

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the release of a gall midge, *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of Russian knapweed infestations. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. L. Carmen Soileau, Senior Staff Entomologist, Permits, Registrations, Imports, and Manuals, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (866) 524-5421.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to issue permits for the release of a gall midge, *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) infestations.

Russian knapweed is a long-lived perennial in the plant tribe Asteraceae (sunflower, aster, or daisy family). The highly invasive weed was first introduced into North America in 1898. By 1998, the weed had spread to 313 counties in 45 of the 48 contiguous States in the United States with 80 percent of the infestation occurring in the States of Colorado, Idaho, Washington, and Wyoming.

The proposed biological control agent, *J. ivannikovi*, is an insect measuring 1.6 to 2.5 mm in length with relatively large wings, long legs, and a long ovipositor (egg-laying organ) that can be extended from the tip of the abdomen. The female gall midge deposits its eggs on the surface of the buds situated on the tips of the main and side shoots of the Russian knapweed. Larval feeding causes stunted growth of the shoot and fusion of leaves, resulting in a so-called "rosette gall."

On March 12, 2009, we published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 10707-10708, Docket No. APHIS-2009-0008) a notice¹ in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the

potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed release of this biological control agent into the continental United States.

We solicited comments on the EA for 30 days ending April 14, 2009. We received one comment by that date, from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota. The commenter indicated her disagreement with biological control in general, but did not raise any specific issues regarding the content of the EA on the release of the particular organism under consideration.

In this document, we are advising the public of our finding of no significant impact (FONSI) regarding the release of the gall midge *J. ivannikovi* into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of Russian knapweed infestations. The finding, which is based on the EA, reflects our determination that release of this biological control agent will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The EA and FONSI may be viewed on the Regulations.gov Web site (see footnote 1). Copies of the EA and FONSI are also available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The EA and FONSI have 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 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of June 2009.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E9-15307 Filed 6-26-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Title: Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Management Information Reporting System.

OMB Control Number: 0693-0032.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 7,080.

Number of Respondents: 59.

Average Hours per Response: 120.

Needs and Uses: Sponsored by NIST, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a national network of locally-based manufacturing extension centers working with small manufacturers to assist them in improving their productivity, profitability, and enhance their economic competitiveness. The information collected will provide the MEP with information regarding MEP Center performance regarding the delivery of technology, and business solutions to U.S.-based manufacturers. The collected information will assist in determining the performance of the MEP Centers at both local and national levels, provide information critical to monitoring and reporting on MEP programmatic performance, and assist management in policy decisions. Responses to the collection of information are mandatory per the regulations governing the operation of the MEP Program (15 CFR parts 290, 291, 292, and H.R. 1274—section 2). The information collected will include center inputs and activities including services delivered, clients served, center staff, quarterly expenses and revenues, partners and affiliates, strategic plan, operating plans, and client success stories. No confidentiality for information submitted is promised or provided.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Quarterly, annually, and biennially.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Jasmeet Sehra, (202) 395-3123.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek,

¹ To view the notice, environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, and the comment we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0008>.

Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Jasmeet Seehra, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395-5167 or via the Internet at Jasmeet_K_Seehra@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: June 24, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-15320 Filed 6-26-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Title: Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program Student Applicant Information.

OMB Control Number: 0693-0042.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 400.

Number of Respondents: 200.

Average Hours per Response: 2.

Needs and Uses: The SURF Program provides an opportunity for the NIST laboratories and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to join in a partnership to encourage outstanding undergraduate students to pursue careers in science and engineering. The Program also provides research opportunities for students to work with internationally known NIST scientists, to expose them to cutting-edge research, and promote the pursuit of graduate degrees in science and engineering.

The information is used for evaluation and selection, and includes: Student's name, host institution, e-mail address/contact information, home address, class standing, first- and second-choice NIST laboratories they wish to apply to, academic major (minor), current overall GPA, need for housing and gender (for housing purposes only), availability dates, resume, personal statement of commitment and research interests, two

letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, verification of U.S. citizenship or permanent legal residency, and verification of health coverage.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Jasmeet Seehra, (202) 395-3123.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Jasmeet Seehra, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395-5167 via the Internet at Jasmeet_K_Seehra@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: June 24, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-15335 Filed 6-26-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XP52

Endangered and Threatened Species: Notice of Availability for Public Comment on Guidance for Monitoring the Recovery of Pacific Northwest Salmon and Steelhead Listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Northwest Region has drafted guidance on monitoring the recovery of Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This draft Pacific Northwest monitoring guidance is intended to assist NMFS' recovery partners in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho in understanding the recovery monitoring needs under the ESA. NMFS' Northwest Region is soliciting public review and

comment on the draft Pacific Northwest monitoring guidance.

DATES: All comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on [August 28, 2009].

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft Pacific Northwest monitoring guidance are available on the Internet at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, or upon request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, below). You may submit comments on the draft Pacific Northwest monitoring guidance by any of the following methods:

E-mail: The mailbox address for submitting e-mail comments on the draft monitoring guidance is rme_guidance.nwr@noaa.gov. Please include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the identifier "Draft Pacific Northwest Monitoring Guidance."

Mail: You may submit written comments and information to Dr. Scott Rumsey, NMFS, 1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232. Please identify the comment as regarding the "Draft Pacific Northwest Monitoring Guidance."

Hand Delivery/Courier: You may hand deliver written comments and information to NMFS, 1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Please identify the comment as regarding the "Draft Pacific Northwest Monitoring Guidance."

Fax: (503) 230-6893. Please identify the fax comment as regarding the "Draft Pacific Northwest Monitoring Guidance."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Crawford, NMFS, Northwest Region, by phone at (360) 534-9348, or by e-mail at bruce.crawford@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(c)(2) of the ESA requires that, at least every 5 years, the Secretary shall conduct a review of all ESA-listed species and determine whether any species should: (1) Be removed from such list; (2) be changed in status from an endangered species to a threatened species; or (3) be changed in status from a threatened species to an endangered species. In the Pacific Northwest, NMFS' reviews of the status of listed salmon and steelhead populations, and the extent to which the threats and other factors limiting the species' recovery have been addressed, are largely dependent upon monitoring information collected by state, tribal, and Federal co-managers. In an effort to provide more direction to agencies monitoring the status of ESA-listed salmon and