

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 67, No. 239

Thursday, December 12, 2002

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. 02-060-2]

Availability of an 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 an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the control of rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*). The environmental assessment considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the release of a nonindigenous organism, Chondrilla root moth (*Bradyrrhoa gilveolella*), into the environment for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of rush skeletonweed infestations. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Robert V. Flanders, Branch Chief, Pest Permit Evaluation, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1228; (301) 734-5930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering an application from the University of Montana for a permit to release a nonindigenous organism, Chondrilla root moth (*Bradyrrhoa gilveolella*), to reduce the severity of rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) in the continental United States.

Native to Eurasia, rush skeletonweed has become established in the District of Columbia and several States including California, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. This invasive weed infests roadsides, railways, rangelands, pastures, grain fields, coastal sand dunes, and shaley hillsides in mountainous regions. Rush skeletonweed causes losses in infested grain fields, reduces rangeland forage production, and reduces plant and animal diversity.

On July 25, 2002, we published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 48610-48611, Docket No. 02-060-1) a notice in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential effects of the release of the Chondrilla root moth into the environment for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of rush skeletonweed infestations. Chondrilla root moth larvae feed on the roots of rush skeletonweed, causing the plant to die or increasing its susceptibility to pathogenic fungi.

We solicited comments on the EA for 30 days ending on August 26, 2002. We received one comment by that date. The commenter supported the proposed action.

In this document, we are advising the public of APHIS' record of decision and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) regarding the proposed field release of the Chondrilla root moth into the environment for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of rush skeletonweed infestations. The decision, which is based on the analysis found in the EA, reflects our determination that release of the organism will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq> by following the link for "Documents/Forms Retrieval System" then clicking on the triangle beside "6—Permits—Environmental Assessments," and selecting document number 0037. You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when requesting copies. The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are 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 and FONSI have 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 6th day of December 2002.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-31308 Filed 12-11-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 10, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppie, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202)720-9550. FAX: (202)720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for reinstatement.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of 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. Comments may be sent to: F. Lamont Heppie, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202)720-4120.

Title: RUS Specification for Quality Control and Inspection of Timber Products.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0076.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: 7 CFR 1728.202 and RUS Bulletin 1728H-702 describe the responsibilities and procedures pertaining to the quality control by producers and pertaining to inspection of timber products produced in accordance with RUS specifications. In order to ensure the security of loan funds, adequate quality control of timber products is vital to loan security

on electric power systems where hundreds of thousands of wood poles and crossarms are used. Since RUS and its borrowers do not have the expertise or manpower to quickly determine imperfections in the wood products or their preservatives treatments, they must obtain services of an inspection agency to insure that the specifications for wood poles and crossarms are being met.

Estimate of Burden: This collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; business or other for profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 700.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 58.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 40,763 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Michele Brooks, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202)690-1078. FAX: (202)720-4120

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Hilda Gay Legg,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 02-31363 Filed 12-11-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Postsecondary Internship Program Intern Evaluation Survey

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington,

DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Carin Otero, Postsecondary Internship Program Officer, Room 6022, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-1445. In addition, written comments may be sent via the Internet at COtero1@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Office of Executive Assistance Management (OEBAM) manages the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) Postsecondary Internship Program. The program is competitively awarded and funded by cooperative agreements with the purpose of providing experiential training opportunities for postsecondary students at DOC and other Federal agencies. The program is administered through a partnership between DOC and non-profit and/or educational institutions. This information collection would allow DOC management to evaluate and analyze the performance of the Postsecondary Internship Program and our diversity efforts to reach out to under-represented ethnic and racial communities. The information will be used for program management, strategic planning, allocation of resources and performance measures. The survey is part of DOC's efforts to implement objectives of the National Performance Review, Government Performance and Results Act and the President's Management Agenda.

II. Method of collection

The survey is conducted in paper form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0690-0021.

Form Numbers: CD 577.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 110.

Estimated Time Per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 55.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to the Public: None.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the