

Notices

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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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[SD-96-0001]

Plant Variety Protection Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Advisory Board. The Plant Variety Protection Advisory Board will hold an open meeting to discuss publication of the final regulations and rules of practice under the Plant Variety Protection Act (amended 1994), coverage of F1 hybrids under the Act, and other related topics. Comments may be submitted before, at, or after the meeting to the contact person listed below.

DATES: Thursday, March 28, 1996, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the National Agricultural Library Building, Conference Room 1400 (Fourteenth Floor), Beltsville, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Commissioner Marsha A. Stanton, Plant Variety Protection Office, Room 500, National Agricultural Library Building, Beltsville, Maryland 20705 (301/504-5518).

Dated: March 11, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-6136 Filed 3-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

Noxious Weed Management

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final policy.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service gives notice of adoption of a final policy for noxious weed management in accordance with the 1990 Farm Bill amendments to the 1974 Noxious Weed Act. The final policy sets forth new direction to Forest Service personnel on the management for control of noxious weeds and undesirable plants on National Forest System lands, clarifies responsibilities and authorities for noxious weed management, and provides for an integrated weed management approach. The intended effect is to implement an integrated management approach which includes cooperation, education, prevention, treatment, containment, and control measures for noxious weed and undesirable plant infestations on National Forest System lands.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This policy, issued as Amendment 2000-95-5 to Chapter 2080 of the Forest Service Manual, was effective November 29, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about this policy should be addressed to Deborah Hayes, Range Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090 or telephone (202) 205-1460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Expansion of noxious weed infestation increasingly threatens susceptible land and water and can adversely affect food production, wilderness values, wildlife habitat, visual quality, forage production, reforestation, recreation opportunities, and land values.

In November 1990, in section 1453 of the 1990 Farm Bill (7 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), Congress amended section 15 of the 1974 Noxious Weed Act to strengthen USDA's noxious weed management efforts. Pursuant to the 1990 amendment, the Secretary of Agriculture is to develop and coordinate a management program on National Forest System lands for control of noxious weeds and undesirable plants which are harmful, injurious, poisonous, or toxic, to establish and adequately fund the program; to complete and implement cooperative agreements regarding the management of noxious weeds on National Forest System lands; and to establish an integrated weed management approach

to control or contain species identified and targeted under cooperative agreements and/or memorandums of understanding.

Additionally, the act authorizes the Forest Service to cooperate with State, county, and other Federal agencies in the application and enforcement of all laws and regulations relating to the management and control of noxious weeds.

In response to the 1990 Farm Bill, the Forest Service issued Interim Directive (ID) 2080-92-1 to Forest Service Manual Chapter 2080, Noxious Weed Management on August 3, 1992. Notice of this ID, with a request for public comment, was published in the Federal Register at 58 FR 6429. This ID expired February 3, 1994.

On February 18, 1994, the Forest Service reissued Interim Directive 2080-92-1 as Interim Directive (ID) 2080-94-1. This ID expired August 18, 1995. As a matter of agency directive system policy, the direction could not be reissued as interim direction again. Therefore, on August 31, 1995, the Forest Service issued Amendment 2000-95-3 to Forest Service Manual Chapter 2080, Noxious Weed Management, which kept the direction in force until a final revised policy, based on consideration of comments received from the public, could be issued.

The final noxious weed management policy, Amendment 2000-95-5, issued on November 29, 1995, reflects careful consideration of comments received. The direction requires an Integrated Weed Management approach to meet vegetation management goals documented in Forest Land and Resource Management plans. Stated goals are to prevent the introduction and establishment of new noxious weed infestations; to contain and suppress existing noxious weed infestations; and to cooperate with State and local agencies, local landowners, weed control districts and boards, and other Federal agencies in management and control of noxious weeds. The noxious weed management program provides an opportunity for employees, users of National Forest System lands, adjacent landowners, and State agencies to increase their knowledge about noxious weed threats to native plant communities and ecosystems. Single copies of Forest Service Amendment