

deems necessary to protect surface resources. If FS did not collect this information, a self-policing situation would exist.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 8,400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 21,000.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-9387 Filed 5-15-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 11, 2007.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0241.

Summary of Collection: Marketing Order No. 958 regulates the handling of onions grown in certain designated counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon. The Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended, (7U.S.C. 601-674) authorizes the promulgation of marketing orders for certain agricultural commodities and the issuance of regulations thereof for the purpose of providing orderly marketing conditions in interstate and intrastate commerce and for improving returns to producers.

Need and Use of the Information: The Idaho-Eastern Onion Committee will use forms to collect information about the issuance of grade, size, quality, maturity, pack, container markings, shipping holidays, inspection and reporting requirements from individuals and firms who are involved in the production, handling and processing of onions grown in the production area. This information is necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the Order, and fulfill the intent of the Act as expressed in the Order.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 55.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 359.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-9457 Filed 5-15-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2007-0006]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for a Proposed Field Release of Rice Genetically Engineered To Express Lactoferrin, Lysozyme, or Serum Albumin

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment for confined field release of rice plants genetically engineered to express the human proteins lactoferrin, lysozyme, or serum albumin. After assessment of the application, review of pertinent scientific information, and consideration of comments provided by the public, we have concluded that these field releases will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest. We have completed the environmental assessment and concluded that this field release will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. 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 for these field releases.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 16, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may read the environmental assessment (EA), the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), and any comments we received 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. The EA, FONSI and decision notice, and responses to comments are available on the Internet at the following links:

- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/06_27801r_ea.pdf
- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/06_27802r_ea.pdf
- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/06_28502r_ea.pdf

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Cordts, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5531. To obtain copies of the EA, FONSI and decision notice, and response to comments, contact Ms. Cynthia Eck at (301) 734-0667; e-mail: cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests," regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is

reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered "regulated articles." A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, or release in the environment of a regulated article.

On October 5, 2006, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received two permit applications (06-278-01r and 06-278-02r) followed by a third permit application (06-285-02r) received on October 12, 2006, from Ventria Bioscience, Sacramento, CA, for confined field release of rice (*Oryza sativa*) plants genetically engineered to express genes coding for the proteins lactoferrin, lysozyme, or serum albumin, respectively. The proposed field releases are to be conducted in Geary County, KS. The subject plants have been genetically engineered, using techniques of micro-projectile bombardment or disarmed *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation, to express proteins for recombinant human lactoferrin, lysozyme, or serum albumin. Expression of the genes is controlled by the rice glutelin 1 promoter (GT1), the rice glutelin 1 signal peptide (gt1), and the nopaline synthase (NOS) terminator sequence from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. The genes are expressed only in the seed. In addition, the plants may contain either or both of the coding sequences for the genes hygromycin phosphotransferase (*hpt*) or phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (*pat*), which are marker genes that allow for the selection of transgenic tissues in the laboratory using the antibiotic hygromycin and/or the herbicide bialaphos. Neither selectable marker gene is expressed in mature rice tissues, nor do they have any inherent plant pest characteristics or enhance gene transfer from plants to other organisms. The genetically engineered rice plants are considered regulated articles under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because they contain gene sequences from plant pathogens.

The purpose of these field releases is for pure seed production and for the extraction of lactoferrin, lysozyme, and serum albumin for a variety of research and commercial products. There is currently no commercial rice production in Geary County or in any other location in the State of Kansas. The planting will be conducted using physical confinement measures. In addition, the protocols and field plot

design, as well as the procedures for termination of the field plantings, are designed to ensure that none of the subject rice plants persist in the environment after the crop is harvested.

On February 28, 2007, APHIS published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 8959-8960, Docket No. APHIS-2007-0006) announcing the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed field release of rice genetically engineered to express lactoferrin, lysozyme, or serum albumin. During the designated 30-day comment period, which ended March 30, 2007, APHIS received 20,034 comments. Of the 20,034 comments received, 20,005 were opposed to APHIS' approval of these permits. Respondents opposing APHIS' approval of these permits were four public interest groups, academic professionals, organic food producers, rice growers, millers (or from related industries), and individuals. One public interest group submitted 13,289 nearly identical comments, and 5,621 nearly identical comments were submitted by another public interest group. There were 29 comments supporting APHIS' approval of these permits. Respondents supporting the approval of these permits were from academia, a farm bureau, a corn and grain sorghum growers association, a corporation, a State government agency, and individuals. APHIS has addressed the issues raised during the comment period and has provided responses to these comments as an attachment to the finding of no significant impact (FONSI).

Pursuant to the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 promulgated under the Plant Protection Act, APHIS has determined that these field releases will not pose a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest. Additionally, based upon analysis described in the EA, APHIS has determined that the action proposed in Alternative 3 of the EA, issue the permit with supplemental permit conditions, will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. You may read the FONSI and decision notice on the Internet or in the APHIS reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above). Copies may also be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The EA and FONSI were prepared in accordance with (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

¹To view the notice, EA, and the comments we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on the "Advanced Search" tab, and select "Docket Search." In the Docket ID field, enter APHIS-2007-0006, then click on "Submit." Clicking on the Docket ID link in the search results page will produce a list of all documents in the docket.

(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 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701-7772 and 7781-7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of May, 2007.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E7-9432 Filed 5-15-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Beaver Creek Allotment Management Plan on the Medicine Wheel/Paintrock Ranger Districts, Bighorn National Forest, Big Horn County, WY

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to update range management planning on fourteen (14) cattle/horse and sheep/goat grazing allotments in the Beaver Creek area, which will result in development of new allotment management plans (AMPs). The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they may participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments and input regarding the proposal were requested from the public, other groups and agencies, via a legal notice published in the Casper Star-Tribune on March 4, 2007. Additional comments may be made at the addresses below, and would be most helpful if submitted within thirty days of the publication of this notice. Based on the comments received and preliminary analysis, the Responsible Official has determined that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for this project. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in December, 2007 and the final environmental impact statement is expected April, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal to