

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 143

Monday, July 27, 1998

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License; Correction Notice

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Correction to notice of intent to grant exclusive license.

SUMMARY: In notice document published in the issue of Monday, July 13, 1998, (63 FR 37512) the Serial No. 07/550,310 was erroneous. This notice corrects the exclusive grant license to Satake USA Inc., of Modesto, California, as follows:

On page 37512, in the second column, first paragraph of the USDA notice, the Serial No. was incorrect. The correct Serial No. is 08/550,310.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,
Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-19909 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-071-1]

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 four environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of genetically engineered organisms. The environmental assessments provide a basis for our conclusion that the field testing of the genetically engineered organisms will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its findings of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that environmental impact statements need not be prepared for these field tests.

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 telephone before visiting on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Arnold Foudin, Assistant Director, Scientific Services, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7710. For copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, contact Ms. Linda Lightle at (301) 734-8231; e-mail: Linda.Lightle@usda.gov. Please refer to the permit numbers listed below when ordering the documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340 (referred

to below as the regulations) regulate the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment) of genetically engineered organisms and products that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests (regulated articles). A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

In the course of reviewing each permit application, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) assessed the impact on the environment that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit application would have. APHIS has issued permits for the field testing of the organisms listed below after concluding that the organisms will not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, which are based on data submitted by the applicant and on a review of other relevant literature, provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field tests.

Environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms:

Permit No.	Permittee	Date issued	Organisms	Field test location
98-117-03r	Limagrain Genetics Research.	6-10-98	Corn genetically engineered to express the human serum albumin protein.	Illinois, Iowa.
98-117-04r	Limagrain Genetics Research.	6-12-98	Corn genetically engineered to express the rabies virus G glycoprotein.	Indiana.
98-117-01r	Limagrain Genetics Research.	6-12-98	Corn genetically engineered to express human hemoglobin protein chains.	Illinois.
98-117-02r	Limagrain Genetics Research.	6-12-98	Corn genetically engineered to express a human procollagen type chain protein.	Indiana.

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 22nd day of July 1998.

Charles P. Schwalbe,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98–19996 Filed 7–24–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Saveno DeBorgiac Timber Sales and Road Rehabilitation; Superior Ranger District, Lolo National Forest; Mineral County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of timber harvesting, prescribed burning, road access changes, and watershed rehabilitation in a 38,000 acre area near St. Regis, Montana.

DATES: Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing no later than August 26, 1998. Comments received during the initial scoping will be considered in the analysis and do not need to be resubmitted during this comment time period.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Cindy Chapman Enstrom, District Ranger, Superior Ranger District, Box 460, Superior, MT 59872.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Mason, Saveno DeBorgiac Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Superior Ranger District, as above, or phone: (406) 822–4233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The responsible official who will make decisions based on this EIS is Charles C. Wildes, Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest, Building 24 Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59804. He will decide 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 documented in a Record of Decision.

The Forest Service proposed to harvest about 33,000 hundred cubic feet of timber from about 1700 acres (about 1030 of those acres to be burned after harvest), to reconstruct or recondition about 7.5 miles of road and stabilize and/or obliterate about 10.3 miles of existing road (primarily to mitigate existing water quality and fish habitat impacts), and to add new yearlong road closures to about 7.3 miles of currently open roads. New road construction would be limited to about 2.5 miles of permanent road and about 3.4 miles of temporary road.

Lands affected are within the Twin Creek, Savenac Creek, Timber Creek, McManus Creek and Packer Creek drainages, tributary to the St. Regis River, between Saltese and DeBorgia, Montana. The project area is bounded by Interstate 90 to the south and the divide between Plains/Thompson Falls and superior Ranger Districts to the north.

The purpose of this proposal is to carry out the goals and direction given in the Lolo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan with ecosystem management principles. Key elements of the purpose and need are:

- (1) Maintain existing elk security habitat;
- (2) Modify stand structures in lodgepole pine to reduce susceptibility to mountain pine beetle;
- (3) Accelerate succession in mid seral, moist mixed conifer stands where potential exists to develop late seral, multi-storied structures with old growth characteristics;
- (4) Replace the ponderosa pine communities which developed from poorly adapted seed from other states. The trees were planted in the early 1900's. These stands are experiencing extensive mortality from diseases, and are also increasingly susceptible to bark beetle attacks. These communities are also naturally reproducing, and degrading the locally adapted gene pool;
- (5) Develop stand structures that are equivalent to single story, moisture limited conditions resembling structures developed from very frequent, low intensity ground fires. The resulting stand structures will enhance growth and development of ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas-fir stands;
- (6) The St. Regis River is a priority watershed for bull trout recovery; we will protect the species and seek opportunities to enhance and restore habitat;

(7) The St. Regis River is a Water Quality Limited Segment (WQLS). Increased sediment has resulted in the "cold water fishery" to be only partially supported. The proposal seeks opportunities to eliminate erosion and control sediment sources to improve water quality in the streams entering the St. Regis River; and

(8) Provide forest products in support of forest plan goals.

The decision to be made is to what extent, if at all, the Forest Service should conduct timber harvest, prescribed burning, road construction or reconstruction, road reclamation, and road closure in the Twin Creek, Savenac Creek, Timber Creek, McManus Creek and Packer Creek drainages, given the above purpose and need. This is a site specific project decision, not a general management plan nor a programmatic analysis.

Public scoping has been conducted on this proposal and the alternatives developed for this proposal.

While quite a number of issues have been identified for environmental effects analysis, the following issues are the one which so far have been found significant enough to guide alternative development and provide focus for the EIS.

(1) Water quality and fisheries habitat effects resulting from timber harvest and road construction and rehabilitation activities;

(2) Forest health issues pertaining to even-aged management and restoration; and

(3) Economic effects on local communities resulting from different access methods and resulting timber values.

The proposed action could have both beneficial and adverse effects on these resources. In addition to the proposed action, a range of alternatives have been developed in response to issues identified during scoping. Alternatives planned for detailed study are:

- (1) No action; none of the proposed activities would be implemented.
- (2) Restoration of offsite ponderosa pine stands. Mid-seral stands will be treated to develop multi-storied stands with large trees, and dry sites with a history of high fire frequency will be thinned to develop open stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and larch. Approximately 77 percent of the volume will be helicopter yarded, 12 percent will be tractor yarded and 11 percent will skyline yarded.

Road work	Approximate miles
Construction, new roads	0.0