

Delegation of Authority

1. Only the Federal officials identified below are delegated authority to issue Special Actions to address fish stock conservation concerns or unmet subsistence harvest needs. Such action must be substantiated by clear evidence in resource monitoring information and/or corroboration from affected users/

communities, and evaluated in relation to historical information.
 2. Delegated authority to issue Special Actions is limited to opening or closing Federal subsistence fishing periods or areas provided for under regulations found at 36 CFR 242.26–242.27 and 50 CFR 100.26–100.27, or closing non-subsistence fishing in Federal waters. All requests to modify Federal subsistence management regulations,

such as those relating to harvest limits, permit requirements, gear restrictions, or customary and traditional use determinations, must be directed to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3. The following Federal officials are delegated to act for the Federal Subsistence Board as delineated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, for the fishery regulatory year 2000:

Geographic region	Delegated Federal official
Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound, excluding Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.	Western Arctic Parklands Superintendent.
Yukon River Drainage and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	Fairbanks Fisheries Resource Office Project Leader.
Kuskokwim, Goodnews and Kanektok River Drainages	Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager.
Bristol Bay/Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik	King Salmon Fisheries Resource Office Project Leader.
Kodiak Region	Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager.
Copper River	Wrangell/St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent.
Remainder Prince William Sound Area and Cook Inlet	Cordova District Ranger.
Southeast Alaska/Yakutat:	
Yakutat Area	Yakutat District Ranger.
Baranof and Chichagof Islands	Sitka District Ranger.
Admiralty Island and northern southeast Alaska inside waters	Juneau District Ranger.
Prince of Wales and associated islands	Craig District Ranger.
Kuiu, Kupreanof, and Zarembo Islands and Stikine River	Petersburg District Ranger.
Southern southeast Alaska inside waters	Ketchikan District Ranger.

Drafting Information: William Knauer drafted this policy document under the guidance of Thomas H. Boyd, of the Office of Subsistence Management, Alaska Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska. Curt Wilson, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management; Bob Gerhard, Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service; Greg Bos, Alaska Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Ida Hildebrand, Alaska Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Ken Thompson, USDA-Forest Service provided additional guidance.

Dated: June 15, 2000.

Kenneth E. Thompson,

Acting Regional Forester, USDA—Forest Service.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

Thomas H. Boyd,

Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Extension of Comment Period for the Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Programs Manual—Part 513: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U. S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This Public Notice announces an extension of the comment period deadline for comments on the draft the Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Programs Manual—Part 513: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program.

DATES: Comments will be received until July 28, 2000. All comments post-marked by July 28, 2000, will be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to: Terry D’Addio, National RC&D Program Manager, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 14th & Independence Ave, SW, Room 6013 South Building, Washington, DC, 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry D’Addio, Natural Resources Conservation Service; telephone: (202)

720–0557; fax: (202) 690–0639, e-mail terry.daddio@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The first Public Notice was released on April 14, 2000. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is asking for comments from individuals, private consultants, Tribal, State, and local governments or subgroups thereof, universities, colleges, environmental groups, community development groups, and other organizations. These comments will assist USDA in the policy development and implementation of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program. This manual is intended for use by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other USDA staff, conservation partners, State and local field staffs, RC&D Council members, and others that will be developing RC&D applications or participating in the RC&D program. The Conservation Programs Manual: Part 513—RC&D Program is a document intended for use by NRCS and other USDA staff, conservation partners, State and local field staffs, RC&D Council members, and others that either will be developing RC&D applications or participating in the RC&D program. The purpose of this document is to provide policy guidance for the RC&D program, not to establish regulatory requirements. The RC&D Program was authorized to encourage and improve the capability of State and local units of government and

local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop, and implement programs for resource conservation and development. Through the establishment of RC&D Areas, the program establishes or improves coordination systems in rural communities and builds rural community leadership skills to effectively utilize Federal, State, and local programs for the communities' benefit.

Current program objectives focus on the "quality of life" improvements achieved through natural resources conservation and community development. Such activities lead to sustainable communities, prudent land use, and the sound management and conservation of natural resources.

Assistance is provided, as authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, to designated RC&D Areas through their organized RC&D Councils, comprised of local leaders. RC&D Councils and their sponsors, in association with State, local, and Federal governments, and non-profit organizations, initiate and lead the planning and implementation of their locally developed RC&D Area plans. Councils also obtain assistance from other local, State, and Federal agencies; private organizations; and foundations.

USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Additionally, discrimination on the basis of political beliefs and marital or family status is also prohibited by statutes enforced by USDA. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, and audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination to USDA, write Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Signed at Washington, DC on June 21, 2000.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Availability of Funding and Requests for Proposals for Guaranteed Loans Under the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA or Notice) announces the timeframe and submission requirements and deadlines to submit proposals in the form of "NOFA responses" for the section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP). Eligible lenders, as defined in paragraph VII(D) of this NOFA are invited to submit NOFA proposals for the development of affordable rental housing to serve rural America. This document describes the overall application process, including the selection and identification of any priorities for selection of proposed applications, and the process by which the Rural Housing Service (RHS or Agency) will score and rank the proposals. Information will also be included concerning the submission requirements. Lenders may submit their application concurrently with their NOFA response.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of NOFA responses is 4:00 PM, Eastern Daylight Savings Time on August 15, 2000. Lenders intending to mail a NOFA response must provide sufficient time to permit delivery on or before the closing deadline date and time. Acceptance by a post office or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX), Cash on Delivery (COD), and postage due NOFA responses or applications will not be accepted. NOFA responses will not be accepted after the deadlines previously mentioned, unless that date and time is extended by another Notice published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Responses for participation in the program must be identified as "Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program" on the envelope and be submitted to: Director, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1263 (STOP 0781), 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-0781.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Allen, Deputy Director, Guaranteed Loans, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Agriculture Building, Room 1271, STOP

0781, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-0781. E-mail: jallen@rdmail.rural.usda.gov. Telephone: (202) 690-4499. This number is not toll-free. Hearing or speech impaired persons may access that number by calling the Federal Information Relay Service toll-free at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The GRRHP is operated under the direction of title 7 CFR part 3565. The Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program Origination and Servicing Handbook (HB-1-3565) is available to provide lenders and the general public with the "how to" administrative guidance needed to administer the program. HB-1-3565, which contains a copy of 7 CFR part 3565 in Appendix 1, may be found on the Rural Development Regulation web site internet address of "http://rdinit.usda.gov/regs" or copies may be obtained from the Rural Housing Service Multi-Family Housing Processing Division at 202-720-1604. This is not a toll-free number. Hearing- or speech-impaired persons may access that number by calling the Federal Information Relay Service toll-free at (800) 877-8339.

Discussion of Notice

I. Purpose and Program Summary

On March 28, 1996, President Clinton signed the "Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996," Public Law 104-120, authorizing the section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP). The program is designed to increase the supply of affordable multifamily housing through partnerships between Rural Housing Service (RHS) and major lending sources, as well as state and local housing finance agencies and bond issuers. Qualified lenders will be authorized to originate, underwrite, and close loans for multifamily housing projects requiring new construction or acquisition with rehabilitation of at least \$15,000 per unit, when the acquisition results in the creation of new affordable housing units. RHS may guarantee such loans upon presentation and review of appropriate certifications, project information and satisfactory completion of the appropriate level of environmental review by RHS. Lenders will be responsible for the full range of loan management, servicing, and property disposition activities associated with these projects. The lender will be expected to provide servicing or contract for servicing of each loan it underwrites. In turn, RHS will guarantee the lender's loan up to 90 percent of total development cost and