

around 1900. Later, it was widely planted in wetlands as an inexpensive production method for the nursery trade in an attempt to produce a harvestable commodity. By the late 1970's, melaleuca became recognized as an invasive weed due to its ability to produce large quantities of seed. It was added to the Florida Prohibited Plant List in 1990, and to the Federal Noxious Weed List in 1992.

Melaleuca has been difficult to control. Herbicide treatments or controlled burns cause the release of billions of seeds and result in thickets of saplings where only a few trees existed prior to treatment. These infestations are often in sensitive habitats that are difficult to access and hazardous in which to work. Moreover, multiple followup visits are necessary to hand remove seedlings that continue to reappear from the remaining seed bank. Although melaleuca trees can be killed using traditional methods, the inability to control reinvasion or to limit continued spread remains a problem. Biological control has also been pursued as an option, with the Australian weevil *Oxyops vitiosa* and the melaleuca psyllid *Boreioglycaspis melaleucae* having been released to control melaleuca in 1997 and 2002, respectively. More recently, the nonindigenous fly *Fergusonina turneri* Taylor (Diptera: Fergusoninidae) and its obligate nematode, *Fergusobia quinquenerviae* Davies and Giblin-Davis (Tylenchida: Sphaerulariidae), have been identified as potential biological control agents of melaleuca.

The fly *F. turneri* and the nematode *F. quinquenerviae* have a mutualistic biology that causes galls on plant buds and young leaves of melaleuca. Female flies are infected with parasitic female nematodes, nematode eggs, and nematode juveniles that persist through the life of the female fly. The female fly deposits multiple eggs along with the juvenile nematodes into developing melaleuca buds. These nematodes induce the formation of galls in the bud. Fly larvae then feed on the gall tissue and complete development within the gall. The adult fly will later emerge from a "window" in the gall wall, starting the cycle all over again. This process hampers the ability of melaleuca to regenerate by decreasing seed production and reducing survival of melaleuca seedlings and saplings.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering an application for a permit for the release of *F. turneri* and *F. quinquenerviae* into the continental United States to reduce the severity and extent of melaleuca infestation. APHIS'

review and analysis of the proposed action and its alternatives are documented in detail in an environmental assessment (EA) entitled, "Field Release of the Biological Control Agent *Fergusonina turneri* Taylor (Diptera: Fergusoninidae) and its Obligate Nematode, *Fergusobia quinquenerviae* Davies and Giblin-Davis (Tylenchida: Sphaerulariidae) for the Control of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Cav.) S.T. Blake (Myrtales: Myrtaceae) in the Continental United States" (September 2004). We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The EA may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/>. In the middle of that page, click on "Document/Forms Retrieval System." At the next screen, click on the triangle beside "Permits—Environmental Assessments." A list of documents will appear; the EA for melaleuca is document number 0039. You may request paper copies of the EA by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the EA when requesting copies. The EA is also available for review in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

The environmental assessment has 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 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of October 2004.

**Elizabeth E. Gaston,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Lassen Resource Advisory Committee, Susanville, California, USDA Forest Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Lassen National Forest's Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, November 10th and Friday, November 12th in Susanville, California for a business meeting. The meetings are open to the public.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The business meetings on November 10th and 12th will begin at 9 a.m., at the Lassen National Forest Headquarters Office, Caribou Conference Room 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130. These meetings will be dedicated to hearing presentations from project proponents for funding through the "Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000," commonly known as Payments to States. Time will also be set aside for public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Andrews, District Ranger, Designated Federal Officer, at (530) 257-4188; or Public Affairs Officer, Heidi Perry, at (530) 252-6605.

**Jeff Withroe,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

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## APPALACHIAN STATES LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMMISSION

### Annual Meeting

*Time and Date:* 10 a.m.–12 p.m. November 3, 2004.

*Place:* Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

*Status:* Most of the meeting will be open to the public. If there is a need for an executive session (closed to the public), it will be held at about 9:30 a.m.

*Matters To Be Considered:*

*Portions Open to the Public:* The primary purpose of this meeting is to (1) Review the independent auditors' report of Commission's financial statements for fiscal year 2003–2004; (2) Review the