

living plants, plant parts, and seeds for propagation.

Among other things, the regulations require artificially dwarfed plants imported into the United States to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the government of the country of origin. This certificate must contain declarations that certain conditions were met in the country of origin to protect against the infestation of the plants by longhorned beetles and other plant pests.

We are asking OMB to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of burden:* The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.25 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Plant health officials of exporting countries.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 20.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 5.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 100.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 25 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of December, 2003.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-30236 Filed 12-4-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-111-1]

#### Double-Crested Cormorant Management in the United States; Record of Decision

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's record of decision for the Double-Crested Cormorant Management in the United States final environmental impact statement.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the record of decision and the final environmental impact statement on which the record of decision is based 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. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

The record of decision may be viewed on the Wildlife Services Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/pubs.html>. The final environmental impact statement may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/cormorant/cormorant.html>.

Copies of the record of decision and the final environmental impact statement may be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David S. Reinhold, Environmental Coordinator, Operational Support Staff, WS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737-1235; (301) 734-7921.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice advises the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared a record of decision based on the Double-Crested Cormorant Management in the United States final environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

APHIS was a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. The USFWS published the notice of availability for the final EIS in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 2003 (68 FR 47603) and published its Record of Decision on October 8, 2003 (68 FR 58022). APHIS has independently reviewed the EIS and has concluded its comments and suggestions have been satisfied. APHIS has now prepared a record of decision on the adopted EIS and is making it available to the public. This record of decision 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 December 2003.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-30229 Filed 12-4-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-112-1]

#### Vaccination of Wild Bison; Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**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 subcutaneous vaccination of wild, free-ranging bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area with Strain RB51 vaccine to help prevent the spread of brucellosis. The environmental assessment documents our review and analysis of environmental impacts associated with the vaccination and provides a basis for our conclusion that vaccination of the bison will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. We are making the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 5, 2004.

**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. 03-112-1, 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. 03-112-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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. 03-112-1" on the subject line.

To obtain copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact the National Center for Animal Health Programs, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-4923. The documents are also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/vsdocs.html>.

You may also read the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, and any comments we receive on those documents, 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. Arnold Gertonson, Yellowstone Brucellosis Coordinator, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, Building B MSC 3E13, 2150 Centre Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117; (970) 494-7363.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Brucellosis is a contagious disease caused by *Brucella* bacteria. It can infect cattle, bison, elk, other animals, and humans. In cattle, bison, and elk, the specific disease organism is *Brucella abortus*. In infected cattle and bison, the

disease organism localizes in lymph nodes, reproductive organs, and/or the udder, causing abortion in females and systemic effects in both males and females. Brucellosis is transmitted through contaminated and untreated milk and milk products and through direct contact with an infected aborted fetus or calf, afterbirth, or other reproductive tract discharges.

Brucellosis is considered one of the most serious diseases of livestock. While its hallmark symptom is abortion, brucellosis can also result in decreased milk production, weight loss in animals, infertility, and lameness. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has worked for years to eliminate this disease from the United States.

The only known reservoir of *Brucella abortus* in the United States occurs in wild, free-ranging populations of bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), which comprises areas of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The significance of wildlife in the GYA as a reservoir of brucellosis and potential source of infection for cattle in the GYA has been widely recognized. Additionally, free-ranging bison herds in the GYA are a natural resource of great importance.

To address the issue of brucellosis in the GYA, the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service, the State of Montana, and their cooperators (including the U.S. Department of Agriculture) developed an Interagency Bison Management Plan for the bison herd in Yellowstone National Park (YNP). One of the disease management requirements of the plan is for eligible bison to be vaccinated against brucellosis.

The Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) has requested APHIS's assistance with the vaccination against brucellosis of wild, free-ranging bison calves and non-pregnant yearlings that leave YNP and migrate onto State, private, or other Federal lands. The MDOL anticipates starting bison vaccination as early as this winter, using Strain RB51 vaccine, when bison begin to leave YNP in search of vegetation.

APHIS has completed an environmental assessment (EA) that examines the potential environmental effects of APHIS's involvement in the vaccination described above. Our review and analysis are documented in detail in an EA entitled "Subcutaneous Vaccination of Wild, Free-Ranging Bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area; Environmental Assessment (November 2003)." Based on that EA, APHIS has determined that subcutaneous vaccination of wild, free-ranging bison

of the GYA with Strain RB51 vaccine will not significantly impact human health or the environment. That determination is set forth in a document titled "Finding of No Significant Impact for Subcutaneous Vaccination of Wild, Free-Ranging Bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area; Environmental Assessment (November 2003)."

We are making the EA and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) available to the public for review and comment. (Instructions for obtaining copies of the EA and FONSI are included under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice.) We will consider all comments on the EA and FONSI that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice. Following the close of the comment period, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** in which we will discuss any issues raised by commenters.

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 2nd day of December, 2003.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-30237 Filed 12-4-03; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**South Fork Wildfire Salvage Project, Boise National Forest, ID**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a resource management project in the South Fork Salmon River. The entire project area is located within watersheds that drain directly into the South Fork Salmon River or its tributaries, downstream of Warm Lake. The project area is located 25 miles northeast of Cascade, Idaho, and about 120 miles north of Boise, Idaho.