

shall make all appointments to the Committee and members will serve at the Secretary's discretion. Members will serve two-year terms.

The Committee will have 19 members, one of whom will serve as Chair and be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, and one of whom will serve as Vice-Chair as appointed by the Committee. Members will represent small farms, ranches, and woodlot owners and will represent the diverse groups USDA programs serve, including but not limited to, finance, commerce, conservation, cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, rural communities, academia, State and local governments, women and minorities, farmworkers, and other interests as the Secretary determines. USDA will follow equal opportunity practices in making appointments to the Committee. To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups USDA serves, membership will include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Dated: October 26, 1999.

**Keith Collins,**

*Chief Economist, Office of the Chief Economist.*

[FR Doc. 99-28752 Filed 11-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Research Service

#### Government Owned Inventions Available for Licensing

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Government owned inventions available for licensing.

**SUMMARY:** The inventions listed below are owned by the U.S. Government as represented by the Department of Agriculture, and are available for Licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development. Foreign patents are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for U.S. companies and may also be available for licensing.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Technical and licensing information on these inventions may be obtained by writing to June Blalock, Technology Licensing Coordinator, USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-1158,

Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131; telephone: 301-504-5989 or fax: 301-504-5060. Issued patents may be obtained from the Commissioner of Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The inventions available for licensing are:

- S.N. 08/848,146, "Device and Method for Application of Collars to Animals"
- S.N. 08/906,091, "An Attractant for Social Pest Insects"
- S.N. 08/958,475, "Control of Fire Blight on Pome Fruit Trees with Erwinia Herbicola"
- S.N. 09/006,562, "Noxious Weed Control by Soil Solarization"
- S.N. 09/019,155, "Suppression of Alpha-Amylase Expression Using a Serine/Threonine Protein Kinase"
- S.N. 09/033,349, "Control of Fruit Ripening Through Genetic Control of ACC Synthase Synthesis"
- S.N. 09/052,333, "Transgenic Spacer Target Sequence for Detecting and Distinguishing Chlamydial Stains"
- S.N. 09/074,394, "Method for the Simultaneous and Independent Determination of Moisture Content and Density of Particulate Materials for Radio-Frequency Permittivity Measurements"
- S.N. 09/083,852 "Modification of Cereal Grain Hardness Via Expression of Puroindoline Proteins"
- S.N. 09/108,051, "Species-Specific Genetic Identification of Mycobacterium Paratuberculosis"
- S.N. 09/110,132, "Biological Control of Aflatoxin and Cyclopiazonic Acid Contamination of Crops Using Non-Toxicogenic Strain of Aspergillus"
- S.N. 09/120,347, "A Novel Fungal Species for the Biocontrol of the Sugarbeet Root Maggot"
- S.N. 09/120,521, "Attractants for Bactrocera Latifrons (Hendel)"
- S.N. 09/122,342, "Control of Replant Disease of Tree Fruits with Pseudomonas putida"
- S.N. 09/126,229, "Taxane Production from Taxus Species Cell Lines"
- S.N. 09/130,788, "Soluble Hydrocolloid Food Additives and Method of Making"
- S.N. 09/131,363, "Variable-Rate, Digitally-Controlled Fluid Metering Device"
- S.N. 09/135,999, "Starch Microcapsules for Delivery of Active Agents"
- S.N. 09/156,348, "Chemical Attractants for Moths"
- S.N. 09/156,625, "Chemical Attractants for Frugivorous Pest Insects"
- S.N. 09/166,655, "Feeding Attractant and Stimulant for Adult Control of Noctuid and/or Other Lepidopteran Species"

- S.N. 09/191,906, "Mimetic Insect Allatostatin Analogs for Insect Control"
- S.N. 09/201,449, "Stabilization of Pet Operon Plasmids and Ethanol Production in Bacterial Strains Lacking Lactate Dehydrogenase and Pyruvate-Formate Lyase Activities"
- S.N. 09/204,864, "Determination of Concentration of a Compound in a Multiple Component Fluid"
- S.N. 09/208,449, "Apparatus and Process for the Rapid Tenderization of Meat"
- S.N. 09/211,017, "Method for the Development of Delta-Lactones and Hydroxy Acids from Unsaturated Fatty Acids and Their Glycerides"
- S.N. 09/233,761, "Paper Coated with Polymerized Vegetable Oils for Use as Biodegradable Mulch"
- S.N. 09/252,945, "Release Rate Modulator and Method for Producing and Using Same"
- S.N. 09/257,730, "Biological Control of Sprouting in Stored Potatoes"
- S.N. 09/258,304, "Sex Pheromone Synergist"
- S.N. 09/266,950, "Ferritin Formation as a Predictor of Iron Availability in Foods"
- S.N. 09/281,276, "Edible Food Coatings Containing Polyvinyl Acetate"
- S.N. 09/302,962, "Extraction of Pectin by Microwave Heating Under Pressure"
- S.N. 09/330,365, "Fruit and Vegetable Based Edible Film Wraps and Methods to Improve the Quality and Extend Shelf Life of Foods"
- S.N. 09/336,220, "Real Time Trash Measurement System for Seed Cotton or Lint for Use in Cotton Gins"
- S.N. 09/345,236, "A Baculovirus for the Biocontrol Control of Larval Mosquitoes"
- S.N. 09/347,907, "Aggregation Pheromone for the Asian Longhorned Beetle"
- S.N. 09/353,087, "Composition and Method for the Control of Diabrotica Insects"
- S.N. 09/353,348, "Monoclonal Antibodies and Antibody Cocktail for Detection of Prion Protein as an Indication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies"
- S.N. 09/353,643, "Ant Bait Attractive to Multiple Species of Ants"
- S.N. 09/353,713, "An Autonomous Animal Control System Without Ground Based Fencing"
- S.N. 09/354,446, "Use of Indigenous Bacterial Enzymatic and Regulatory Processes to Control Enteropathogens Associated with Food Producing Animals"

- S.N. 09/360,083, "Novel System for the Sequential, Directional Cloning of Multiple DNA Sequences"
- S.N. 09/364,447, "Recombinant Bacteria Which Produce Lipase and Poly (B-Hydroxyalkanoates)"
- S.N. 09/366,603, "Vaccines for the Protection of Cattle from Psoroptic Scabies"
- S.N. 09/376,755, "Process for the Enzymatic Conversion of Podophyllotoxin Beta-Glucopyranosides and other Podophyllum Blycosides to Their Corresponding Aglycons"
- S.N. 09/377,513, "Novel Cytoplasm for Maize"
- S.N. 09/378,441, "Biodegradable Films from Agricultural Polymers"
- S.N. 09/395,565, "Insulin Potentiating Compounds in Cinnamon"
- S.N. 09/400,799, "Process for the Production of Fatty Acid Esters"

**June Blalock,**

*Technology Licensing Coordinator.*

[FR Doc. 99-28753 Filed 11-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Gunflint Corridor Fuels Reduction Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** On August 24, 1999, the Council on Environmental Quality granted alternative arrangements for the immediate actions needed to address public safety concerns within the Gunflint Trail Corridor as a result of the 4th of July Blowdown Event. These alternative arrangements are effective until close of business on Friday, December 24, 1999. Subsequent actions which the Agency (Forest Service) proposed to take over the "longer term" were to be addressed through the normal NEPA process. Therefore, the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to reduce the fire hazard and restore damaged components of the ecosystem within the Gunflint Corridor. The objectives of the project are to: (1) Reduce fuel and fire hazard, (2) Provide and improve land-based infrastructure needs for fire suppression or public evacuation, (3) Increase the acreage and component of longer lived species, particularly pine, (4) Improve long term visual quality, and (5) Reforest blown-down areas. The Record of Decision will disclose how

the Forest Service has decided to treat more than 11,000 acres of blowdown fuels. The proposed action is to treat an estimated 8400 acres with mechanical means such as commercial timber sales or service contract for piling and burning; treat 3000 acres with prescribed fire; and treat 100 acres with service contracts for hand treatment. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed, including a no-action alternative. The proposed project is located on the Gunflint Ranger District, Grand Marais, MN, Superior National Forest. The Gunflint Ranger District is requesting the project be considered an emergency under CFR 215.10(d)(1).

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by December 6, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send written comments to: Gunflint Ranger District, Superior National Forest, Attn.: Gunflint Corridor Fuels Reduction EIS, P.O. Box 790, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jo Barnier, District Ranger, or Becky Bartol, Team Leader, Gunflint Ranger District, Superior National Forest, P.O. Box 790, Grand Marais, MN 55604, telephone (218) 387-1750.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public participation will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies, individuals, and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues, (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth, and (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written scoping comments will be solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list and to the local newspaper. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by December 6, 1999. Issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project on and the relationship of the project to: Fuel hazard reduction, riparian areas and Shipstead Newton Nolan areas, reforestation, temporary roads, inventoried candidate special management complexes, roadless areas, and others.

Based on the results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the Project Area, alternatives, including a

no-action alternative, will be developed for the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in February 2000. The Final EIS is anticipated in May 2000.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be a minimum of 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft EISs must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal, so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978)). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the Draft EIS stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this Proposed Action, participate by the close of the 45-day comment period, so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when they can be meaningfully considered and responded to in the Final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the Proposed Action, comments during scoping and on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible and refer to specific pages or chapters. Comments may address the adequacy of the Draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed. In addressing these points reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act in 40 CFR 1503.3. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this Proposed Action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission, from the public record, by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to