

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

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 98-115-1]

Declaration of Emergency Because of Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera) in the Dominican Republic and Haiti

A serious outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF), commonly known as hog cholera in the United States, is occurring in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. CSF was confirmed in Haiti in October 1996, and in the Dominican Republic in June 1997.

CSF, a highly contagious viral disease of swine, was eradicated from the United States in 1978 after a 16-year effort by industry and Federal and State Governments. If a similar eradication effort were attempted today, the estimated cost would exceed \$500 million. While CSF does not cause illness in people, the more virulent strains can cause high morbidity and mortality in pigs. The less virulent strains can typically cause diarrhea, severe growth retardation, and reproductive losses. CSF is currently found in 36 countries in Europe, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean. The reintroduction of this disease into the United States could devastate the U.S. pork industry.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the U.S. pork industry have recently determined that CSF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti poses a risk to the U.S. swine population. The primary risk to U.S. swine is through the illegal movement of swine and meat products, such as sausage, by airline passengers coming into the United States from the Dominican Republic. The CSF virus can survive for several months in pickled meat and for several years in smoked and frozen meat.

To protect the multi-billion dollar U.S. pork industry, including 600,000 jobs, and to maintain the Nation's food

security and the pork and pork product export market valued at more than \$1 billion, APHIS has already begun to respond to the CSF risk. The Agency has provided technical assistance to both the Dominican Republic and Haiti; enhanced passenger and baggage inspections on flights arriving from these two countries; and increased inspections of garbage feeders in Puerto Rico.

APHIS needs an additional \$5.3 million to take adequate precautions against the introduction of CSF into the United States. Activities that would be funded by the additional money include an inspection program in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, a veterinarian stationed on the Island of Hispaniola, and enhanced surveillance of swine herds in the United States.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, 95 Stat. (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency which threatens the swine population of the United States and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture for the conduct of a program to enhance surveillance activities and prevent the introduction of CSF into the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This declaration of emergency shall become effective March 9, 1999.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 99-6227 Filed 3-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 98-088-2]

Declaration of Emergency Because of the Asian Longhorned Beetle

A serious outbreak of the Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is occurring in Illinois and New York.

The Asian longhorned beetle, an insect native to China, Japan, Korea, and the Isle of Hainan, is a destructive pest of hardwood trees. It is known to attack healthy maple, horse chestnut, birch,

Rose of Sharon, poplar, willow, elm, locust, mulberry, chinaberry, apple, cherry, pear, and citrus trees. It may also attack other species of hardwood trees. In addition, nursery stock, logs, green lumber, firewood, stumps, roots, branches, and debris of a half an inch or more in diameter are subject to infestation. The Asian longhorned beetle bores into the heartwood of host trees, eventually killing the host trees. Immature beetles bore into tree trunks and branches, causing heavy sap flow from wounds and sawdust accumulation at tree bases. They feed on, and over-winter in, the interior of the trees. Adult beetles emerge in the spring and summer months from round holes approximately 3/8-inch diameter (about the size of a dime) that they bore through the trunks of trees. After emerging, adult beetles feed for 2 to 3 days and then mate. Adult females then lay eggs in oviposition sites that they make on the branches of trees. A new generation of the Asian longhorned beetle is produced each year. If this pest moves into the hardwood forests of the United States, the nursery and forest products industry could experience severe economic losses.

Since August 1996, infestations of the Asian longhorned beetle have been found in a portion of Brooklyn and Queens, NY, an area near Amityville, NY, and in three areas in and around Chicago. The damage and losses that would occur if the Asian longhorned beetle should become established and spread in the United States would be substantial. For example, many species of hardwood trees would be destroyed, severely harming industries that depend on the wood and other products of these trees (e.g., maple syrup, maple sugar, fruit). Hardwood lumber industries would face critical supply shortages and would be forced to try to meet their needs with imported hardwoods. Mature ornamental trees would be attacked, and domestic supplies of trees for nursery and landscaping companies would be reduced or eliminated. Widespread destruction of hardwood trees in public and private forest land would occur, causing enormous direct losses in tourism and related industries and enormous losses that cannot be easily measured to the aesthetics of our woodlands.

In cooperation with the States of Illinois and New York, the Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has initiated a program to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle in Illinois and New York. The States of Illinois and New York are assisting APHIS in funding the program. However, APHIS resources are insufficient to meet the estimated \$5.5 million needed for the Federal share. In addition, some of these resources may be needed to fund other, small scale emergencies before the end of the year.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, 95 Stat. (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency which threatens the forest and maple syrup industries of this country and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture for the conduct of a program to detect the Asian longhorned beetle, identify infested areas, control and prevent the spread of the Asian longhorned beetle to noninfested areas of the United States, and eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle wherever it may be found in the United States.

Effective Date: This declaration of emergency shall become effective March 9, 1999.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 99-6226 Filed 3-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of National Genetic Resources Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council consists of 16 members to provide advice to the Secretary and Director regarding the advancement of the USDA's National Genetic Resources Program. The meeting will discuss matters concerning the USDA's germplasm banks, genetic diversity and the genome initiative among other matters.

Times and Dates: April 28, 1999, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; April 29, 1999, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Place: Room 3109, USDA South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Type of Meeting: Open to the public. Persons may participate in the meeting as time and space permit.

Comments: The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Henry L. Shands, Director, National Genetic Resources Program, Room 323-A Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0300. Telephone 202-205-7835, Fax 202-690-1434.

Done at Washington, D.C. on this 10th Day of March, 1999.

Henry L. Shands,

Assistant Administrator for Genetic Resources, USDA-ARS.

[FR Doc. 99-6229 Filed 3-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-107-2]

Availability of Memorandum of Understanding With the Forest Service, USDA; Correction

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: We are correcting the Supplementary Information section of a notice that was published in the **Federal Register** on November 13, 1998 (63 FR 63445, Docket No. 98-107-1).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Martin Mendoza, Jr., Director, Operational Support, Wildlife Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7921.

Correction

In the **Federal Register** issue of November 13, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 219), FR Doc. 98-30392, on page 63445, in the second column, in the second paragraph following the "Supplementary Information" caption, the second sentence, which begins "The U.S. Forest Service is * * *", is corrected to read as follows:

The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for the management of land and resources under its jurisdiction and is also responsible for conducting routine nonpredator control operations on

National Forest System lands, including National Environmental Policy Act compliance on these activities.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of March, 1999.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-6228 Filed 3-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Jacobs/Swale Vegetation Management Project, Dixie National Forest, Garfield County, UT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Withdrawal of Record of Decision for the Jacobs/Swale Vegetation Management Project.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Forest Service, USDA, will withdraw the Record of Decision of July 28, 1995 signed by Hugh C. Thompson, Forest Supervisor. I am instructing the District Ranger of the Escalante Ranger District to stop implementation activities authorized by Supervisor Thompson's decision.

This action is made necessary by implementation of the agency's Interim Roads Rule which became effective March 1, 1999. I have found that large portions of the Jacobs/Swale project area are within suspension Category 2 of the Interim Roads Rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions about the withdrawal to Kevin R. Schulkoski, District Ranger, Escalante Ranger District, by mail at Escalante Ranger District Escalante Interagency Federal Building, 755 West Main Street, Escalante, UT 84726, or by phone at (435) 826-5400.

Dated: March 5, 1999.

Ronald S. Wilson,

*Acting Forest Supervisor,
Dixie National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 99-6222 Filed 3-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council, Hells Canyon Subgroup

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hells Canyon Subgroup of the John Day/Snake Resource