

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. 96-004-1]

Boll Weevil Control Program; Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact for a program to eradicate the boll weevil in the South Texas/Wintergarden area. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that the methods employed to eradicate the pest will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment and finding 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 call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Vicki Wickheiser, Writer/Editor, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237, (301) 734-8565. Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact may be obtained by contacting Ms. Wickheiser or by calling Plant Protection and Quarantine's Central Region Office at (210) 504-4154.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 147a, 148, and 450, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with the States and certain other organizations and individuals to control and eradicate plant pests.

The boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis Boheman*) is a destructive pest of cotton which causes annual economic losses to the agricultural industry and consumers. Since its introduction in southern Texas in the late 1800's, the boll weevil has spread across the area of the United States known as the Cotton Belt. Since the early 1950's, the United States agricultural community has acknowledged the need for a beltwide strategy for controlling the boll weevil. Since the first pilot program in 1971, programs implemented in an incremental fashion have been successful in eradicating the boll weevil from over 3.5 million acres in major areas of the Cotton Belt.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in cooperation with the State of Texas, the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc., and local cotton producers, has developed a program to eradicate boll weevil from cotton fields in the South Texas/Wintergarden area.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA, has prepared an environmental assessment to analyze the potential effects of this eradication program on the human environment. Based on the environmental assessment, APHIS has determined that the program to eradicate boll weevil in the South Texas/Wintergarden area will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (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 13th day of February 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-3706 Filed 2-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Forest Service

Priest Lake Noxious Weed Control Project, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner and Boundary Counties, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the potential environmental effects of noxious weed treatment on the Priest Lake Ranger District. Treatment sites would be at various locations across the district and are within the Priest River Ecosystem, Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonner and Boundary Counties, Idaho and Pend Oreille County, Washington. Most treatment sites are located near or along forest roads, trails, powerline corridors, recreation sites and meadows within grazing allotments.

The proposed action to control populations of noxious and undesirable weeds on certain travel corridors and areas is designed to prevent the spread of these weeds and promote the retention and health of native and/or desirable plants within this ecosystem. The proposed action would use an integrated pest management approach to control weeds. This approach includes mechanical, biological, cultural, and chemical control.

Over 13 new or potential species of weed will be considered for control. The major species considered for control include spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), meadow hawkweed (*Hieracium pratense*), dalmation toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), goat weed (*Hypericum perforatum* L.), hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) and common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*). Other species may include diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*),