:** Written comments and suggestions should be postmarked or received within 30 days following publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to Glen M. McNitt, District Ranger, Rexford Ranger District, 1299 U.S. Highway 93 N, Eureka, MT 59917.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Chris Fox, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Rexford Ranger District. Phone: (406) 296–7155.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Decision Area contains approximately 62,200 acres of land within the Kootenai National Forest. Proposed activities within the Decision Area include all or portions of the following areas: T32–35N, R27–29W, PMM, Lincoln County, Montana.

All proposed activities are outside the boundaries of any roadless area or any areas considered for inclusion to the National Wilderness System as recommended by the Kootenai National Forest Plan or by any past or present legislative wilderness proposals.

**Purpose and Need:** The purpose and need for the project is: (1) Reduce fuel accumulations to decrease the likelihood that fires would become large stand-replacing wildfires; (2) restore characteristic vegetation patterns (patch sizes and stand structure) on the landscape; (3) increase habitat for wildlife species that utilize early vegetative stages and maintain huckleberry fields over time to provide foraging opportunities for wildlife and provide for social needs; (4) provide a transportation system that increases security for big game, reduces impacts to aquatic resources, improves riparian wildlife habitat, and insures economical and safe access; and (5) respond to the