

**Finding of No Significant Impact for  
Eradication Program for Onionweed in Arizona  
Environmental Assessment,  
March 2008**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of eradicating onionweed in parts of Arizona. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
3658 E. Chipman Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

The EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) the no action alternative which would require removal of onionweed by hand, and (2) the preferred alternative to utilize spot treatments of the herbicide Escort<sup>®</sup> XP together with methylated seed oil to eradicate onionweed from areas in Arizona. The EA was made available for public comment on March 4, 2008. The public comment period closed April 4, 2008. One comment was received considering the application rate of the herbicide to be used (Escort XP). The commenter was assured that the application rate would be consistent with the label rate. No other comments were received.

An environmental impact statement must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative.

APHIS' Finding of No Significant Impact for this program is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. The EA evaluated the potential environmental effects of the various treatment options on human health and non-target organisms. There will be negligible risks to humans, mammals, birds, fish, and aquatic invertebrates because of low toxicity to these groups and low exposure. There is toxicity to non-target plants, but due to the direct application of herbicide to individual onionweed plants exposure and potential for off-site transport is limited.

APHIS has prepared a biological assessment that considers the effects of the eradication of onionweed on all federally listed species and designated critical habitat in Cochise, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai Counties, Arizona. The proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Arizona cliffrose, Huachuca water umbel (and designated critical habitat), and the Pima pineapple cactus. Measures necessary to protect listed species and critical habitat as a result of this and/or future consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will be adhered to by all APHIS program implementation staff to ensure compliance with the ESA and are outlined in the EA.

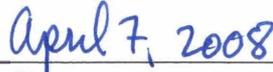
In accordance with the Section 7 consultation process, APHIS has provided the biological assessment to FWS for their review and has requested concurrence with its effect determinations. No treatments will be conducted until APHIS has completed consultation with FWS.

Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with this program, I further find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and that this program may be implemented.



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Jerry Levitt  
Arizona State Plant Health Director  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



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Date