

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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by the U.S. Agency for International Development; Comments Requested

SUMMARY: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is making efforts to reduce the paperwork burden. USAID invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed or continuing collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Submit comments on or before June 9, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Johnson, Bureau for Management, Office of Administrative Services, Information and Records Division, U.S. Agency for International Development, Room 2.07-106, RRB, Washington, DC 20523, (202) 712-1365 or via e-mail bjohnson@usaid.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB No.: OMB 0412-.

Form No.: N/A.

Title: Reporting of foreign value added taxes and custom duties.

Type of Review: New.

Purpose: Subsections (b) and (g) of section 579 of USAID's FY 2003 appropriations act require USAID to

withhold the equivalent of 200 percent of the amount of value added taxes and custom duties assessed by a foreign government or entity, from February 20, 2003 through September 30, 2003, on commodities financed with foreign assistance funds either directly or through grantees, contractors and subcontractors. The amount is to be withheld from FY 2004 funds allocated for a central government of the country or for the West Bank and Gaza Program. The amount to be withheld is reduced by any reimbursements of value added taxes and custom duties.

Subsection (e) of section 579 provides that the Secretary of State shall issue rules, regulations, or policy guidance, as appropriate, to implement the prohibition against taxation of assistance contained in this section.

In order for USAID to implement the statute and withhold the correct amounts, the agency needs to know from its contractors and grantees for each foreign country the amount of value added tax and custom duties paid and any reimbursements received.

We are interested in hearing from contractors and grantees as to the most effective way or ways to do this (e.g., on voucher or other payment documents, separate report), and frequency (every voucher, monthly, quarterly, one-time report) and to the workings in practice of existing reimbursement systems.

Section 579(c) permits USAID to establish a minimum exception from the withholding requirements of subsection (b). We welcome your comments on what would be an appropriate minimum amount consistent with statute, by transaction amount or other basis, taking into account the administrative burden on contractors and grantees to track transactions.

USAID's appropriations act is the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2003 contained in Division E of H.J. Res. 2, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (P.L. 108-7), February 20, 2003.

Annual Reporting Burden

Respondents: 4,000.

Total annual responses: 4,000.

Total annual hours requested: 24,000 hours.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

Joanne Paskar,

Chief, Information and Records Division, Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for Management.

[FR Doc. 03-8528 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-034-1]

Ivy Gourd; Availability of an Environmental Assessment

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 relative to a proposed field release of a nonindigenous leaf-mining weevil, *Acythopeus cocciniae*, into Guam and Saipan for the biological control of ivy gourd (*Coccinia grandis*). The environmental assessment documents our review and analysis of environmental impacts associated with widespread release of this agent. 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 May 8, 2003.

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. 03-034-1, 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. 03-034-1. 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. 03-034-1" in the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on the environmental assessment 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.

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. Tracy A. Horner, Ecologist, Environmental Services, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-5213.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering several applications for permits to release the nonindigenous leaf-mining weevil *Acythopeus cocciniae* in order to reduce the severity and extent of ivy gourd (*Coccinia grandis*) infestations in Guam and Saipan.

Ivy gourd is native to Africa, Asia, Fiji, and northern Australia. This invasive weed is a rapidly growing, climbing or trailing vine that forms thick mats, overgrowing trees and other vegetation, walls, fences, and utility poles. Ivy gourd also serves as a host for numerous pests of cucurbitaceous crops, including black leaf-footed bug (*Leptoglossus australis*), leafminers (*Liriomyza* spp.), melon aphid (*Aphis gossypii*), melon fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*), pumpkin caterpillar (*Diaphania indica*), red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*), and whiteflies (*Bemisia* spp.).

Ivy gourd has been detected in the United States in Guam, Hawaii, and Saipan. In July 1999, we prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential release of *A. cocciniae* and another weevil of the same genus, *A. burkhartorum*, into the environment for use as biological control agents to reduce the severity and extent of ivy gourd infestations in the State of Hawaii. APHIS has subsequently received permit applications for additional releases of *A. cocciniae* beyond the area considered in the 1999 EA. The applicants propose to release *A. cocciniae* in Guam and Saipan to reduce the severity and extent of ivy gourd infestation on those islands.

A. cocciniae is native to Africa. Adults live up to 200 days and feed on the leaves of the ivy gourd, creating numerous holes in the lamina. Eggs are laid singly by insertion into the lamina of the leaves. The eggs hatch in about 8 days, and the larvae mine the leaves for 9 to 10 days thereafter. Pupation takes place within the mine and lasts for 15 days. Adult feeding and larval mining can cause drying of the leaves and eventual defoliation.

APHIS' review and analysis of the proposed action and its alternatives are documented in detail in an EA entitled, "Field Release of *Acythopeus cocciniae* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), a nonindigenous leaf-mining weevil for control of ivy gourd, *Coccinia grandis* (Cucurbitaceae), in Guam and Saipan" (February 2003). 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/> by following the link for "Document/Forms Retrieval System" then clicking on the triangle beside "6—Permits—Environmental Assessments," and selecting document number 0034. 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 2nd day of April 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-8518 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kootenai (KNF) and Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF); Montana, Idaho and Washington; Extension of Scoping For Revised Land and Resource Management Plans

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of the scoping period in conjunction with revision of the Land and Resource Management Plans (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan or Plans) for the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests (Kootenai Idaho Panhandle Zone, hereafter referred to as KIPZ) located in Lincoln, Sanders, and Flathead counties in Montana; Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, and Clearwater counties in Idaho; and Pend Oreille county in Washington.

SUMMARY: The scoping period has been extended for the proposed revised Forest Plans and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The original notice of intent was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 83, on page 21210, on April 30, 2002 as FR Doc. 02-10548.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received in writing by May 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions to Forest Supervisor, c/o Forest Plan Revision, Kootenai National Forest, 1101 W Hwy 2, Libby, MT 59923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Krueger at (406) 293-6211 or Gary Ford at (208) 765-7478.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The scoping period has been extended to May 30, 2003, to provide additional time for public access to the Analysis of the Management Situation report. Comments received during the scoping period will be used to develop alternatives in the DEIS.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

Bob Castaneda,

Kootenai Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-8483 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Committee meeting.