

stages by different inspectors, depending upon the location of the flock, hatchery, and breeding flock. The inspector obtains some of the needed information by interviewing the appropriate poultry producers. When several States are involved in a pullorum-typhoid infection, the completed form will be sent to each of the States involved so that all of them will be aware of the investigation's outcome.

#### **Sentinel Birds Banded for Identification Prior to Flock Vaccination**

When a Federally licensed *Salmonella enteritidis* bacterin is used to vaccinate a flock, 350 birds must remain unvaccinated so that they can be used to conduct the necessary serological tests for *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella gallinarum*. These test birds must be banded so that they can be recognized as sentinel birds. A report is submitted annually to APHIS, from the various States, with information from their participants and data required by the various disease control programs of the NPIP.

#### **Request for Salmonella Serotyping (VS Form 10-3)**

This is a National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) form that must be completed by State or APHIS personnel who are submitting samples for salmonella serotyping. If samples were sent to NVSL without this form, lab personnel would have no way of identifying any given sample as to the flock from which it came, or even the disease for which the sample is to be tested.

#### **Printing and Mailing Computerized Printouts**

These printouts are constructed by hatchery operators who ship large numbers of small chick orders all across the United States. These computerized lists contain all the information found on a VS 9-3, but reduce the paperwork load substantially because they are computer generated. These printouts are sent every month to those States that request them. The States use these printouts to monitor the number of small chicks they are receiving.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .165 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Flock owners, breeders, hatchery operators, and State veterinary medical officers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 9,075.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.139.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 7,695 hours.

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of July 1997.

**Craig A. Reed,**

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

[FR Doc. 97-18204 Filed 7-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 97-066-1]

#### **Genetically Engineered Virus Resistant Plants; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will hold a meeting to discuss several issues related to the use of transgenes from plant viruses in the development of genetically engineered plants. The meeting will be operated as a workshop, and we request that interested persons register 2 weeks before the meeting date.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held in Riverdale, MD, on Tuesday, August 5, 1997, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Training Room 4 at the USDA Center at

Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about the agenda and to register for the meeting, contact Dr. James White, Biotechnology and Scientific Services, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-5940; or e-mail: [jwhite@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:jwhite@aphis.usda.gov). Information about the meeting is also available on the Internet at the APHIS World Wide Web site: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotech>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests," regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered "regulated articles." Before introducing a regulated article, a person is required under § 340.0 of the regulations to either (1) notify the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in accordance with § 340.3 or (2) obtain a permit in accordance with § 340.4. The regulations in § 340.6 provide that any person may submit a petition to APHIS seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340. In this regard, APHIS believes it appropriate to review any new scientific issues associated with the release of certain genetically engineered organisms when questions arise concerning the use of such organisms in the environment.

To provide an opportunity for a discussion of the scientific issues surrounding the development of certain virus resistant plants, APHIS has scheduled a workshop to be held in Riverdale, MD, on August 5, 1997. Three issues will be addressed in the meeting.

(1) Some plant viruses replicate in a limited number of plant cells. If a plant is engineered to be resistant using one of the genes from these viruses and the transgene is produced in all the plant cells, does this raise the likelihood of a new virus appearing via recombination?

(2) The next generation of genetically engineered virus resistant plants may contain several transgenes derived from one virus, e.g., replicase and coat protein. Does the presence of a larger

proportion of the genome of a virus in a plant raise the likelihood of a new virus appearing?

(3) Most scientific discussions of the risks associated with the use of transgenes focus on transgenes derived from RNA viruses. Are there any additional concerns with use of transgenes derived from single stranded DNA plant viruses, e.g., geminiviruses?

APHIS has invited a group of scientists with recognized expertise in viral recombination to explore these subject areas. The public is invited to attend and to participate in the discussions. We expect to provide a summary of the discussions, which will be made available on the APHIS World Wide web site, or by contacting the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

We request that interested persons submit registrations, which should include name, address, and telephone number, by July 22, 1997, to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of July 1997.

**Terry L. Medley,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-18144 Filed 7-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

[3410-11]

#### **Ramshorn Forest Vegetation Management, Shoshone National Forest, Fremont County, Wyoming**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to manage forest vegetation in the upper Brent Creek and Tappen Creek drainages located on the Wind River District of the Shoshone National Forest within Fremont County, Wyoming. The area adopted for analysis in the EIS corresponds to the Ramshorn Analysis Area delineated in the 1986 Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The proposal includes the use of prescribed fire, timber harvest, fuelwood sales, aspen stand enhancement measures, and other practices designed to improve the long term health and diversity of forest vegetation throughout the analysis area. Optimum use would be made of small

timber sales for the benefit of local businesses and operators. About 700 acres would be treated in the forest's suited timber base to partially meet the forest health and diversity objective. About 300 acres would be treated in the forested area outside the suited base to assist in meeting the vegetation health and diversity goal. High priority for treatment would include areas where aspen stands are in danger of being lost, where there is a high degree of wildfire risk, where there is increased mortality due to insect and disease infestation and in large stands lacking in species and structural diversity.

Approximately two miles of new road construction and three miles of road reconstruction would be necessary to access the suited base portion of the analysis area. The proposal includes closing all new roads and existing closed roads opened for the purpose of this project following completion of the project.

The scope of this analysis offers the possibility of a number of alternatives that vary the mix of treatment measures for improving forest vegetation health and diversity within a discrete area.

The primary underlying purpose for this proposal is to improve the health and diversity of forest vegetation within the Ramshorn analysis area. The need for doing this is indicated by the imbalance of current forest conditions and trends with respect to diversity standards in the forest plan, and by the risks associated with extensive fuel buildups and insect and disease infestations. The purpose and need focuses on the forest plan goal of: Improving tree age class and species diversity to benefit forest health, recreation experiences, visual quality, and wildlife habitat (Forest Plan page III-8). Forest vegetation diversity standards to be exercised in meeting this goal are found in Forest Plan direction on pages III-19 through 21.

In meeting the primary goal, a number of secondary goals are addressed. These include: (1) Managing vegetation types to provide multiple benefits commensurate with land capability and resource demand (Forest Plan page III-6); (2) Improve the health and vigor of vegetation types outside wilderness and selected types in wilderness where necessary (Forest Plan page III-6); (3) Integrate vegetation management with resource management in functional areas (Plan page III-7); (4) Adopt visual quality objectives that will maintain or enhance the characteristic landscapes of the Forest (Plan page III-7); (5) Improve habitats where vegetation conditions are significantly below biological potential (Plan page III-8); (6) Maintain or

improve habitat for threatened or endangered species (Plan page III-8); (7) Rehabilitate lands in declining and unsatisfactory watershed condition (Plan page III-9); (8) Reduce the accumulation of natural fuels (Plan page III-8); (9) Reduce damages by insect, disease, and other Forest pests to acceptable levels through integrated management of vegetation (Plan page III-10); (10) Provide timber sales of sufficient quantity and quality to attract investment by the timber industry to accomplish desired vegetation management (Plan page III-8).

In order to achieve the primary goal in the Ramshorn area, identified impacts will need to be addressed through mitigation and application of forest plan standards and guidelines. This includes attention to cumulative impacts, including roads, and the need to meet forest plan direction for "no net increase" in roads (Forest Plan Allowable Sale Quantity Record of Decision, pages 5-6, and Amendment No. 94-001). The area analysis being implemented through this action is supported by direction to take an "ecosystem" or "landscape" approach to management (Forest Plan Allowable Sale Quantity Record of Decision, page 5).

The decision to be made involves the selection of an appropriate mix of treatment types where the primary goal is improving forest health and diversity, and where consideration is made within that context for meeting secondary goals through treatment type, timing, and design. The decision will also include other specific mitigation measures where needed to meet resource needs determined through the analysis of impacts. The area analysis could surface the necessity for making a nonsignificant amendment to the forest plan, and the decision would address whether or not to do so. A significant forest plan amendment is beyond the scope of this analysis.

The Forest Service invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis to be included in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). In addition, the Forest Service gives notice that it is beginning a full environmental analysis and decision-making process for this proposal so that interested or affected people may know how they can participate in the environmental analysis and contribute to the final decision.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by August 8, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Bob Rossman, ID Team Leader, Wind