

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 72, No. 231

Monday, December 3, 2007

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2007–0135]

Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid; Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have prepared a finding of no significant impact relative to a new Federal order that restricts the interstate movement of regulated articles from areas quarantined for citrus greening disease and the Asian citrus psyllid. The finding of no significant impact is based on an environmental assessment that we prepared to document our review and analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the new Federal order. In a notice published in the **Federal Register** on November 2, 2007, we made the environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment, but noted that we may have to begin an expanded citrus greening regulatory program in Florida immediately and issue a finding of no significant impact for the environmental assessment before the comment period on the environmental assessment concludes.

DATES: The finding of no significant impact was signed on November 2, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen R. Poe, Senior Operations Officer, Emergency and Domestic Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–8899.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Citrus greening, also known as huanglongbing, is considered to be one of the most serious citrus diseases in the world. Citrus greening is a bacterial disease that attacks the vascular system of plants. The bacteria are phloem-limited and cause yellow shoots, blotchy mottling and chlorosis, reduced foliage, and tip dieback of citrus plants. It greatly reduces production, destroys the economic value of the fruit, and can kill trees. Once infected, there is no cure for a tree with citrus greening disease. In areas of the world where citrus greening is endemic, citrus trees decline and die within a few years and may never produce usable fruit. Citrus greening is widespread in Asia, Africa, and the Saudi Arabian Peninsula. It has been reported in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was first detected in the United States in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in 2005, and now has been confirmed in 28 counties in Florida.

On November 2, 2007, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 62204–62205, Docket No. APHIS–2007–0135) in which we advised the public that an environmental assessment had been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) relative to a new Federal order that restricts the interstate movement of regulated articles from areas quarantined for citrus greening disease and the Asian citrus psyllid. The environmental assessment documents our review and analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the new Federal order. We made the environmental assessment available to the public for review and solicited comments for 30 days ending on December 3, 2007.

In our November 2, 2007, notice, we informed the public that due to the serious and destructive nature of citrus greening disease, we had found it necessary to expand the number of counties in Florida from which the movement of plants that are hosts of citrus greening is present in order to prevent the further spread and infestation of the disease and to expand the areas quarantined due to the presence of Asian citrus psyllid so that

¹ You may view the environmental assessment and submit comments on that document by going to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2007-0135>.

host plants can be treated and inspected before being moved interstate.

That notice also stated that, because citrus greening is a highly injurious citrus disease and the Asian citrus psyllid is harmful both as the insect vector of the disease and as a significant citrus pest in its own right, we had determined that it may be necessary to immediately address both the disease and the associated insect pest. This, we explained, would be accomplished by restricting the movement of hosts of citrus greening from areas where the disease is present, and by regulating and treating plants that are hosts of the psyllid from those areas where the insect is present and may be spread through the movement of infested nursery stock.

Based on those considerations, we advised the public that APHIS may have to begin the expanded citrus greening regulatory program in Florida immediately and issue a finding of no significant impact for the environmental assessment before the comment period on the environmental assessment concluded. We stated that if that were to occur, we would still evaluate and respond to all the comments we received on the environmental assessment after the comment period has ended.

On November 2, 2007, APHIS issued the new Federal order quarantining 28 Florida counties for citrus greening and quarantining 32 Texas counties and the entirety of the States of Florida and Hawaii, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territory of Guam for Asian citrus psyllid. The Federal order restricts the movement of all live host plants and host plant parts from areas quarantined for citrus greening and requires Asian citrus psyllid host material to be inspected, treated, and the accompanied by a limited permit in order to be moved from a quarantined area. Because we have found it necessary to begin the expanded citrus greening regulatory program in Florida immediately, we have likewise found it necessary to issue a finding of no significant impact for the environmental assessment before the comment period on the environmental assessment has concluded.

The finding of no significant impact may be viewed, along with the environmental assessment on which it is based, on the Regulations.gov Web

site² or in our reading room.³ You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when requesting copies.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (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 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of November 2007.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E7–23369 Filed 11–30–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

List of Newspapers To Be Used by the Alaska Region for Publication of Legal Notices of Decisions Subject to Administrative Appeal Under 36 CFR Part 217

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that Forests and the Regional Office of the Alaska Region will use to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217, thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers begins on December 1, 2008. This list of

newspapers will remain in effect until it is superseded by a new list, published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Robin Dale, Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; Forest Service, Alaska Region; P.O. Box 21628; Juneau, Alaska 99802–1628.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robin Dale, Alaska Region Group Leader for Appeals, Litigation and FOIA; (907) 586–9344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice provides the list of newspapers that Responsible Officials in the Alaska Region will use to give notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217. The timeframe for appeal under 36 CFR part 217 shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record identified in this notice.

The newspapers to be used for giving notice of Forest Service decisions in the Alaska Region are as follows:

Alaska Regional Office

Decisions of the Alaska Regional Forester: Juneau Empire, published daily except Saturday and official holidays in Juneau, Alaska; and the Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Chugach National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor: Anchorage Daily News, published daily in Anchorage, Alaska.

Tongass National Forest

Decisions of the Forest Supervisor: Ketchikan Daily News, published daily except Sundays and official holidays in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Supplemental notices may be published in any newspaper, but the timeframes for filing appeals will be calculated based upon the date that notices are published in the newspapers of record listed in this notice.

Dated: November 21, 2007.

Paul K. Brewster,

Acting Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 07–5895 Filed 11–30–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland; Wyoming; Inyan Kara Analysis Area Vegetation Management Phase II

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is analyzing the management of rangeland vegetation resources, which includes livestock grazing, on the National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. NFS lands that comprise the Inyan Kara Analysis Area Vegetation Management Phase II will be assessed to determine how existing resource conditions compare to the desired conditions outlined in the Thunder Basin National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). A management strategy will be developed in order to maintain or improve rangeland and vegetation conditions toward LRMP desired conditions.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by the 30th day after the publication in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is expected February 11, 2008 and the final environmental impact statement is expected May 12, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Marilee Houtler, NEPA Coordinator, Douglas Ranger District, 2250 East Richards Street, Douglas, Wyoming 82633 or e-mail to comments-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-routt-douglass-thunder-basin@fs.fed.us All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection. The public may inspect comments received at Douglas Ranger District, 2250 E. Richards, Douglas, WY 82633. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (307) 358–4690 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ernie Gipson, Rangeland Management Specialist or Misty Hays, Deputy District Ranger, Douglas Ranger District, 2250 E. Richards Street, Douglas, WY 82633 (307) 358–4690. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Vegetation resources on approximately 135,405 acres of NFS lands, lying within the Thunder Basin National Grassland boundaries and within portions of Weston and Niobrara Counties, Wyoming (Townships 41–48 North, Ranges 62–68 West), are being analyzed to determine if and how existing conditions differ from desired conditions outlined in the 2001 LRMP.

² See footnote 1.

³ 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.