

# 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. APHIS–2023–0010]

#### Notice of Availability of Pest Risk Analyses for the Importation of Fresh Thyme, Marjoram, and Oregano From Kenya Into the United States

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we have prepared pest risk analyses that evaluate the risks associated with the importation of fresh thyme, marjoram, and oregano from Kenya into the United States. Based on the analyses, we have determined that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh thyme, marjoram, and oregano from Kenya into the United States. We are making the pest risk analyses available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 18, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Enter APHIS–2023–0010 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.
  - *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2023–0010, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.
- Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket

may be viewed at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1620 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) 799–7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Gina Stiltner, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (518) 760–2468; [Gina.L.Stiltner@USDA.gov](mailto:Gina.L.Stiltner@USDA.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart L—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of fruits and vegetables that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the five designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section.

APHIS received a request from the national plant protection organization of Kenya to allow the importation of fresh thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), marjoram (*Origanum majorana*), and oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) for consumption from Kenya into the United States. As part of our evaluation of Kenya’s request, we have prepared pest risk assessments to identify the pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh thyme, marjoram, and oregano from Kenya into the United States. Based on the pest risk assessments, risk management documents (RMDs) were prepared to identify phytosanitary measures that could be applied to fresh thyme, marjoram, and oregano to mitigate the pest risk.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c), we are announcing the availability of our pest risk assessments

and RMDs for public review and comment. Those documents, as well as a description of the economic considerations associated with the importation of fresh thyme, marjoram, and oregano from Kenya into the United States, may be viewed on the [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov) website or in our reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above for a link to [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov) and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may request paper copies of the pest risk assessments and RMDs by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the subject of the analysis you wish to review when requesting copies.

After reviewing any comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the import status of fresh thyme, marjoram, and oregano from Kenya into the United States in a subsequent notice. If the overall conclusions of our analyses and the Administrator’s determination of risk remain unchanged following our consideration of the comments, then we will authorize the importation of fresh thyme, marjoram, and oregano from Kenya into the United States subject to the requirements specified in the RMDs. Depending on the comments received, we may authorize the importation of all, some, or none of the commodities from Kenya specified in this notice.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of January 2024.

**Michael Watson,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024–00744 Filed 1–16–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) Advisory Council will hold public meetings according to the details shown below.

The Council is authorized under the National Trails System Act (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The purpose of the Council is to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the Forest Service, on matters relating to the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail as described in the Act.

**DATES:** One virtual half-day meeting will be held on February 13, 2024, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Pacific standard time (PST).

**Written and Oral Comments:** Anyone wishing to provide virtual oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. PST on February 6, 2024. Written public comments will be accepted up to 11:59 p.m. PST on February 6, 2024. Comments submitted after this date will be provided to the Forest Service, but the Council may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to the meeting.

All council meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of the meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom or the internet and the public may join using the link posted on the PNT Advisory Council meetings web page: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/pnt/working-together/advisory-committees/?cid=fseprd505622>. Council information and meeting details can be found at the following website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/pnt/working-together/advisory-committees/?cid=fseprd505622> or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**Written Comments:** Written comments must be sent by email to [jeffrey.kitchens@usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kitchens@usda.gov) or via mail (i.e., postmarked) to Jeff Kitchens, 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, OR 97701. The Forest Service strongly prefers comments be submitted electronically.

**Oral Comments:** Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. PST, February 6, 2024, and speakers can only register for one speaking slot. Oral comments must be sent by email to [jeffrey.kitchens@usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kitchens@usda.gov) or via mail (i.e., postmarked) to Jeff Kitchens, 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, OR 97701.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Kitchens, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), by email at [jeffrey.kitchens@usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kitchens@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Approve meeting minutes;
2. Discuss implementation of the comprehensive plan for the PNT; and
3. Discuss and identify future PNT Advisory Council activity.

The agenda will include time for individuals to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should make a request in writing at least three days prior to the meeting date to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments may be submitted to the Forest Service up to 14 days after the meeting date listed under **DATES**.

Please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, by or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received upon request.

**Meeting Accommodations:** The meeting location is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpretation, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation to the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, or contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all appointments to the Council. To ensure that the recommendations of the Council have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. USDA is

an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: January 10, 2024.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024–00785 Filed 1–16–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411–15–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

[Docket No. RBS–23–BUSINESS–0026]

### Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Value-Added Producer Grants for Fiscal Year 2024

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of funding opportunity.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS or the Agency), a Rural Development (RD) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces acceptance of applications under the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, subject to the availability of funding. This Notice is being issued prior to the FY 2024 appropriations act to allow Applicants sufficient time to leverage financing, prepare and submit their applications, and give the Agency time to process applications within FY 2024. Based on FY 2023 appropriated funding, the Agency estimates that approximately \$30 million will be made available for FY 2024. Successful applications will be selected by the Agency for funding and subsequently awarded to the extent that funding may ultimately be made available through appropriations. Applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their applications.

**DATES:** Electronic applications e-filed through <https://www.grants.gov> must be filed by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on April 11, 2024.

Complete paper applications must be submitted by close of business on April 16, 2024 in the USDA RD State Office of the State where the project is located. Paper applications must be postmarked and mailed, shipped or sent overnight, hand carried or emailed by this date. Late applications are not eligible for grant funding under this Notice.

**ADDRESSES:** This funding announcement will also be announced on [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Electronic applications are to be submitted through [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

To submit a paper application, send it to the USDA RD State Office located in