

estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 10, 1997.

David G. Unger,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 97-3626 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute (BMNRI) Board of Directors will meet on March 11, 1997, at Oregon Department of Transportation Conference Room, 3012 Island Avenue, La Grande, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered will include: (1) Program status; (2) research results of specific projects; (3) outreach activities; (4) identification of issues of interest; (5) budget and plan of work; (6) report on Initiatives; (7) presentation on Oregon Initiatives in natural resources; (8) public comments. All BMNRI Board Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting should contact Larry Hartmann, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537, no later than March 7, 1997, to have time reserved on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Larry Hartmann, Manager, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537.

Dated: February 3, 1997.

Larry Hartmann,
Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-3590 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Preapplications for Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of \$500,000 in competing Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) funds for fiscal year (FY) 1997 specifically for technical assistance for rural transportation systems. The funds are designed to assist private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas in providing technical assistance, for planning and developing transportation systems, and for training for rural communities needing improved passenger transportation systems or facilities in order to promote economic development through a link between transportation and economic development initiatives. The RBEG program is administered on behalf of RBS at the State level by the Rural Development State Offices.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of a preapplication in the Rural Development State Office is May 1, 1997. Preapplications received after that date will not be considered for FY 1997 funding.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the Rural Development State Offices to receive further information and copies of the preapplication package. A list of State Offices follows:

State Director, Rural Development,
Sterling Center Suite 601, 4121
Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL
36106-3683, (332) 279-3400
State Director, Rural Development, 800
West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer,
AK 99645, (907) 745-2176
State Director, Rural Development, 3003
North Central Avenue, Suite 900,
Phoenix, AZ 85012, (602) 280-8700
State Director, Rural Development, 700
West Capitol, P. O. Box 2778, Little
Rock, AR 72203, (501) 324-6281
State Director, Rural Development, 194
West Main Street, Suite F, Woodland,
CA 95695-2915, (916) 668-2000
State Director, Rural Development, 655
Parfet Street, Room E 100, Lakewood,
CO 80215, (303) 236-2801
State Director, Rural Development,
(Delaware and Maryland), 5201 South
Dupont Highway, P. O. Box 400,
Camden, DE 19934-9998, (302) 697-
4300

State Director, Rural Development, 4440
NW 25th Place, P. O. Box 147010,
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352)
338-3400

State Director, Rural Development,
Stephens Federal Building, 355 E
Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601,
(706) 546-2162

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Room 311, 154
Waiianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720,
(808) 933-3000

State Director, Rural Development, 3232
Elder Street, Boise, ID 83705, (208)
378-5600

State Director, Rural Development, Illini
Plaza, Suite 103, 1817 South Neil
Street, Champaign, IL 61820, (217)
398-5235

State Director, Rural Development, 5975
Lakeside Blvd, Indianapolis, IN
46278, (317) 290-3100

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Rm 873, 210 Walnut
Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515)
284-4663

State Director, Rural Development, 1200
SW Executive Drive, P.O. Box 4653,
Topeka, KS 66604, (913) 271-2700

State Director, Rural Development, 771
Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington,
KY 40503, (606) 224-7300

State Director, Rural Development, 3727
Government Street, Alexandria, LA
71302, (318) 473-7920

State Director, Rural Development, 444
Stillwater Avenue, Suite 2, P.O. Box
405, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207)
990-9106

State Director, Rural Development,
(Massachusetts, Rhode Island,
Connecticut), 451 West Street,
Amherst, MA 01002, (413) 253-4300

State Director, Rural Development, 3001
Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East
Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 337-6635

State Director, Rural Development, 410
Agri Bank Building, 375 Jackson
Street, St Paul, MN 55101, (612) 290-
3842

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W
Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269,
(601) 965-4316

State Director, Rural Development, 601
Business Loop 70 West, Parkade
Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO
65203, (573) 876-0976

State Director, Rural Development, 900
Technology Blvd., Unit 1, Suite B,
P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59715,
(406) 585-2580

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Room 308, 100
Centennial Mall N, Lincoln, NE
68508, (402) 437-5551

State Director, Rural Development, 1390
South Curry Street, Carson City, NV
89703-5405, (702) 887-1222

State Director, Rural Development, Tarnsfield Plaza, Suite 22, 790 Woodlane Road, Mt Holly, NJ 08060, (609) 265-3600

State Director, Rural Development, 6200 Jefferson Street, NE, Room 255, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 761-4950

State Director, Rural Development, Galleries of Syracuse, 441 S Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202, (315) 477-6400

State Director, Rural Development, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh, NC 27609, (919) 873-2000

State Director, Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East Rosser, P.O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND 58502, (701) 250-4781

State Director, Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 469-5600

State Director, Rural Development, 100 USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074, (405) 742-1000

State Director, Rural Development, 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1410, Portland, OR 97204-2333, (503) 414-3300

State Director, Rural Development, 1 Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996, (717) 782-4476

State Director, Rural Development, New San Juan Office Building, Room 501, 159 Carlos E Chardon Street, Hato Rey, PR 00918-5481, (809) 766-5095

State Director, Rural Development, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-5163

State Director, Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 308, 200 4th Street, SW, Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-1100

State Director, Rural Development, 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203-1071, (615) 783-1300

State Director, Rural Development, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main, Temple, TX 76501, (817) 298-1301

State Director, Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 5438, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84138, (801) 524-4063

State Director, Rural Development, (Vermont, New Hampshire, Virgin Islands), City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-6002

State Director, Rural Development, Culpeper Building, Suite 238, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229, (804) 287-1550

State Director, Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 319, 301 Yakima Street, P.O. Box 2427,

Wenatchee, WA 98807, (509) 664-0240

State Director, Rural Development, 75 High Street, P.O. Box 678, Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 291-4791

State Director, Rural Development, 4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (717) 345-7600

State Director Rural Development, 100 East B, Federal Building, Rm 1005, P.O. Box 820, Casper, WY 82602, (307) 261-6300

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carole S. Boyko, Rural Development, Specialist, Specialty Lenders Division, Room 5404, South Agriculture Building, 1400, Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-0700. Telephone: (202)720-1400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Refer to section 310B(c) (7 U.S.C. 1932) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, and FmHA Instruction 1942-G for the information collection requirements of the RBEG program. The RBEG program was previously administered by the former Rural Development Administration. Under the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, the responsibility for administering this program was transferred to RBS. Part 1942-G of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations provides details on what information must be contained in the preapplication package.

The RBEG program is authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural, Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), as amended. The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. The RBEG program will achieve this objective by assisting private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas in providing technical assistance for planning and developing transportation systems and for training for rural communities needing improved passenger transportation systems or facilities in order to promote economic development through a link between transportation and economic development initiatives.

RBEG grants are competitive and will be awarded to nonprofit institutions based on specific selection criteria, as required by legislation and set forth in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G. Project selection will be given to those projects that contribute the most to the improvement of economic conditions in rural areas. Preapplications will be tentatively scored by the State Offices and submitted to the National Office for review, final scoring, and selection.

Fiscal Year 1997 Preapplication Submission

Qualified applicants should begin the preapplication process as soon as possible and have their preapplication submitted to the State Offices no later than May 1, 1997. Each preapplication received in a State Office will be reviewed to determine if the preapplication is consistent with the eligible purposes outlined in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G. Each criteria outlined in 7 CFR part, 1942, subpart G must be addressed in the preapplication. Failure to address any of the criteria will result in a zero-point score for that criteria and can impact preapplication competence. Copies of 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, will be provided to any interested applicant by making a request to the Rural Development State Office or the RBS National Office. All projects to receive technical assistance through these grant funds are to be identified when the preapplication is submitted to the State Office. Multiple project preapplications must identify each individual project, indicate the amount of funding requested for each individual project, and address the criteria as stated above for each individual project. Multiple project applicants should indicate if the applicant wishes the projects scored individually or as an aggregate average.

All eligible preapplications, along with tentative scoring sheets and the State Director's recommendation, will be referred to the National Office no later than June 2, 1997, for final scoring and selection for award.

The National Office will score preapplications based on the grant selection criteria and weights set forth in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, and will select awardees subject to the availability of funds and the awardee's satisfactory submission of a formal application and related materials in accordance with subpart G. It is anticipated that grant awardees will be selected by July 28, 1997. All applicants will be notified by the RBS of the Agency decision on awards, and non-selectees will be provided appeal rights in accordance with 7 CFR part 11. The information collection requirements within this Notice are covered under OMB No. 0575-0132 and 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G.

Dated: February 3, 1997.

Jill Long Thompson,

Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 97-3566 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U