

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98–103–3]

Importation of Artificially Dwarfed Plants in Growing Media From the People's Republic of China; Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are informing the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment for a proposal to allow the importation of specific species of artificially dwarfed (penjing) plants of the genera *Buxus*, *Ehretia* (*Carmona*), *Podocarpus*, *Sageretia*, and *Serissa* to be imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China in an approved growing medium subject to specified growing, inspection, and certification requirements. The environmental assessment documents our review and analysis of environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before October 15, 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. 98–103–3, 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. 98–103–3. 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. 98–103–3” on 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/webpor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Thomas, Import Specialist, Phytosanitary Issues Management, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–6799.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture regulates the importation of plants and plant parts into the United States to guard against the introduction of plant pests and noxious weeds into the United States.

The regulations pertaining to the importation of plants and plant parts are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 7, chapter III.

On September 20, 2000, we published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 56803–56806, Docket No. 98–103–1) a proposal to amend the regulations to allow artificially dwarfed plants of the genera *Buxus*, *Ehretia* (*Carmona*), *Podocarpus*, *Sageretia*, and *Serissa* to be imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China in an approved growing medium subject to specified growing, inspection, and certification requirements. We accepted comments

on our proposal for a total of 90 days, ending December 20, 2000.¹

In response to comments received on the proposed rule, APHIS has revised the pest risk assessments, created a risk mitigation document, and narrowed the application of the rule to apply to particular species of the genera mentioned previously. The five revised pest risk assessments as well as the risk mitigation document are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim>. We have also concluded section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to assess the potential effects of the proposed action on endangered or threatened species, as required under the Endangered Species Act. On April 10, 2003, FWS concluded the section 7 consultation process by concurring with APHIS' determination that the importation of *Buxus sinica*, *Ehretia microphylla*, *Podocarpus macrophyllus*, *Sageretia thea*, and *Serissa foetida* from the People's Republic of China will not adversely affect federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

Upon receiving FWS concurrence and after preparing the revised pest risk assessments and the pest mitigation document, APHIS prepared an environmental assessment 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 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

This notice announces the availability of the environmental assessment for public review and comment. The assessment, titled “Final Rule for the Importation of Artificially Dwarfed Plants in Growing Media From the People's Republic of China” and dated September 2003, is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/ppqdocs.html>. You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

¹ The comment period on the proposed rule was extended from 60 to 90 days in a notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 1, 2000 (65 FR 75187, Docket No. 98–103–2).

Please refer to the title of the assessment when requesting copies.

The environmental assessment is also available for review in our reading room (the location and the hours of the reading room are listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of September 2003.

Bobby R. Acord,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-23545 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

The Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), today accepted petitions filed by the United Fishermen of Alaska, Juneau, Alaska; the Puget Sound Salmon Commission, Seattle, Washington; and Salmon for All, Astoria, Oregon for trade adjustment assistance. The groups represent Pacific salmon fishermen in the states of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, respectively. The Administrator will determine within 40 days whether or not imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen farmed salmon, whole or in fillets, contributed importantly to a decline in domestic producer prices of 20 percent or more during calendar 2002. If the determination is positive, all fishermen represented by the petitioners will be eligible to apply to the Farm Service Agency for adjustment assistance cash benefits and for technical assistance at no cost.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean-Louis Pajot, Coordinator, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers, FAS, USDA, (202) 720-2916, e-mail: trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov.

Signed at Washington, DC September 10, 2003.

Lyle Sebranek,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Acting Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-23564 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

The Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), today accepted a petition filed by the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine, Orono, Maine for trade adjustment assistance. The group represents producers of wild blueberries in the state of Maine. The Administrator will determine within 40 days whether or not imports of wild blueberries contributed importantly to a decline in domestic producer prices of 20 percent or more during the marketing period beginning July 2002 and ending June 2003. If the determination is positive, all producers represented by the group will be eligible to apply to the Farm Service Agency for adjustment assistance cash benefits and for technical assistance at no cost.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean-Louis Pajot, Coordinator, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers, FAS, USDA, (202) 720-2916, e-mail: trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov.

Signed at Washington, DC, September 10, 2003.

Lyle Sebranek,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Acting Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-23563 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet from 8:30 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. (or until the conclusion of public testimony) on Friday, October 24, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. (or until the conclusion of public testimony), Saturday, October 25, 2003, in Wrangell, Alaska. The purpose of this meeting is to review, discuss and potentially recommend for funding proposals received pursuant to Title II, Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called

the "Payments to States" Act. Public testimony regarding the proposals will also be taken.

DATES: The meeting will be held commencing at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, October 24, through 5:15 p.m., Saturday, October 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Harding's Old Sourdough Lodge, 1104 Peninsula, Wrangell, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chip Weber, Wrangell District Ranger, P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929, phone (907) 874-2323, email cweber@fs.fed.us, or Patty Grantham, Petersburg District Ranger, P.O. Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, phone (907) 772-3871, email pgrantham@fs.fed.us. For further information on RAC history, operations, and the application process, a Web site is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/ro/payments>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is the first meeting of the RAC since April 2003 and the committee's summer hiatus. This meeting will focus on the review and discussion of proposals received by the RAC for funding under Title II of the Payments of States legislation (Pub. L. 106-393), particularly proposals that were of high interest to the committee, but lacked enough information for the committee to act. New information will be introduced concerning these proposals. No new proposals (initial reading) will be discussed at this meeting. The committee may make recommendations for project funding at this meeting. A field trip to review proposals proximate to the Wrangell, Alaska, area may take place. The meeting is open to the public. Should members of the public wish to participate in the potential field trip, please contact Patty Grantham or Chip Weber at the above noted addresses/emails/telephone numbers. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: September 4, 2003.

Olleke E. Rappe-Daniels,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-23369 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance, the following proposal for an extension of a currently approved collection of information under the