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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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-090-1]

Availability of Pest Risk Assessment for the Importation of Unshu Oranges From the Republic of Korea Into Citrus Producing States of the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a pest risk assessment relative to a proposed rule currently under consideration that would allow the importation of Unshu oranges from the Republic of Korea into citrus producing States of the continental United States. We are making the pest risk assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 00-090-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 00-090-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 00-090-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on the pest risk assessment 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. Gary Cave, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, PPQ, APHIS, 1017 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2500, Raleigh, NC 27606-5202; (919) 513-2127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in "Subpart—Citrus Fruit" (7 CFR 319.28, referred to below as the regulations), Unshu oranges from the Republic of Korea may be imported, under certain conditions, into any area in the United States except American Samoa, Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, which are citrus-producing States.

At the request of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering amending the regulations to allow the importation of Unshu oranges from the Republic of Korea into citrus-producing States in the continental United States. To evaluate the risks associated with the importation of Unshu oranges from the Republic of Korea as specified in the Korean Government's request, APHIS has drafted a pest risk assessment entitled "Expansion of the Importation of Fresh Unshu Orange Fruit (*Citrus reticulata* Blanco var. *unshu* Swingle) from the Republic of Korea into Citrus Producing States of the Continental United States" (October 4, 2002). This notice solicits public comments on the pest risk assessment.

You may view the pest risk assessment on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pral/>, or in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is provided under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice). You may also request a copy from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 7711-7714, 7718, 7731, 7732, and 7751-7754; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of October 2002.

Bobby R. Acord,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-28074 Filed 11-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tahoe National Forest; Sierra County, CA; Cottonwood Fire Vegetation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, gives notice of the Agency's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of applying registered herbicides to approximately 13,500 acres of National Forest System land. The application will reduce competition from overgrown vegetation that is adversely affecting the survival and growth of conifer seedlings on the Sierraville Ranger District. The project proposes to apply glyphosate (trade name Accord or equivalent) and triclopyr (trade name Garlon 4 or equivalent), using backpack sprayers, in the spring and summer months when herbicide treatments are most effective. The acres identified for application would be treated over a five- to seven-year time period.

The purpose of the project is to help ensure survival, and stimulate vigor and growth of sufficient numbers of conifer seedlings in order to accelerate the development of a biologically and structurally diverse forest. Following a wildfire in 1994 that destroyed much of the forest stand structure, shrub and

grass have re-occupied the area, competing with conifer seedlings for limited resources. This competition is prolonging the time it will take for the native conifer forest to re-establish. Restoring the area to a conifer forest sooner will develop a more fire resistant and healthy forest in less time.

Alternative, non-herbicide methods to control competing vegetation have been attempted over the past eight years, but success has been limited due to cost and inability to treat enough area. Because of this, the Forest Service believes the least impacting and most cost effective method to reduce competing vegetation is through prudent and careful application of registered herbicides.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposed action should be received by November 19, 2002. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected to be completed in January 2003, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is expected to be completed in April 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Deborah Walker, Sierraville Ranger District, PO Box 95, Sierraville, CA 96126, or by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to deborahwalker@fs.fed.us. For further information, mail correspondence to Jeff Leach, NEPA Coordinator, Sierraville Ranger District, PO Box 95, Sierraville, CA 96126.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions and comments about the proposed action should be directed to Deborah Walker or Jeff Leach at the above address, or by phone at 530-994-3401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

In 1994, the Cottonwood Fire burned more than 46,000 acres of forest land on the Tahoe and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests. In 1995, the Tahoe National Forest prepared an environmental document authorizing the use of manual and mechanical release methods to accelerate conifer growth and development by controlling shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Since that time conifer seedlings have either been planted or naturally regenerated in the area. Even though this area historically supported large conifer trees, the site is now predominately occupied by shrubs, such as snowbrush and manzanita. The project area is considered a Sierra Nevada east-side pine type, where moisture is the most limiting factor in determining plant survival. Shrubs and trees currently occupy the same depth of rooting zone in the soil profile. These particular shrub species have the ability to extract soil moisture more effectively

than do the trees, especially under dry conditions. This ability to extract soil water under extremely dry conditions gives shrubs a competitive advantage over young seedlings, so there is a need to control shrubs before tree mortality becomes too severe.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to:

1. Apply the herbicides glyphosate and triclopyr to selected units in the Cottonwood burn area on a total of 13,500 acres. Treated areas would encompass less than 30% of the total burn area.
2. Include a surfactant to improve the herbicide effectiveness and a colorant to aid in identifying treated areas.
3. Use backpack sprayers to apply the registered herbicides during the spring and summer months.
4. Treat between 1,500 acres and 3,600 acres a year over a five- to seven-year period. Re-treatment may be necessary on up to one-third of the project area, depending on herbicide effectiveness.
5. Treat individual target plants uniformly over the entire area, except near stream channels, where a spot application would be used.
6. Establish a no-treatment zone along all stream channels of 25 feet on either side and around wet areas (seeps, springs, and fens) of 50 feet.
7. Avoid treating areas not productive for growing trees, areas that were unburned or lightly burned, sites that have a predominance of cheatgrass, known sensitive plant occurrences, or areas that have been selected as cover habitat for wildlife species.

Possible Alternatives

Alternatives being considered at this time include: (1) Proposed action; (2) no action alternative that would not implement the proposed action or allow for manual and mechanical release; and (3) continue with manual and mechanical release treatments exclusively. Additional alternatives to this proposal would be based on significant issues identified during the scoping process.

Responsible Official

The District Ranger, Sierraville Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest, is the responsible official making the decision and can be reached at PO Box 95, Sierraville CA 96126. As the responsible official, the District Ranger will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision, which will be published along with the final EIS. That decision will be subject

to Forest Service appeal regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether to implement the Cottonwood Fire Vegetation Management Project as described above, modify the proposal in response to an unresolved issue based on comments received during public scoping, or not take any action at this time.

Scoping Process

Public participation is viewed as an integral part of the environmental analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking points of dispute, debate, or disagreement from Federal, State, and local governmental agencies as well as from individuals or organizations that may be potentially interested or affected by the proposed action. A scoping letter will be mailed to persons who have expressed interest in the proposed action based on notification in the Tahoe National Forest Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions and by notification through a published legal notice in the *Mountain Messenger*, Downieville, California, and the *Sierra Booster*, Loyalton, California. In addition, persons who provided comment on the Cottonwood Fire Vegetation Management Environmental Assessment (2000) will be mailed a scoping letter.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIS. Comments submitted during the scoping process should be in writing or email, and should be specific to the proposed action. The comments should describe as clearly and completely as possible any points of dispute, debate, or disagreement the commenter has with the proposal. Once scoping letters are received, the District shall identify all potential issues, eliminate non-significant issues or those covered by another environmental analysis, identify issues to analyze in depth, develop additional alternatives to address those significant issues, and identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action as well as fully analyzed alternatives.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in January 2003. EPA will publish a notice of availability of the

draft EIS in the **Federal Register** at that time. The comment period on the draft EIS will extend for 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be mailed to potentially interested and affected agencies, organizations, and individuals for their review and comment and to those who provided comment during the scoping period. It is very important that those interested in the Cottonwood Fire Vegetation Management Project participate by providing comment at that time.

The final EIS would be completed in April 2003. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS, as well as applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court ruling related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft Environmental Impact Statement must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the Draft Environmental Impact Statement stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the FEIS, may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the two-week comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS 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 DEIS 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 of 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

Dated: October 30, 2002.

Steven T. Eubanks,

Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-28051 Filed 11-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Public law 92-463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisor Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday, November 18, 2002. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau, 40637 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA. The purpose of the meeting is an update about the RAC presentation at the Madera County Board of Supervisor's meeting September 17, 2002, update RAC committee outreach, discuss a subject for a news article and develop a planning schedule for projects and project reviews.

DATES: The Madera Resource Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, November 18, 2002. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau, 40637 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Martin, U.S.D.A., Sierra National Forest, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA, 93643 (559) 877-2217 ext. 3100; e-mail: dmartin05@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review Clover Meadow road project, (2) update on RAC committee outreach, and, (3) follow up on newspaper article, (4) have evaluation of past projects. The meeting is open to the public. Public input

opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: October 31, 2002.

David W. Martin,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 02-28053 Filed 11-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Crook County Resource Advisory Committee, Sundance, Wyoming, USDA, Forest Service

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Black Hills National Forests' Crook County Resource Advisory Committee will meet Monday, November 18, 2002 in Sundance, Wyoming for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on November 18, begins at 6:30 PM, at U.S. Forest Service, Bearlodge Ranger District office, 121 South 21st Street, Sundance, Wyoming. Agenda topics will include reviewing the response of the community to a call for project proposals, discussion of selection criteria and procedures and scheduling future meetings. A public forum will begin at 8:30 p.m. (MT).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Kozel, Bearlodge District Ranger and Designated Federal Officer, at (307) 283-1361.

Dated: October 29, 2002.

Steve Kozel,

Bearlodge District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 02-28136 Filed 11-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

East Prong Little Pigeon River Watershed, Sevier County, TN

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.