

risk assessment available for public review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 20, 2026.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2025–1033 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2025–1033, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue #AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

The petition, draft plant pest risk assessment, and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at www.regulations.gov, or in our reading room, which is located in 1620 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) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alan Pearson, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, USDA, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, AP100–3–WS–1151, Beltsville, MD 20705; (301) 851–4061; email: alan.pearson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the plant pest provisions of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), 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 organisms and products are considered “regulated articles.”

Section 340.6(a) of the regulations provides that any person may submit a petition to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 340.6 describe the form that a petition for a determination of nonregulated status must take and the information that must be included in the petition.

APHIS has received a petition (APHIS Petition Number 25–197–01p) from

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. seeking a determination of nonregulated status for DP–910521–2 maize (corn), designated as event DP910521, which has been developed using genetic engineering to express the Cry1B.34 protein for control of certain susceptible lepidopteran pests, the phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (PAT) protein for tolerance to glufosinate-ammonium herbicides, and the phosphomannose isomerase (PMI) protein used as a selectable marker. The petition states that the information provided indicates that DP910521 is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk and therefore should not be regulated under APHIS’ regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

As part of our decision-making process regarding the organism’s regulatory status, APHIS prepared a draft plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) to assess the plant pest risk of the organism. APHIS’ draft PPRA compared the pest risk posed by DP910521 with that of the nonmodified variety from which it was derived. The draft PPRA concluded that DP910521 is unlikely to pose an increased plant pest risk compared to the nonmodified corn.

Paragraph (d) of § 340.6 provides that APHIS will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** providing 60 days for public comment on petitions for a determination of nonregulated status. In accordance with § 340.6(d), we are publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments regarding the petition and draft PPRA from interested or affected persons for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. The petition and draft PPRA are available for public review and comment, and copies are available as indicated under **ADDRESSES** and from the individual listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. We are particularly interested in receiving comments regarding biological or ecological issues, and we encourage the submission of scientific data, studies, or research to support your comments.

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review and evaluate any information received during the comment period and any other relevant information. Based upon available information, APHIS will respond to the petitioner either approving or denying the petition. APHIS will post its regulatory determination on its website and publish a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

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 11th day of February 2026.

Kelly Moore,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–03151 Filed 2–17–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2025–1035]

Syngenta Seeds, LLC.: Availability of a Petition for a Determination of Nonregulated Status and Draft Plant Pest Risk Assessment for Insect Resistant MZIR260 Maize (*Zea Mays* L.)

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has received a petition from Syngenta Seeds, LLC. seeking a determination of nonregulated status for MZIR260 maize (*Zea mays* L.), which has been developed using genetic engineering to provide control of fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) and express the phosphomannose isomerase protein used as a selectable marker. We are making the petition and draft plant pest risk assessment available for public review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 20, 2026.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2025–1035 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2025–1035, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue #AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

The petition, draft plant pest risk assessment, and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at www.regulations.gov, or in our reading room, which is located in 1620 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) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alan Pearson, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, USDA, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, AP100-3-WS-1151, Beltsville, MD 20705; (301) 851-4061; email: alan.pearson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the plant pest provisions of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), 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 organisms and products are considered "regulated articles."

Section 340.6(a) of the regulations provides that any person may submit a petition to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 340.6

describe the form that a petition for a determination of nonregulated status must take and the information that must be included in the petition.

APHIS has received a petition (APHIS Petition Number 25-209-01p) from Syngenta Seeds, LLC. seeking a determination of nonregulated status for MZIR260 maize (*Zea mays* L.), which has been developed using genetic engineering to provide control of fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) and express the phosphomannose isomerase protein used as a selectable marker. The petition states that the information provided indicates that MZIR260 is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk and therefore should not be regulated under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

As part of our decision-making process regarding the organism's regulatory status, APHIS prepared a draft plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) to assess the plant pest risk of the organism. APHIS' draft PPRA compared the pest risk posed by MZIR260 with that of the nonmodified variety from which it was derived. The draft PPRA concluded that MZIR260 is unlikely to pose an increased plant pest risk compared to the nonmodified corn.

Paragraph (d) of § 340.6 provides that APHIS will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** providing 60 days for public comment on petitions for a determination of nonregulated status. In accordance with § 340.6(d), we are

publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments regarding the petition and draft PPRA from interested or affected persons for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. The petition and draft PPRA are available for public review and comment, and copies are available as indicated under **ADDRESSES** and from the individual listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. We are particularly interested in receiving comments regarding biological or ecological issues, and we encourage the submission of scientific data, studies, or research to support your comments.

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review and evaluate any information received during the comment period and any other relevant information. Based upon available information, APHIS will respond to the petitioner either approving or denying the petition. APHIS will post its regulatory determination on its website and publish a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

(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 11th day of February 2026.

Kelly Moore,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-03153 Filed 2-17-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tongass National Forest; Alaska; Land Management Plan Revision

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of initiation of the development of a proposed plan revision and notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is revising the land management plan for the Tongass National Forest. This notice announces the Forest Service's initiation of the development of a revised land management plan (revised plan) and intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the effects of revising the current plan. This notice initiates the scoping period on the development of the proposed action and EIS. This notice also describes the documents and background resources available for

review and how to obtain them; includes a description of the preliminary need to change the current land management plan; includes options for meeting the needs for change; includes a preliminary list of substantive issues to be analyzed in detail; provides information on public participation, including the process for submitting comments; provides an estimated schedule for the planning process; and describes how to obtain additional information. The Planning, Administrative Reviews, and Litigation System identification number for the project is 64039.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 20, 2026. Scoping for this revised plan will occur between now and release of the draft revised plan and draft EIS, through iterative public engagement opportunities, using a variety of methods.

Continued coordination with cooperating agencies and consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations are also planned during this timeframe as part of scoping efforts. The draft revised plan and draft EIS are expected to be published during fall 2026 with a 90-day comment period. Those comments will be used to update the final revised plan and EIS, which are expected to be available during May 2027. These dates are subject to changes in the project schedule.

The dates and times of any public meeting or webinar to share more information on the plan revision will be posted at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r10/tongass/planning/forest-plan/plan-revision-public-engagements>. Information will also be shared through electronic mailing lists, social media, and local media outlets.

ADDRESSES: Written comments received in response to this notice will inform the Forest Service's identification of the need to change the current land management plan, will support development of the proposed action (draft revised plan), and will help the agency further develop and refine potential substantive issues which will inform development of alternatives to the proposed action.

Written Comments

Individuals and entities are encouraged to submit comments via webform at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64039>. Hardcopy letters must be submitted to the following address: Tongass National Forest, USDA Forest Service, 648 Mission Street, Suite 110, Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK 99901. For those submitting hand-delivered