

Notices

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. 98-090-2]

RIN 0579-AB03

Classical Swine Fever: Availability of Risk Analysis Related to the Importation of Swine and Swine Products from the European Union

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of the availability of, and are requesting comments on, a revised analysis of the risk of introducing classical swine fever virus in swine and swine products imported from the European Union.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered, or e-mailed by July 2, 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. 98-090-2, 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. 98-090-2. 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. 98-090-2" on the subject line.

You may read the revised risk analysis and any comments that we receive on that document 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.

You may request a copy of "Risk Analysis for Importation of Classical Swine Fever Virus in Swine and Swine Products from the European Union—December 2000" by writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The risk analysis is also available on the Internet. Instructions for electronic access are included below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

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. Anne Goodman, Supervisory Staff Officer, Regionalization Evaluation Services Staff, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-4356.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (the Department) regulates the importation of animals and animal products to guard against the introduction of animal diseases into this country. The regulations pertaining to the importation of animals and animal products are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 9, chapter I, subchapter D (9 CFR parts 91 through 99).

On June 25, 1999, we published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 34155-34168, Docket No. 98-090-1) a proposal to, among other things, amend the regulations regarding the importation of swine and swine products from the European Union (EU).

Before developing our proposed rule, we conducted an analysis to determine the likelihood of introducing classical swine fever (which we referred to in the proposed rule as hog cholera) from the EU, and to determine what, if any, mitigation measures we considered necessary. We assessed the likelihood of

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introducing classical swine fever through the importation of live breeding swine, swine semen, and pork and pork products. We made the risk analysis available to the public during the comment period for the proposed rule.

We solicited comments concerning our proposed rule for 60 days ending August 24, 1999, and received five comments by that date. One of the comments expressed concerns with several aspects of our risk analysis. Based on that comment, and as recommended by the Department's Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis, we revised the initial risk analysis and included a supplement that presented in more detail specific information about classical swine fever outbreaks in the EU. The revised risk analysis is titled "Risk Analysis for Importation of Classical Swine Fever Virus in Swine and Swine Products from the European Union—December 2000."

We are giving notice that the revised risk analysis is available for public review and are requesting comments on the revised document. We will address any comments we receive on the revised risk analysis when we address the comments received on our June 1999 proposed rule.

Accessing the Revised Risk Analysis on the Internet

The Internet address for accessing the revised risk analysis is <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/reg-request.html>. At the bottom of that website page, click on "Information previously submitted by Regions requesting export approval and their supporting documentation." At the next screen, click on the triangle beside "European Union/Not Specified/Classical Swine Fever," then on the triangle beside "Response by APHIS." A link will then appear for "Risk Analysis for Importation of Classical Swine Fever Virus in Swine and Swine Products from the European Union—December 2000." Following that link will allow you to view the revised risk analysis.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 1622, 7711, 7712, 7713, 7714, 7751, and 7754; 19 U.S.C. 1306; 21 U.S.C. 102-105, 111, 114a, 134a-134d, 134f, 136, and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 42 U.S.C. 4331 and 4332; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of April, 2002.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-11009 Filed 5-2-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Cibola National Forest Invasive Plant Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposal to manage invasive plant species on the Cibola National Forest and the Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands. Counties included in the analysis area are Socorro, Sierra, Catron, Lincoln, Torrance, Bernalillo, Valencia, Cibola, Sandoval, McKinley, Colfax, Union, Mora and Harding in New Mexico; Dallam, Gray and Hemphill Counties in Texas; and Cimarron and Roger Mills Counties in Oklahoma.

DATES: Comments must be received, in writing, on or before May 31, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Range and Wildlife Staff, Forest Supervisor's Office, Cibola National Forest, 2113 Osuna Rd., NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001, Attn: Range, Wildlife and Watershed Staff. For further information, mail correspondence to: Range and Wildlife Staff, Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2113 Osuna Rd., NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001, phone (505) 346-3900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the Proposed Action of managing invasive plant infestations on the Cibola National Forest and Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands is to:

- Protect forests, rangelands, grasslands, wildlands and adjacent private, industrial and other agency lands by eradicating invasive plant species where possible and by limiting the spread of well established invasive plant species when eradication is not realistically possible given time and funding constraints;

- Comply with federal, state and county noxious weed laws regarding the management of noxious weed species.

Proposed Action

The project proposes to take an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to management of invasive plant species. This approach will combine biological, cultural, mechanical and chemical methods as well as incorporating prevention and education measures. These methods are further defined below:

- Biological control methods involve the release of insects or plant pathogens that impact invasive plant species through reduction of seed production, reduction of plant vigor, or other avenue that reduces the ability of invasive plants to dominate native plant communities. Biological control agents typically come from the area of origin of the pest plant host, which is usually overseas. These agents have been proven to be benign to native plants and crop species. They are generally not effective in elimination of invasive plants, and usually require large infestations to become established.

- Cultural control methods include planting, fertilizing or generally encouraging desired vegetation to limit sites available for encroachment by invasive species.

- Mechanical control methods involve hand pulling or digging individual plants, picking off and destroying flower and seed heads

- Chemical control methods involve the use of herbicides to kill invasive species while maintaining as much desirable vegetation as possible.

Possible Alternatives

Possible alternatives to the proposed action include taking no action against invasive plant species and using only non-chemical control methods.

Responsible Official

The responsible official is Liz Agpaoa, the Cibola National Forest Supervisor. The address is Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2113 Osuna Rd., NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001.

Nature of Decisions To Be Made

The decisions to be made are: (1) Whether to manage invasive plant species and if so, whether to use one or a combination of several methods of control, including mechanical, chemical, biological or cultural treatments and if so, where and how much? (2) A range of alternatives will be considered. These include taking no action against invasive plant species,

using only non-chemical control methods, and using a combination of control methods in an integrated pest management strategy.

Scoping Process

Public participation will be important at several times during the analysis. The first time is during the scoping period [Reviewer may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environment Policy Act (CFR) at 40 CFR 1501.7]. The Agency will be seeking written issues with the Proposed Action from Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribes, and other individuals who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, will be invited to participate as a cooperating agency to evaluate potential impacts to threatened and endangered species habitat if any such species are found to exist in the potential treatment areas. This input will be used to develop additional alternatives. The scoping process includes:

- Identifying potential issues;
- Selecting significant issues with the Proposed Action, needing in-depth analysis;
- Eliminating insignificant issues; issues that have been analyzed and documented in a previous EIS, issues that controvert the need for the Proposed Action, or issues that are outside the authority of the Responsible Official to decide;
- Exploration of additional alternatives based on the issues identified during the scoping process; and
- Identification of potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their