

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 02-034-1]

Availability of a Supplemental Environmental Assessment**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that a supplemental environmental assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the control of pink hibiscus mealybug, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*. The supplemental environmental assessment considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the release of nonindigenous organisms into the environment for use as biological control agents to suppress pink hibiscus mealybug infestations. We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered, or e-mailed by June 3, 2002.

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. 02-034-1, 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. 02-034-1. 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. 02-034-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on the supplemental environmental assessment 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. Dale Meyerdirk, Agriculturist, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 135, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to release nonindigenous species of parasitic wasps in the genus *Allotropia* (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae) in the continental United States and U.S. territories in the Caribbean to control pink hibiscus mealybug, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*.

Pink hibiscus mealybug (PHM) is a foreign plant pest that attacks a wide variety of agricultural and ornamental plant hosts. It has invaded areas in Guam, Hawaii, California, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, and it is expected that PHM will invade the southern regions of the United States. The purpose of the proposed release is to suppress PHM infestations.

APHIS' current PHM control program involves the release of three other varieties of parasitic wasps. On June 24, 1997, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 34043-34044, Docket No. 97-054-1) in which we announced the availability of an environmental assessment describing the impact and plant pest risk associated with releasing exotic species of parasitic wasps in the genera *Anagyrus* and *Gyranusoidea* (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) into the environment to control PHM. Similarly, on November 12, 1997, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 60683, Docket No. 97-106-1) in which we announced the availability of an environmental assessment describing the environmental impact and plant pest risk associated with releasing exotic species of parasitic wasps in the genus *Leptomastix* (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) into the environment to control PHM.

APHIS has completed a supplemental environmental assessment that considers the effects of, and alternatives to, releasing parasitic wasps in a fourth genus, *Allotropia* (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae), into the environment. Mealybugs are the only known hosts of the species of *Allotropia* (except for a suspect report a century ago) that are candidates for introduction in the United States. There is no evidence that the release of this biological control agent will adversely affect threatened

and endangered species or their habitat. The biological characteristics of wasps in the genus *Allotropia* preclude any possibility of harmful effects on human health.

APHIS' review and analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with releasing this biological control agent into the environment are documented in detail in a supplemental environmental assessment entitled "Control of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae)" (February 2002). We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive by the date listed under the heading DATES at the beginning of this notice.

You may request copies of the supplemental environmental assessment by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the supplemental environmental assessment when requesting copies. The supplemental environmental assessment 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 supplemental environmental assessment 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 26th day of April, 2002.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-10883 Filed 5-1-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 02-039-1]

National Poultry Improvement Plan; General Conference Committee Meeting and Biennial Conference**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a meeting of the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan and of the Biennial Conference.

DATES: The General Conference Committee will meet on May 30, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Biennial Conference will meet on May 31, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on June 1, 2002, from 8 a.m. to noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, 217 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, TX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Andrew R. Rhorer, Senior Coordinator, National Poultry Improvement Plan, VS, APHIS, 1498 Klondike Road, Suite 200, Conyers, GA 30094-1231; (770) 922-3496.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The General Conference Committee (the Committee) of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), representing cooperating State agencies and poultry industry members, serves an essential function by acting as liaison between the poultry industry and the Department in matters pertaining to poultry health. In addition, this Committee assists the Department in planning, organizing, and conducting the NPIP Biennial Conference.

Topics for discussion at the upcoming meetings include:

1. Minimum State standards for emergency poultry disease control.
2. Testing recommendations for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *M. synoviae* when dealing with spike males.
3. Establishment of a "U.S. Salmonella Typhimurium DT 104 Clean" program for egg-type chickens.
4. Establishment of a "U.S. Avian Influenza Clean" program for turkeys.
5. Establishment of a "U.S. Avian Influenza Clean" program for exhibition poultry and game birds.
6. Establishment of a model State program for poultry disease prevention; and
7. Establishment of a "U.S. Salmonella Enteritidis Clean State" classification for egg-type chickens.

The meetings will be open to the public. The sessions held on May 31 and June 1, 2002, will include delegates to the NPIP Biennial Conference, representing State officials and poultry industry personnel from the 48 cooperating States. However, due to time constraints, the public will not be allowed to participate in the discussions during either of the meetings. Written statements on meeting topics may be filed with the Committee before or after

the meetings by sending them to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Written statements may also be filed at the meetings. Please refer to Docket No. 02-039-1 when submitting your statements.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Done in Washington, DC, this 26th day of April, 2002.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-10885 Filed 5-1-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Finger Lakes National Forest, NY

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and a revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Finger Lakes National Forest located in Schuyler and Seneca Counties, New York.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for revising the Finger Lakes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan or Plan) pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1604[f] [5] and USDA Forest Service National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning regulations 36 CFR 219.12. The revised Forest Plan will supersede the current Forest Plan, which the Regional Forester approved January 15, 1987. The Finger Lakes National Forest Plan has been amended three times. This notice describes the focus areas of change, estimated dates for filing the EIS, information concerning public participation, and names and addresses of the responsible agency official and the individual who can provide additional information.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by 60 days after the date it is published in the **Federal Register**. Comments should focus on (1) the proposal for revising the Forest Plan and (2) possible alternatives for addressing issues associated with the proposal. The Draft EIS is expected January 2004 and the Final EIS and revised Forest Plan are expected December 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: NOI-FL Forest Plan Revision, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National

Forest, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the Finger Lakes National Forest Plan revision, mail correspondence to Michael Dockry, Assistant Forest Planner, 5218 State Route 414, Hector, NY 14841-9707 or call 607-546-4470 ext. 316 TTY 607-546-4476; or send electronic mail to: <mdockry@fs.fed.us>. For general information on the Forest Plan revision process, access the forest web page at: <www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Regional Forester for the Eastern Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an EIS to revise the Finger Lakes National Forest Plan. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS legally marks the beginning of the planning process.

As explained in this notice, the Finger Lakes National Forest is planning to revise their Land and Resource Management Plan. The scope of the decision is limited to topics that need revision, updates, or corrections. In addition, changes in goals, objectives, management area descriptions, standards and/or guidelines, definitions, and monitoring requirements may be necessary. Some items are beyond the scope of what can be changed in a Revised Forest Plan. See the document titled "Implementing the Finger Lakes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan—A 15 Year Retrospective" for more information.

The Finger Lakes National Forest Plan guides the overall management of the Finger Lakes National Forest. A Forest Plan is analogous to a county, city or municipal zoning plan. Forest Plans establish overall goals and objectives (or desired future resource conditions) that a National Forest will strive to achieve. This is done in order to contribute toward ecological sustainability as well as contribute to the economic and social sustainability of local communities affected by National Forest management activities. Decisions made in the Forest Plan do not compel the agency to undertake particular site-specific projects and thus do not normally make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources. Forest Plans also establish limitations on what actions may be authorized, and what conditions must be met during project decision-making. The following six decisions are made in a Forest Plan:

1. Forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives (as required by 36 CFR 219.11[b])
2. Forest-wide management requirements (36 CFR 219.27)