

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-022-1]

Availability of a Draft Pest Risk Analysis for the Importation of Hass Avocado Fruit From Mexico

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of the availability of a draft pest risk analysis that has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to a proposed rule currently under consideration that would allow the importation of Hass avocados from Mexico into the entire United States and during all months of the year. We are making this draft pest risk analysis available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 15, 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. 03-022-1, 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. 03-022-1. 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. 03-022-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on the draft pest risk analysis 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. Ron A. Sequeira, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, PPQ, APHIS, 1017 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2500, Raleigh, NC 27606-5202; (919) 513-2663.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering amending the fruits and vegetables regulations in 7 CFR 319.56-2ff to allow the importation of Hass avocados from Mexico into the entire United States and during all months of the year. Fresh Hass variety avocados from Michoacan, Mexico, may currently be imported for distribution into 31 States and the District of Columbia between October 15 and April 15 under a systems approach for mitigating pest risk. The draft pest risk analysis entitled, "Importation of 'Hass' Avocado Fruit (*Persea americana*) from Mexico" (May 2003), considers the pest risks associated with the possible expansion of this program to allow importation of these avocados into all 50 States and the District of Columbia and throughout the year. We are making the draft pest risk analysis available to the public for review and comment.

You may view the draft pest risk analysis 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 of the document from the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

This notice solicits public comments on the draft pest risk analysis. We will also be making the draft pest risk analysis available for public comment again during the comment period for any proposed rule related to the importation of Hass avocados from Mexico.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 7711-7714, 7718, 7731, 7732, 7751-7754, and 7760; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC this 11th day of June 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-15212 Filed 6-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Information Collection; Collection of Market Prices

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on a new information collection needed by the CCC to establish market values for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, minor oilseeds, and pulses.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 15, 2003, to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Shirlene Engle, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Program Development Branch, STOP 0553, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0553; e-mail: Shirlene.Engle@wdc.usda.gov. Comments may be faxed to (202) 690-3123.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shirlene Engle, Program Specialist, Storage Contract Branch, (202) 720-7397.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Collection of Market Prices.

OMB Control Number: 0560-New.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The information collected will allow CCC merchandisers to collect electronically, or by telephone, daily sales and purchase prices from grain terminals to establish Posted County Prices (PCP's) for the Marketing Assistance Loan Program (MAL), which is operated by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. CCC's authority to collect this information is the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714, *et seq.*). Posted County Prices provide an estimate of market prices at the county level and are the prices at which program participants may redeem grain pledged as collateral for marketing assistance loans. The information collected is also used in constructing bid acceptance criteria for the purchase and sale of CCC-owned bulk grain such as wheat, corn, rice, soybean, and

soybean meal for export donation programs.

To the extent this information collection is associated with the MAL, the collection is exempt from the requirements of the PRA by section 1601 of the 2002 Act (7 U.S.C. 7991). However, to the extent the information collection is associated with other uses, it is not exempt and, because the collection burden for those other uses is the same as for MAL uses, the request for approval covers the entire collection.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Warehouse operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 240.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,800 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of CCC's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) enhancing the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) minimizing the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 6, 2003.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-15075 Filed 6-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Coconino and Tonto National Forests, AZ; Fossil Creek Area Planning EIS

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Coconino and Tonto National Forests are developing an EIS to analyze the effects of proposed management changes within the Fossil Creek area. This EIS and planning process would result in the development and implementation of new management areas, standards, and guidelines within both forests' management plans.

The Fossil Creek planning area lies within the administrative boundaries of the Coconino and Tonto National Forests (NFs) in Coconino, Gila, and Yavapai Counties in central Arizona. On the Coconino NF, the planning area includes the Fossil Springs Wilderness, Fossil Creek Botanical area and portions of the Hackberry and Boulder Canyon Inventoried Roadless Areas. The Tonto NF portion contains the proposed Fossil Creek State Natural area and a segment of the Mazatzal Wilderness.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by July 8, 2003. The Forest Service expects to complete the draft environmental impact statement by late summer 2003, and the final environmental impact statement by February 2004.

ADDRESSES: To provide comments or to obtain further information please contact: Judy Adams, Red Rock Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86339, or e-mail comments to jadams05@fs.fed.us. Comments or information requests can also be made by fax at 928.203.7539. Information on this project may be obtained on the Coconino National Forest Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy Adams, Coconino National Forest (see contact information above).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Fossil Creek is one of Arizona's rare perennial streams, flowing from Fossil Springs southwest to the Verde River. The neighboring landscape is rich in unique resources, including native fish and wildlife, cultural resources, designated wilderness areas, abundant riparian vegetation, and crystal clear spring waters. With the anticipated decommissioning of the Childs/Irving power plants and the restoration of full flows to Fossil Creek, travertine mineral deposits are expected to recreate a unique system of pools and waterfalls, resulting in new and varied fish and wildlife habitat, more diverse vegetation and increased scenic quality. These travertine forming mineral deposits occur in only two other locations in Arizona, making this a rare and important resource.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this planning effort is to initiate management changes within the Fossil Creek area. These changes will be designed to address several issues, including the need for additional protection of Fossil Creek's uncommon resources, an increasing public demand for high quality water based recreation and the anticipated decommissioning of the Childs/Irving power plant facilities. The decommissioning of the power plants will return full, natural flows to the entire length of Fossil Creek.

Recent Forest Service inventories of conditions along Fossil Creek show high recreation pressures affecting streamside soils, plants, and archaeological resources. An important purpose of management changes is to restore and protect these sensitive and unique areas, while continuing to offer access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Coconino and Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) provide general goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines for various management areas, land allocations, and activities designated in the planning area. This planning effort is expected to result in an amendment to both Forest Plans, creating congruity in management direction and incorporating appropriate new direction.

Proposed Action

The action proposed by the Coconino and Tonto National Forests consists of making management changes within the Fossil Creek area. These changes would result in amendments to both Forest Plans, and would establish new standards and guidelines and new and/or modified management areas. Meeting these goals would facilitate the recovery and protection of riparian vegetation, stream channel characteristics, wildlife and fish habitat, soils, and cultural values, while still providing a variety of recreational experiences.

Possible Alternatives

The following are preliminary management alternatives that have been developed in response to preliminary significant issues derived from both the public and the agency. These preliminary alternatives will be further refined as the analysis process progresses. Additional alternatives may be developed if necessary to respond to new information.

Several management actions are similar for all alternatives, excluding the no action alternative. In all instances, the majority of Forest Road (FR) 708 would remain open to public vehicle