

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

[Docket No. APHIS–2022–0038]

Notice of Decision To Authorize the Importation of Fresh Table Beet Root for Consumption From the United Kingdom Into the Continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to authorize the importation of fresh table beet root (*Beta vulgaris* L.) for consumption from the United Kingdom into the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Based on findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, 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 table beet root from the United Kingdom.

DATES: Imports may be authorized beginning September 27, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Claudia Ferguson, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, PPQ, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–2352; Claudia.Ferguson@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 commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS proposes to authorize the importation of a fruit or vegetable into the United States if, based

on findings of a pest risk analysis, we determine that the measures can mitigate the plant pest risk associated with the importation of that fruit or vegetable. APHIS then publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS will issue a subsequent **Federal Register** notice announcing whether or not we will authorize the importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the phytosanitary measures specified in the notice.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** on August 23, 2023 (88 FR 57409–57410, Docket No. APHIS–2022–0038) in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a pest risk analysis that evaluated the risks associated with the importation of fresh table beet root (*Beta vulgaris* L.) for consumption from the United Kingdom into the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The pest risk analysis consisted of a risk assessment identifying pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh table beet root into the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands from the United Kingdom and a risk management document (RMD) identifying phytosanitary measures to be applied to that commodity to mitigate the pest risk.

We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days, ending on October 23, 2023. We received no comments by that date.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c)(3)(iii), we are announcing our decision to authorize the importation into the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands of fresh table beet root (*Beta vulgaris* L.) for consumption from the United Kingdom subject to the phytosanitary measures identified in the RMD that accompanied the initial notice.

These conditions will be listed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s, APHIS Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database (<https://acir.aphis.usda.gov/s/>).² In addition to these specific measures, each shipment must be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56–3 that

¹ To view the notice and the supporting documents, go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2022–0038 in the Search field.

² On September 30, 2022, the APHIS Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) database was replaced by the ACIR database.

are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the recordkeeping and burden requirements associated with this action are included under the Office of Management and Budget control number 0579–0049.

E-Government Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the E-Government Act to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies, to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes. For information pertinent to E-Government Act compliance related to this notice, please contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS’ Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851–2533.

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 25th day of September 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–22396 Filed 9–26–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Dakota Prairie Grasslands; North Dakota; Withdrawal of the Notice of Intent for Dakota Prairie Grasslands Land and Resource Plan Amendment and Site-Specific Projects for the Elkhorn Ranchlands****AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).**ACTION:** Notice; withdrawal.

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is withdrawing its notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan amendment and site-specific projects for the Elkhorn Ranchlands acquired lands. The original notice of intent was published in the **Federal Register** on October 8, 2008, document number E8–23812. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands will assign management area allocations for these lands with a land management plan administrative change as described in the land exchange regulations at 36 CFR

254.3 and planning regulations at 36 CFR 219.13.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning this notice should be directed to LeAnn Colburn via U.S. postal mail at Dakota Prairie Grasslands Supervisors Office, 2000 Miriam Circle, Bismarck, ND 58501; via telephone at 701-989-7304; or via email at leann.colburn@usda.gov.

Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

Keith Lannom,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Adoption of Categorical Exclusions Under Section 109 of the National Environmental Policy Act

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of adoption of multiple categorical exclusions from the Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, is adopting multiple categorical exclusions from the Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey (USGS) listed at 516 Departmental Manual 9.5 B, G, H, I, K, and P pursuant to section 109 of the National Environmental Policy Act for future application to Forest Service decisions concerning land management activities that are similar in nature. This notice describes the categories and consultation between the agencies.

DATES: The categorical exclusion adoptions take effect on September 27, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrea Pahlevanpour, Assistant Director, Forest Service, Ecosystem Management Coordination, by phone at 771-216-0229 or via email to andrea.pahlevanpour@usda.gov.

Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. National Environmental Policy Act and Categorical Exclusions

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), as amended, requires all Federal agencies to consider the environmental impact of their proposed actions before deciding whether and how to proceed (42 U.S.C. 4321, 4332). The aims of NEPA are to ensure that agencies consider the potential environmental effects of their proposed actions in their decision-making processes and inform and involve the public in that process (42 U.S.C. 4332). NEPA created the Council on Environmental Quality, which promulgated NEPA implementing regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 1500 through 1508 (Council on Environmental Quality regulations).

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review for a proposed action. Where required, these levels of review may be documented in an environmental impact statement (EIS), an environmental assessment (EA), or by reliance on a categorical exclusion (CE) (40 CFR 1501.3). If a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, the agency will prepare an EIS and document its decision in a record of decision (40 CFR 1502, 1505.2). If the proposed action is not likely to have significant environmental effects or where the level of significance is unknown, the agency will prepare an EA, which involves a more concise analysis and process than an EIS (40 CFR 1501.5). Following preparation of an EA, the agency may reach a finding of no significant impact if the analysis shows that the action will have no significant effects (40 CFR 1501.6). If, following preparation of an EA, the agency finds that the proposed action will have significant effects, it will prepare an EIS before issuing any decision to authorize the action (40 CFR 1501.6(a)(3)).

Under NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality's implementing regulations, a Federal agency can establish CEs—categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment—in its agency NEPA procedures 42 U.S.C. 4336(e)(1); 40 CFR 1501.4, 1507.3(e)(2)(ii), 1508.1(d). If an agency determines that a CE covers a proposed action, the agency then evaluates the proposed action for any extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect (40 CFR 1501.4(b)). Responsible officials in the Forest Service evaluate

proposed actions for extraordinary circumstances in accordance with the Forest Service's NEPA implementing regulations at 36 CFR 220.6. If no extraordinary circumstances are found or if further analysis determines that the extraordinary circumstances do not involve the potential for significant environmental impacts, the agency may rely on the CE to approve the proposed action without preparing an EA or an EIS (42 U.S.C. 4336(a)(2); 40 CFR 1501.4). If extraordinary circumstances exist, the agency may nonetheless categorically exclude the proposed action if it determines that there are means to avoid the impacts or otherwise modify the action sufficient to avoid significant effects (40 CFR 1501.4(b)(1)).

Section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allows a Federal agency to “adopt a categorical exclusion listed in another agency’s NEPA procedures for a category of proposed agency actions for which the categorical exclusion was established” (42 U.S.C. 4336c). To adopt another agency’s categorical exclusion under section 109, the adopting agency: (1) identifies the relevant categorical exclusion listed in another agency’s (“establishing agency”) NEPA procedures “that covers a category of proposed actions or related actions”; (2) consults with the establishing agency “to ensure that the proposed adoption of the categorical exclusion for a category of actions is appropriate”; (3) “identifies to the public the categorical exclusion that the [adopting] agency plans to use for its proposed actions”; and (4) “documents adoption of the categorical exclusion” (see 42 U.S.C. 4336c).

The Forest Service's NEPA procedures are found at 36 CFR 220. These procedures address compliance with NEPA. The Forest Service maintains a list of categorical exclusions available at 36 CFR 220.6. Additional NEPA policy is found in the Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, chapter 10.

This notice documents the Forest Service's adoption of the USGS categorical exclusions 516 Departmental Manual 9.5 B, G, H, I, K, and P.

II. Additional Considerations Related to Forest Service Categorical Exclusions

1. Decision Memo

The Forest Service requires at 36 CFR 220.6(e) that, “A supporting record is required and the decision to proceed must be documented in a decision memo for the categories of action in paragraphs (e)(1) through (25) of this section.” For all the categorical exclusions (CEs) adopted in this notice, the Forest Service will require a