

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-918-00-1610-DE-UCRB]

Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, Northern, Intermountain, and Pacific Northwest Regions; Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana

AGENCIES: Forest Service, USDA; Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Congressionally-required report on the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP).

SUMMARY: The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are developing a scientifically sound, ecosystem-based management strategy for certain lands under their jurisdiction east of the Cascade crest in Oregon and Washington and in the Columbia River Basin in Idaho and Montana. The 1998 and 2000 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts required the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to prepare a report on certain aspects of the ICBEMP, to provide for a 120-day public review of, and comment on, this report, and to respond to comments on the report in the final Environmental Impact Statement for the ICBEMP. The Congressionally-required report is now available for public review and comment.

DATES: Written comments on the report will be accepted through August 23, 2000. The ICBEMP interdisciplinary team will then analyze the comments and respond to them in the final EIS. The final EIS is expected to be available in late fall, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the report may be obtained from ICBEMP, 304 N. 8th Street, Room 250, Boise, ID 83702 or by calling (208) 334-1770, ext. 120. The report is also available via the internet (<http://www.icbemp.gov>).

Comments on the report should be submitted in writing to SDEIS, P.O. Box 420, Boise, Idaho 83701-0420.

Comments may be submitted electronically at the ICBEMP's home page (<http://www.icbemp.gov>), where a comment form is available.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Boise office during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays), and may be published as part of the final environmental impact statement. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the decision under 36 CFR 217 (Forest Service) or standing to protest the proposed decision under 43 CFR 1610.5-2 (Bureau of Land Management).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Giannettino, Project Manager, 304 North 8th St., Room 250, Boise, Idaho 83702, phone (208) 334-1770; or Geoff Middaugh, Deputy Project Manager, P.O. Box 2344, Walla Walla, Washington 99362, phone (509) 522-4030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This report is in response to the requirements defined in Section 323(a) of the 1998 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, as modified by Section 335 of the 2000 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Section 335 of the 2000 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act modified and addressed specific

portions and timing of Section 323(a) of the 1998 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, requiring the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that addresses four major topics.

First, this report describes, by type and responsible official, anticipated land and resource management decisions associated with the ICBEMP. The report also describes the procedures for implementing decisions in the ICBEMP area.

Second, the report provides an estimate of the time frames for and costs of these decisions. It also includes a statement of the source of funds.

Third, the report contains an estimate of the production of goods and services from the federal lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the first five years, beginning with the date of publication of the Final EIS. Much of the information in this report is also included in the Supplemental Draft EIS.

Finally, the report provides a description of the decision-making process to be used to establish priorities in accordance with appropriations, if the requirements cannot be accomplished with current appropriations levels, adjusted for inflation, and without any reprogramming of such appropriations.

Dated: April 17, 2000.

Susan Giannettino,
Project Manager, US Forest Service.

Dated: April 17, 2000.

Cathy Humphrey,
Deputy EIS Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 00-10079 Filed 4-24-00 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-66-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Advisory Committee Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given of the following committee meeting:

Name: Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

Date: May 16-17, 2000.

Place: DoubleTree Hotel-Lloyd Center, 1000 N.E. Multnomah, Portland, Oregon.

Time: 8:00 am–5:00 pm on May 16 and 8:00 am–11:30 am on May 17, 2000.

Purpose: To provide advice to the Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

The agenda includes a review and discussion of GIPSA's financial status, reauthorization, biotechnology, research and information technology strategies, and other related issues concerning the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture.

Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chairman to orally address the Committee. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee or submit written statements before or after the meeting, should contact the Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 3601, Washington, DC 20250–3601, telephone (202) 720–0219 or FAX (202) 205–9237.

The meeting will be open to the public. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodation should contact Marianne Plaus, telephone (202) 690–3460 or FAX (202) 205–9237.

Dated: April 19, 2000.

James R. Baker,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00–10307 Filed 4–24–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–EN–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Preapplications for Rural Cooperative Development Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$4 million in competitive Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) funds for fiscal year (FY) 2000. Of this amount, \$1.5 million will be reserved for preapplications whose focus is on assistance to small, minority producers through their cooperative businesses. The intended effect of this notice is to solicit preapplications for FY 2000 and award grants before September 1, 2000.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of a preapplication is June 2, 2000. Preapplications received after that date will not be considered. Preapplications

should be sent to the State Rural Development Offices (see attached list for addresses).

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact their USDA Rural Development State office to receive further information and copies of the preapplication package.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James E. Haskell, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Cooperative Services, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 3250, Room 4016, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3250. Telephone (202) 720–8460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Technology and Cooperative Development Grants (RTCDG) program is authorized by section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) and regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. The primary objective of the RCDG program is to improve the economic condition of rural areas through cooperative development. The program is administered through USDA Rural Development State offices acting on behalf of RBS.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education based on specific selection criteria. The priorities described in this paragraph will be used by RBS to rate preapplications. RBS review of preapplications will include the complete preapplication package submitted to the Rural Development State office. Points will be distributed according to ranking with other preapplications.

(a) Priority will be given to applications that:

(1) Demonstrate a proven track record in administering a nationally coordinated or regionally or State-wide operated project;

(2) Demonstrate previous expertise in providing technical assistance to cooperatives in rural areas;

(3) Demonstrate the ability to assist in the retention of business, facilitate the establishment of cooperatives and new cooperative approaches, or generate employment opportunities that will improve the economic conditions of rural areas;

(4) Demonstrate the ability to create horizontal linkages among cooperative businesses within and among various sectors in rural areas of the United States and vertical linkages to domestic and international markets;

(5) Provide technical assistance and other services to underserved and

economically distressed rural areas of the United States;

(6) Commit to providing greater than a 25 percent matching contribution with private funds and in-kind contributions;

(7) Evidence transferability or demonstration value to assist rural areas outside of project area; and

(8) Demonstrate that any cooperative development activity is consistent with positive environmental stewardship.

Fiscal Year 2000 Preapplication Submission

Preapplications must include a clear statement of the goals and objectives of the project and a plan which describes the proposed project as required by the statute and 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. Each preapplication received in the State office will be reviewed to determine if the preapplication is consistent with the eligible purposes outlined in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. Preapplications without supportive data to address selection criteria will not be considered. Also, since the cooperative center concept is to provide a wide range of technical assistance services, including feasibility analysis, to all cooperatives or potential cooperatives within the project area, preapplications that focus on a single cooperative will not be considered. Copies of 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, will be provided to any interested applicant by making a request to the Rural Development State office or RBS National office.

Preapplications must be completed and submitted to the State Rural Development office as soon as possible, but no later than June 2, 2000. Preapplications received after June 2 will not be considered.

Preapplications must contain the documentation delineated in 7 CFR 4284.528. For ease of locating information, please include in each preapplication information as follows:

(a) A detailed Table of Contents containing page numbers for each component of the preapplication.

(b) A project summary of 250 words or less on a separate page. This page should include the title of the project and the names of the primary project contacts and the applicant organization, followed by the summary. The summary should be self-contained and should describe the overall goals, relevance of the project, and a listing of all organizations involved in the project. The project summary should immediately follow the Table of Contents.

(c) A separate one-page information sheet which lists each of the eight evaluation criteria followed by the page