

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 03-112-2]

Vaccination of Wild Bison; Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening the comment period for an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact that we prepared relative to the subcutaneous vaccination of wild, free-ranging bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area with Strain RB51 vaccine to help prevent the spread of brucellosis. The environmental assessment documents our review and analysis of environmental impacts associated with the vaccination and provides a basis for our conclusion that vaccination of the bison will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 20, 2004.

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. 03-112-1, 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. 03-112-1. 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. 03-112-1" on the subject line.

To obtain copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact the National Center for Animal Health Programs, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-4923. The documents are also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/vsdocs.html>.

You may also read the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, and any comments we receive

on those documents, 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: Dr. Arnold Gertonson, Yellowstone Brucellosis Coordinator, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, Building B MSC 3E13, 2150 Centre Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117; (970) 494-7363.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On December 5, 2003, we published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 68020-68021, Docket No. 03-112-1) a notice that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) had completed an environmental assessment (EA) that examines the potential environmental effects of APHIS's involvement in a program to be initiated by the Montana Department of Livestock to vaccinate certain bison against brucellosis with Strain RB51 vaccine. The animals to be vaccinated are wild, free-ranging bison calves and non-pregnant yearlings that leave Yellowstone National Park and migrate onto State, private, or other Federal lands. Our review and analysis are documented in detail in an EA entitled "Subcutaneous Vaccination of Wild, Free-Ranging Bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area; Environmental Assessment (November 2003)." Based on that EA, APHIS has determined that subcutaneous vaccination of wild, free-ranging bison of the Greater Yellowstone Area with Strain RB51 vaccine will not significantly impact human health or the environment. That determination is set forth in a document titled "Finding of No Significant Impact for Subcutaneous Vaccination of Wild, Free-Ranging Bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area; Environmental Assessment (November 2003)."

Comments on the EA and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) were required to be received on or before January 5, 2004. To provide for the submission of comments for an

additional 15 days beyond that date, we are reopening the comment period on the EA and FONSI until January 20, 2004. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments. We will also consider all comments received between January 6, 2004 (the day after the close of the original comment period) and the date of this notice.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of January, 2004.

Kevin Shea,*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-735 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****North Forest Acres Levee/Road Project, City of Seward, Alaska****AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact according to the Environmental Assessment of the North Forest Acres Road/Levee Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shirley Gammon, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 100, Palmer, Alaska 99645-6539; telephone: (907) 761-7760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this Federally assisted action indicates that there will be no significant environmental impacts. As a result of these findings, Shirley Gammon, State Conservationist, has determined that the project should be completed as outlined in the assessment document. The objective of the North Forest Acres Road/Levee Project is to complete one part of a suite of action undertaken to minimize flooding damages to the city of Seward. The selected alternative is approximately 4,100 feet of levee topped by an asphalt paved road. Alternatives evaluated were No Action, four west alignments of the levee, and three east alignments. The selected alternatives are the West 2b (3,530 LF)

and the East 3 (550 LF). These alternatives were selected because they have no stream crossings of Japanese Creek, and no culverts or flood gates to operate and maintain. These selected alignments minimize impact to wetlands. Encroachment on the floodplain is minimal and results in no significant rise of flood waters in Resurrection River.

A limited number of copies of the EA are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Shirley Gammon.

Further information on the proposed action may be obtained from Shirley Gammon, State Conservationist, at the above address.

Dated: January 8, 2004.

Shirley Gammon,
State Conservationist.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. I have preliminarily determined, based upon the evaluation of impacts in the Environmental Assessment (EA), attached hereto and made a part hereof, and the reasons provided below, that there will be no significant individual or cumulative impacts on the quality of the human environment as a result of implementing the North Forest Acres Levee/Road Project in Seward, Alaska. In particular, there will be none of the significant adverse impacts which NEPA is intended to help decision makers avoid and mitigate against. Therefore, an EIS is not required.

The city of Seward, Alaska has experienced flooding damages from the Resurrection River and Japanese Creek several times in the past. Damages from the 1995 flood alone amounted to 9.8 million dollars. A multi-agency task force recommended five complimentary actions to minimize the risk of future damages. Three of these actions (a levee on Japanese Creek, dredging at the mouth of the Resurrection River and widening of the highway bridges) have been completed. The Resurrection River Levee/Road Project, along with widening the railroad bridges are the final components of the flood control strategy. Congress has authorized funding for this project in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) budget.

Several meetings were held (EA, page 6) to assess public opinion and concerns regarding the project. At these meetings issues regarding impacts to the creek, concerns about commercial traffic, impacts to private property, hydrologic effects to the floodplain and road impacts to residents were identified (EA, page 4). Each of the alternatives considered in the EA is examined in regard to these concerns.

Four west alignments and three east alignments of the levee/road were examined along with a "no action" alternative. Each of the alternatives would extend from the completed Japanese Creek levee at the upstream end and connect with the Seward Highway at the downstream end. The selected alternatives are the West 2b (3,530 LF) and the East 3 (550 LF). These alternatives were selected because they have no stream crossings of Japanese Creek, and no culverts or flood gates to operate and maintain. These alignments minimize impact to wetlands. Encroachment on the floodplain is minimal and results in no significant rise of flood waters in Resurrection River.

Based on the information presented in the North Forest Levee/Road Project EA, I find that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS will not be prepared.

Dated: January 8, 2004.

Shirley Gammon,
Alaska State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.
[FR Doc. 04-727 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Current Population Survey (CPS) Fertility Supplement

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c) (2) (A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 15, 2004.
ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental

Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at DHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Karen Woods, U.S. Census Bureau, FOB 3, Room 3340, Washington, DC 20233-8400, (301) 763-3806.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to request clearance for the collection of data concerning the Fertility Supplement to be conducted in conjunction with the June 2004 CPS. The Census Bureau sponsors the supplement questions, which were previously collected in June 2002, and have been asked periodically since 1971.

This survey provides information used mainly by government and private analysts to project future population growth, to analyze child spacing, and to aid policymakers in their decisions affected by changes in family size and composition. Past studies have discovered noticeable changes in the patterns of fertility rates and the timing of the first birth. Potential needs for government assistance, such as aid to families with dependent children, child care, and maternal health care for single parent households, can be estimated using CPS characteristics matched with fertility data.

II. Method of Collection

The fertility information will be collected by both personal visit and telephone interviews in conjunction with the regular June CPS interviewing. All interviews are conducted using computer-assisted interviewing.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0610.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 minute.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 500.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$0.

Respondents' Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, U.S.C., Section 182; and Title 29, U.S.C., Sections 1-9.