

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. 04-040-1]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for a Biological Control Agent for Old World Climbing Fern

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment relative to the control of Old World climbing fern, *Lygodium microphyllum*. The environmental assessment considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the release of a nonindigenous moth, *Cataclysta camptozonale*, for the biological control of Old World climbing fern in Florida. We are making the environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-040-1, 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. 04-040-1.

- 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. 04-040-1" on the subject line.

- Agency Web site: Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/>

[cominst.html](#) for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket 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.

Other Information: You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information, including the names of groups and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Robert Flanders, Branch Chief, Biological and Technical Services, Pest Permit Evaluations, Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Old World climbing fern, *Lygodium microphyllum* (Cav.) R. Br. (Lygodiaceae), is a climbing fern that has a large native range that extends through much of the Old World tropics. It has become established in central and southern peninsular Florida where it grows in a number of wetland and mesic (having a moderate supply of moisture) habitats including hammocks, cypress swamps, flatwoods, bayheads, and disturbed sites.

The climbing fern is a highly invasive, exotic weed that climbs over plants, including tall trees, to form massive walls of vegetation. It also forms thick mats on the ground that smother native plants. New infestations can arise great distances from existing populations because the weed produces millions of spores that are spread by wind and other physical carriers. A single spore is capable of starting a new infestation.

In Florida, the potential distribution of this weed includes all habitats from Lake Okeechobee south. It also has the potential to invade the Gulf Coast of Mexico and southern Texas.

The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has received a permit application for the release of a nonindigenous moth, *Cataclysta camptozonale* (Hampson) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae), for the biological control (biocontrol) of Old World climbing fern in Florida. The purpose of the proposed release is to reduce the severity of infestations of *L. microphyllum* in Florida.

The proposed biocontrol agent, *C. camptozonale*, is a moth in the insect family Crambidae and is native to Australia. The moth is self-replicating. The adult moth lays eggs in small clusters on leaflets of the target weed, *L. microphyllum*, and the eggs hatch in 6 to 7 days. Larvae feed on the leaves of *L. microphyllum* for approximately 11 to 12 days. Older larvae spin a loose web of silk on leaves of the weed and pupate. Pupae develop to adults in 7 to 9 days.

The moth is also host specific. Host specificity tests conducted in Australia and Florida indicate that *C. camptozonale* is specific to a few *Lygodium* species.

Therefore, APHIS is considering issuing a permit for the release of *C. camptozonale* into the continental United States in order to reduce the severity and extent of Old World climbing fern infestation. APHIS' review and analysis of the proposed action and its alternatives are documented in detail in an environmental assessment (EA) entitled, "Field Release of *Cataclysta camptozonale* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae), an Insect for Biological Control of Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*), in the Continental United States" (April 2004). We are making the EA available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The EA may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/>. In the middle of that page, click on "Document/Forms Retrieval System." At the next screen, click on the triangle beside "Permits—Environmental Assessments." A list of documents will appear; the EA for Old World climbing fern is document number 0038. You may request paper copies of the EA by calling or writing to the person listed

under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the EA when requesting copies. The EA 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 EA 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 25th day of June 2004.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 04–14981 Filed 6–30–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions for the Northern Region; Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Portions of South Dakota and Eastern Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, Grasslands, and the Regional Office of the Northern Region to publish legal notices for public comment and decisions subject to appeal and predecisional administrative review under 36 CFR 215, 217, and 218. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notices for public comment or decisions; thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers will begin with decisions subject to appeal that are made on or after July 1, 2004. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Appeals and Litigation Group Leader; Northern Region; P.O. Box 7669; Missoula, Montana 59807. Phone: (406) 329–3696.

The newspapers to be used are as follows:

Northern Regional Office

Regional Forester decisions in Montana: The Missoulian, Great Falls Tribune, and The Billings Gazette.

Regional Forester decisions in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington: The Spokesman Review and Lewiston Morning Tribune.

Regional Forester decisions in North Dakota: Bismarck Tribune.

Regional Forester decisions in South Dakota: Rapid City Journal.

Beaverhead/Deerlodge—Montana Standard

Bitterroot—Ravalli Republic

Clearwater—Lewiston Morning Tribune

Custer—Billings Gazette (Montana)

Rapid City Journal (South Dakota)

Dakota Prairie National Grasslands—Bismarck Tribune (North and South Dakota)

Flathead—Daily Inter Lake

Gallatin—Bozeman Chronicle

Helena—Independent Record

Idaho Panhandle—Spokesman Review

Kootenai—Daily Inter Lake

Lewis & Clark—Great Falls Tribune

Lolo—Missoulian

Nez Perce—Lewiston Morning Tribune

Supplemental notices may be placed in any newspaper, but time frames/ deadlines will be calculated based upon notices in newspapers of record listed above.

Dated: June 25, 2004.

Kathleen A. McAllister,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 04–14927 Filed 6–30–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Meeting; Southwest Oregon Provincial Advisory Committee

SUMMARY: The Siskiyou Resource Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 27, 2004 for (1) updates from working groups; (2) a report on the May NW Forest Plan Implementation monitoring field review on the Umpqua NF; (3) a presentation from the Oregon Caves National Monument; (4) an overview of the National Fire Plan; and (5) an update on interagency fire management plans. The meeting will be held at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's Illinois Valley Ranger

District office in Cave Junction. It begins at 9 a.m., ends at 5 p.m., and the open public forum begins at 11:30 a.m. with a 4-minute limitation per individual presentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting and delivered to Designated Federal Official Scott Conroy at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, PO Box 520, Medford, OR 97501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Public Affairs Officer Mary T. Marrs at (541) 858–2211, e-mail: mmarrs@fs.fed.us, or USDA Forest Service, PO Box 520, 333 West 8th Street, Medford, OR, 97501.

Dated: June 24, 2004.

Virginia Grilley,

Deputy Forest Supervisor, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

[FR Doc. 04–14928 Filed 6–30–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Funds Availability for Section 525 Technical and Supervisory Assistance (TSA) Grants

Announcement Type: Initial Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) inviting applications from qualified organizations for Fiscal Year 2004 funding.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA): 10.441.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces it is soliciting competitive applications under its Technical and Supervisory Assistance (TSA) grant program. Grants will be awarded to eligible applicant organizations to conduct programs of technical and supervisory assistance for low-income rural residents to obtain and/or maintain occupancy of adequate housing.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of preapplication proposals by Rural Development State Offices is the close of business on August 2, 2004. Preapplications received after August 2, 2004 will not be considered for funding. Within 30 days after the closing date, each State Director will forward to the National Office the original preapplication(s) and supporting documents of the selected applicant. State Directors will be advised of the National Office's action on their selected preapplications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donn Appleman, Senior Loan Specialist, USDA Rural Development,