



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

December 10, 2003

Marketing and  
Regulatory Programs

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection Service

Plant Protection  
and Quarantine

6135 NE 80<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Suite A-5  
Portland, OR 97218  
(503) 326-2814  
FAX (503) 326-2969

Dear Interested Party:

The USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS, PPQ) is directed by the Plant Protection Act of 2000 to provide grasshopper and Mormon cricket suppression assistance to federal, state, and private land managers, when certain guidelines have been met. We are not the originators of such programs, but respond to written requests for assistance. Our major program-related function in Oregon over the past eight years has been to conduct annual grasshopper survey to assist federal, state, and private land managers predict potential economic outbreaks.

Although we have not received any suppression requests, we are starting the planning and environmental documentation process necessary to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We invite your participation in the planning process for the Oregon Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program. We would appreciate your comments on the proposed program. They will be an important part of our decision making process.

The environmental analysis for the Oregon Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program is under way, and one or more Environmental Assessment(s) will be completed by March 2004. A description of the project and the proposed action are in the enclosed "Request for Public Input on Proposed Action." It can also be found on internet at <http://www.oda.state.or.us/Plant/index.html>.

Please direct any questions or comments to Mitchell G. Nelson or Gary W. Brown, USDA APHIS PPQ, 6135 NE 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite A-5, Portland, OR 97218, 503 326-2814. Written comments submitted by January 15, 2004 will be most helpful. Comments received in response to this program will be made available for public inspection at our office and will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

Mitchell G. Nelson  
SPHD, Oregon

Enclosure



APHIS - Protecting American Agriculture  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Federal Relay Service (Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)  
1-800-877-8339