

# 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.

## ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

### Small Claims Patent Court Study; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is engaging ACUS to conduct an independent study of issues associated with and options for designing a small claims patent court. ACUS invites public comments on these issues as part of its study.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than July 5, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by email at [info@acus.gov](mailto:info@acus.gov) (with "Small Claims Patent Court Comments" in the subject line of the message); online by clicking "Submit a comment" near the bottom of the project web page found at <https://www.acus.gov/research-projects/us-patent-small-claims-court>; or by U.S. Mail addressed to Small Claims Patent Court Comments, Administrative Conference of the United States, Suite 706 South, 1120 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. Commenters should not include information, such as personal information or confidential business information, that they do not wish to appear on the ACUS website. For the full ACUS public comment policy, please visit <https://www.acus.gov/policy/public-comment-policy>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kazia Nowacki, Attorney Advisor, Administrative Conference of the United States, 1120 20th Street NW, Suite 706 South, Washington, DC 20036; Telephone (202) 480-2080; email [knowacki@acus.gov](mailto:knowacki@acus.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Administrative Conference Act, 5 U.S.C. 591-596, established the Administrative Conference of the United States. The

Conference studies the efficiency, adequacy, and fairness of the administrative procedures used by Federal agencies and makes recommendations to agencies, the President, Congress, and the Judicial Conference of the United States for procedural improvements (5 U.S.C. 594(1)). For further information about the Conference and its activities, see [www.acus.gov](http://www.acus.gov).

### A Small Claims Patent Court

Since at least the late 1980s, concerns have been raised that the high cost of patent litigation deters small- and medium-sized enterprises, including those owned by traditionally underrepresented groups, from seeking to enforce their patents. Policymakers, scholars, and organizations have studied whether a small-claims procedure is needed for resolving patent disputes. They have reached different conclusions and proposed different actions.

The Department of Commerce has also considered the possibility of a small claims patent court. Most recently, in December 2012, the USPTO issued a **Federal Register** notice requesting public comment on "whether the United States should develop a small claims proceeding for patent enforcement" (77 FR 74830 (Dec. 18, 2012)).

Given ongoing interest in the topic, USPTO has engaged ACUS to conduct an independent survey and analysis of issues associated with and options to consider in designing a small claims patent court. A report resulting from the study will ultimately be submitted to Congress and will address, among other topics, whether there is a need for a small claims patent court, the feasibility and potential structure of such a court, and the relevant legal, policy, and practical considerations in establishing a small claims patent court.

### Specific Topics for Public Comment

ACUS welcomes views, information, and data on all aspects of a potential small claims patent court or small claims patent proceeding and its impacts. ACUS is also seeking specific feedback on the following topics:

1. Whether there is need for a small claims patent court;
2. The policy and practical considerations in establishing a small claims patent court;

3. The institutional placement, structure, and internal organization of a potential small claims patent court, including whether it should be established within the Article III federal courts, as or within an Article I court, or as an administrative tribunal;

4. The selection, appointment, management, and oversight of officials who preside over proceedings in a potential small claims patent court;

5. The subject-matter jurisdiction of a potential small claims patent court, whether participation in such proceedings would be mandatory or voluntary, and whether parties can remove cases to another administrative tribunal or federal court;

6. The procedures and rules of practice for a potential small claims patent court, including, as relevant, pleadings, discovery, and alternative dispute resolution;

7. The remedies that a potential small claims patent court would be able to provide;

8. The legal effect of decisions of a potential small claims patent court; and

9. Opportunities for administrative and/or judicial review of small claims patent court decisions.

Dated: April 28, 2022.

**Shawne McGibbon,**  
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2022-09489 Filed 5-2-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6110-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2019-0068]

### Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Release of *Lilioceris egea* for Biological Control of Air Potato in the Continental United States

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a final environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact relative to permitting the release of an insect, *Lilioceris egea*, for the biological

control of air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) in the continental United States. Based on our finding of no significant impact, we have determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Colin D. Stewart, Assistant Director, Pests, Pathogens, and Biocontrol Permits, Permitting and Compliance Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1237; (301) 851–2237; [colin.stewart@usda.gov](mailto:colin.stewart@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing permits for the release of an insect, *Lilioceris egeana*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) infestations.

Air potato is an herbaceous, twining vine that can grow 65 feet long or more, capable of climbing and out-competing native vegetation. Since its introduction to Florida in 1905, air potato has aggressively spread throughout the State; this species is reportedly naturalized in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Hawaii. In 1999, the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services added air potato to its list of noxious weeds in an attempt to protect the State's native plant species from being displaced or hybridized. Presently, the air potato is well established in Florida and probably throughout the Gulf States where it has the potential to severely disrupt entire ecosystems.

On January 8, 2021, we published in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 1477–1478, Docket No. APHIS–2019–0068) a notice<sup>1</sup> in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the release of *L. egeana* into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of air potato (*D. bulbifera*) infestations. Comments on the notice were required to be received on or before February 8, 2021. We received 14 comments by that date, and they are addressed in the EA. All of the comments were in favor of the proposed release and did not raise any substantive issues.

In this document, we are advising the public of our finding of no significant

impact (FONSI) regarding the release of *L. egeana*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of air potato (*D. bulbifera*) infestations. The finding, which is based on the EA, reflects our determination that release of *L. egeana*, into the continental United States will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The EA and FONSI may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* website (see footnote 1). Copies of the EA and FONSI are also available for public inspection at 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. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead on (202) 799–7039 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by calling or 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 27th day of April 2022.

**Anthony Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2022–09467 Filed 5–2–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection: Annual Wildfire Summary Report

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the USDA Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the renewal of a currently approved information collection, Annual Wildfire Summary Report.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before July 5, 2022 to be assured of consideration. Comments

received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Commenters are encouraged to submit comments by email, if possible. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [timothy.melchert@usda.gov](mailto:timothy.melchert@usda.gov).
- *Mail:* Tim Melchert, Fire and Aviation Management, National Interagency Fire Center, USDA Forest Service, 3833 S Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Tim Melchert, Fire and Aviation Management, National Interagency Fire Center, USDA Forest Service, 3833 S Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

- *Facsimile:* 208–387–5375.

The public may inspect comments received at National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 208–387–5604 to facilitate entry to the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Melchert, Fire and Aviation Manager, National Interagency Fire Center, 208–387–5887. Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Annual Wildfire Summary Report.

*OMB Number:* 0596–0025.

*Expiration Date of Approval:*

December 31, 2022.

*Type of Request:* Renewal without Revision.

*Abstract:* The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 (note) Sec. 10) requires the Forest Service to collect information about wildfire suppression efforts by State and local firefighting agencies in support of congressional funding requests for the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Cooperative Fire Program. The program provides supplemental funding for State and local firefighting agencies. The Forest Service works cooperatively with State and local firefighting agencies to support their fire suppression efforts.

State fire marshals and State forestry officials use form FS–3100–8 (Annual Wildfire Summary Report) to report information to the Forest Service regarding State and local wildfire suppression efforts. The Forest Service is unable to assess the effectiveness of the State and Private Forestry Cooperative Fire Program without this information. Forest Service managers evaluate the information to determine if the Cooperative Fire Program funds used by State and local fire agencies

<sup>1</sup> To view the notice, supporting documents, and the comments we received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter APHIS–2019–0068 in the Search field.