

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. Tracy A. Horner, Ecologist, Environmental Services, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-5213.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering several applications for permits to release the nonindigenous leaf-mining weevil *Acythopeus cocciniae* in order to reduce the severity and extent of ivy gourd (*Coccinia grandis*) infestations in Guam and Saipan.

Ivy gourd is native to Africa, Asia, Fiji, and northern Australia. This invasive weed is a rapidly growing, climbing or trailing vine that forms thick mats, overgrowing trees and other vegetation, walls, fences, and utility poles. Ivy gourd also serves as a host for numerous pests of cucurbitaceous crops, including black leaf-footed bug (*Leptoglossus australis*), leafminers (*Liriomyza* spp.), melon aphid (*Aphis gossypii*), melon fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*), pumpkin caterpillar (*Diaphania indica*), red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*), and whiteflies (*Bemisia* spp.).

Ivy gourd has been detected in the United States in Guam, Hawaii, and Saipan. In July 1999, we prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential release of *A. cocciniae* and another weevil of the same genus, *A. burkhartorum*, into the environment for use as biological control agents to reduce the severity and extent of ivy gourd infestations in the State of Hawaii. APHIS has subsequently received permit applications for additional releases of *A. cocciniae* beyond the area considered in the 1999 EA. The applicants propose to release *A. cocciniae* in Guam and Saipan to reduce the severity and extent of ivy gourd infestation on those islands.

A. cocciniae is native to Africa. Adults live up to 200 days and feed on the leaves of the ivy gourd, creating numerous holes in the lamina. Eggs are laid singly by insertion into the lamina of the leaves. The eggs hatch in about 8 days, and the larvae mine the leaves for 9 to 10 days thereafter. Pupation takes place within the mine and lasts for 15 days. Adult feeding and larval mining can cause drying of the leaves and eventual defoliation.

APHIS' review and analysis of the proposed action and its alternatives are documented in detail in an EA entitled, "Field Release of *Acythopeus cocciniae* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), a nonindigenous leaf-mining weevil for control of ivy gourd, *Coccinia grandis* (Cucurbitaceae), in Guam and Saipan" (February 2003). We are making the EA available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The EA may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/> by following the link for "Document/Forms Retrieval System" then clicking on the triangle beside "6—Permits—Environmental Assessments," and selecting document number 0034. You may request paper copies of the EA by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the EA when requesting copies. The EA is also available for review in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

The EA has 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 2nd day of April 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-8518 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kootenai (KNF) and Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF); Montana, Idaho and Washington; Extension of Scoping For Revised Land and Resource Management Plans

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of the scoping period in conjunction with revision of the Land and Resource Management Plans (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan or Plans) for the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests (Kootenai Idaho Panhandle Zone, hereafter referred to as KIPZ) located in Lincoln, Sanders, and Flathead counties in Montana; Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, and Clearwater counties in Idaho; and Pend Oreille county in Washington.

SUMMARY: The scoping period has been extended for the proposed revised Forest Plans and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The original notice of intent was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 83, on page 21210, on April 30, 2002 as FR Doc. 02-10548.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received in writing by May 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions to Forest Supervisor, c/o Forest Plan Revision, Kootenai National Forest, 1101 W Hwy 2, Libby, MT 59923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Krueger at (406) 293-6211 or Gary Ford at (208) 765-7478.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The scoping period has been extended to May 30, 2003, to provide additional time for public access to the Analysis of the Management Situation report. Comments received during the scoping period will be used to develop alternatives in the DEIS.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

Bob Castaneda,

Kootenai Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-8483 Filed 4-7-03; 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 Advisory Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday, April 21, 2003. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Spring Valley Elementary School in O'Neals, CA. The purpose of the meeting is: update on the RAC new committee members, revisit RAC FY 2003 proposals and updates of proposal information, review progress of FY 2002 accounting, review Madera County RAC mission and clarify voting procedures.

DATES: The Madera Resource Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, April 21, 2003. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the Spring Valley Elementary School, 46655 Road 2000, O'Neals, CA 93645.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Martin, USDA, Sierra National Forest, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA, 93643 (559) 877-2218 ext. 3100; e-mail: dmartin05@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Update on RAC new committee members; (2) revisit RAC FY 2003 proposals and updates of proposal information; (3) review progress of FY 2002 accounting; (4) review Madera County RAC mission and; (5) clarify voting procedures. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

David W. Martin,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 03-8484 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of \$23 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year

(FY) 2003 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. In order to be eligible for grant funds, the agricultural producer or rural small business must demonstrate financial need. The grant request must not exceed 25 percent of the eligible project costs.

DATES: Applications must be completed and submitted to the appropriate United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Rural Development Office postmarked no later than June 6, 2003. Applications postmarked after June 6, 2003, will be returned to the applicant with no action. Comments regarding the information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 must be received on or before June 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit proposals to the USDA State Rural Development Office where your project is located or, in the case of a rural small business, where you are headquartered. A list of the Energy Coordinators and State Rural Development Office addresses and telephone numbers follow. For further information about this solicitation, please contact the applicable State Office.

USDA State Rural Development Offices

Alabama

Chris Harmon, USDA Rural Development
Sterling Center, Suite 601
4121 Carmichael Road
Montgomery, AL 36106-3683
(334) 279-3615

Alaska

Dean Stewart, USDA Rural Development
800 West Evergreen, Suite 201
Palmer, AK 99645-6539
(907) 761-7722

Arizona

Gary Mack, USDA Rural Development
3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 900
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2906
(602) 280-8717

Arkansas

Shirley Tucker, USDA Rural Development
700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225
(501) 301-3280

California

Charles Clendenin, USDA Rural
Development
430 G Street, Agency 4169
Davis, CA 95616-4169
(530) 792-5825

Colorado

Sue McWilliams, USDA Rural Development
628 West 5th Street
Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 565-8416, Ext. 127

Delaware-Maryland

James Waters, USDA Rural Development
4607 South Dupont Hwy.
P.O. Box 400
Camden, DE 19934-0400
(302) 697-4324

Florida/Virgin Islands

Joe Mueller, USDA Rural Development
4440 NW. 25th Place
P.O. Box 147010
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010
(352) 338-3482

Georgia

J. Craig Scroggs, USDA Rural Development
333 Phillips Drive
McDonough, GA 30253
(678) 583-0866

Hawaii

Tim O'Connell, USDA Rural Development
Federal Building, Room 311
154 Waiianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 933-8313

Idaho

Dale Lish, USDA Rural Development
725 Jensen Grove Drive, Suite 1
Blackfoot, ID 83221
(208) 785-5840, Ext. 118

Illinois

Cathy McNeal, USDA Rural Development
2118 West Park Court, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 403-6209

Indiana

Jerry Hay, USDA Rural Development
North Vernon Area Office
2600 Highway 7 North
North Vernon, IN 47265
(812) 346-3411, Ext. 4

Iowa

Jeff Kuntz, USDA Rural Development
Federal Building, Room 873
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(614) 932-3031

Kansas

Larry Carnahan, USDA Rural Development
P.O. Box 437
115 West 4th Street
Altamont, KS 67330
(620) 784-5431

Kentucky

Dewayne Easter, USDA Rural Development
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40503
(859) 224-7435

Louisiana

Kevin Boone, USDA Rural Development
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302
(318) 473-7960

Maine

Michael Rollins, USDA Rural Development
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4
P.O. Box 405
Bangor, ME 04402-0405