

twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: West Copper River Delta Sport Fish Use Survey.

OMB Number: 0596–New.

Expiration Date of Approval: N/A.

Type of Request: New.

Abstract: The amount and distribution of sport fish use (recreational angling) on individual streams of the West Copper River Delta is currently unknown. Local managers have observed a recent increase in use and are concerned that concentrated use will impact fisheries resources. Concentrated sport fish use can result in habitat degradation, over harvest of small coho salmon stocks, increased trash/noise/pollution, congested fishing at popular spots, and increased traffic/parking problems at access points. There are two main sport fish user groups: local and non-local. Much of the use may come from non-local anglers that arrive by one of two means: airplane or ferry. Improved ferry service in 2005 may further increase the number of sport fish users on the Copper River Delta. There is a need to collect baseline data on the current amount and distribution of sport fish use on the Copper River Delta.

The Cordova Ranger District proposes to collect the information in three ways: person-to-person interviews at the airport and at ferry terminals, mail-in questionnaires distributed to local residents, and aerial counts of anglers. Respondents will be asked where they fished, how long they fished, what species they caught, and what species they harvested. The information from the interviews and from the mail-in questionnaires will be assessed against the aerial surveys.

The collected information will provide Forest Service resource managers with a means by which to measure and monitor sport fish use on the West Copper River Delta during the peak fishing period and to assist in the management of sport fish use at the individual stream level on the Copper River Delta. The data will be useful to: (1) Focus sport fish related interpretive and educational projects (signs and brochures); (2) focus habitat protection and restoration projects in areas of concentrated use; (3) focus habitat monitoring efforts in areas of concentrated use; (4) identify areas where improved access and or facilities would benefit users or other forest resources (trails, parking areas, fish cleaning stations, etc.); and (5) evaluate special use permit (SUP) needs.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 10 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals who sport fish on the West Copper River Delta.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 500 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: May 27, 2004.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 04–13465 Filed 6–14–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Commercial Pack Stock Use Authorizations for the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses; Inyo and Sierra National Forests; Inyo, Fresno, Madera and Mono Counties, CA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposal to authorize outfitting and guiding activities by up to 22 commercial pack stock operations that serve the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas. The proposed action establishes limits on the numbers of stock animals used in conjunction

with commercial operators, establishes limits on the commercial group size at certain locations, determines trail suitability for commercial operations, and designates campsites for use by commercial stock users. The proposed action also establishes primary operating areas for commercial pack stock operations, establishes destination quotas, and determines grazing suitability.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received no later than July 26, 2004. A draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for public review in January 2005. At that time the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in May 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Pack Stock Use Proposed Action, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. Electronic comments may be sent to *comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us*. The subject line should read "Pack Stock Use Proposed Action."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Beth Hennessy, Wilderness Specialist, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514, (760) 873–2448.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

On April 10, 2000, a lawsuit was filed against the Sierra and Inyo National Forests alleging violations of the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Wilderness Act. Specifically, it was claimed that commercial pack stations were issued special use permits to operate in the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness areas without assessing, in advance through the NEPA process, the environmental impacts of these activities. On June 4, 2001, the judge overseeing the lawsuit issued a ruling on the litigation and found in favor of the plaintiffs, although only on the NEPA claim. The Court determined that the Forest Service failed to adequately document environmental impacts as required by the NEPA. On November 1, 2001, a Court Order was issued that required the Forest Service to complete the NEPA process for these permits no later than 2006. The Court specifically required that a cumulative impacts analysis be included in the NEPA

process and that this analysis consider limits on numbers of stock animals used in conjunction with commercial operators, limits on the group size (people and number of stock both on and off trail), trail suitability for various use types, and designation of campsites for use by commercial pack stations.

The purpose of this proposed action is to: (1) Identify where, at what level and what type of use each commercial pack stock operator will be authorized to provide; (2) ensure that the commercial pack stock operations comply with applicable law, the Land and Resource Management Plans for the Inyo and Sierra National Forests, and with Forest Service policy; (3) provide for resource protection, including protection of wilderness character, while meeting the identified need for commercial pack stock services by the public; and (4) comply with the Court Order.

The Forest Service needs to make a decision on the specific terms and conditions that will be incorporated into the authorizations for commercial pack stock operations in these two wilderness areas. Most of the special use permits issued to existing commercial pack stock operations have expired or are due to expire in the next few years. Operations continue to be authorized pursuant to the Court Order, with specified conditions and restrictions, until a new NEPA analysis is completed and new special use permits are issued.

Proposed Action

To meet the purpose and need, the Forest Service proposes to authorize use and occupancy for outfitting and guiding activities for up to 22 commercial pack stock operators that provide these services in the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses. This proposed action will impose terms, conditions, and appropriate use levels for these activities to be incorporated into the special use permit. Specifically, the proposed action includes the following: (1) Designation of stock camps for commercial operators; (2) approval or disapproval of use of non-system trails by commercial stock operators; (3) determination of grazing suitability and allocations of stock nights for specific grazing areas; (4) determination of appropriate party size by location; (5) approval, maintenance, or the elimination of pack stock holding facilities (e.g., drift fences); (6) identification of certain system trails as "not recommended for stock" which will preclude their use by commercial pack stock operators; (7) determination of appropriate camp fire areas; and (8) protection of heritage resources and

traditional Native American cultural resources. The proposed action includes actions that will be common to all analysis units in the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses and actions that are site-specific to areas within the analysis units.

Possible Alternatives

In addition to the Proposed Action, a No Action alternative, as required by the NEPA, will be analyzed. The No Action alternative to be analyzed would allow for the expiration of current commercial pack stock authorizations for the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness areas.

Responsible Official

The responsible officials are Jeffrey E. Bailey, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514 and Edward C. Cole, Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether to authorize outfitting and guiding use and activities by commercial pack stock operations in the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas as proposed or as modified in response to the analysis of identified issues and alternatives. This decision is intended to meet the court ordered cumulative effects analysis for these two wilderness areas. This decision may require an amendment to the two forest land and resource management plans.

Scoping Process

The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, tribes, individuals and other organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Comments submitted during the scoping process should be in writing. They should be specific to the action being proposed and should describe as clearly and completely as possible any issues the commenter has with the proposal. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS.

To facilitate public participation, additional scoping opportunities will include a public scoping letter, public meetings (dates and locations to be determined), newsletters, and information posted on the Inyo and Sierra National Forests' Web sites.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest Service

would like to know of any issues, concerns and suggestions you may have about this proposal. The complete proposed action is highly detailed and site specific. Copies of the complete document may be obtained upon request by contacting MaryBeth Hennessy (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**, above).

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22;
Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 21)

Dated: June 7, 2004.

Edward C. Cole,

Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest.

Dated: June 7, 2004.

Jeffrey E. Bailey,

Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest.

[FR Doc. 04-13394 Filed 6-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss 2004 projects and hold a short public forum (question and answer session). The meeting is being held pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393). The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 22, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ravalli County Administration Building, 215 S. 4th Street, Hamilton, Montana. Send written comments to Jeanne Higgins, District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870, by facsimile (406) 777-7423, or electronically to jmhiggins@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeanne Higgins, Stevensville District Ranger and Designated Federal Officer, Phone: (406) 777-5461.

Dated: June 7, 2004.

David T. Bull,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-13393 Filed 6-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Announcement of Value-Added Producer Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of \$13.2 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year (FY) 2004 to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. RBS hereby requests proposals from eligible independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures interested in a competitively-awarded grant to fund one of the following two activities: (1) Planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product (e.g. conduct a feasibility study, develop a business plan, develop a marketing plan); or (2) acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets. In order to provide program benefits to as many eligible applicants as possible, applications can only be for one or the other of these two activities, but not both. The maximum award per grant is \$500,000 and matching funds are required.

DATES: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically by 4 p.m. Eastern time on July 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain application guides and materials for a Value-Added Producer Grant via the Internet at the following web address: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> or by contacting the Agency Contact for your state listed in Section VII of this notice.

Submit completed paper applications for a grant to DynAccSys, Attention: Bitsy Keko, 101 Donner Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Submit electronic grant applications to the following e-mail address: VAPG@duncanltd.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Agency Contact for your state listed in Section VII of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS).

Funding Opportunity Title: Value-Added Producer Grants.

Announcement Type: Initial announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.352.

Dates:

- *Application Deadline:* Applications must be received on or before 4 p.m. Eastern time on July 30, 2004.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

This solicitation is issued pursuant to section 231 of the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-224) as amended by section 6401 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) authorizing the establishment of the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development grants, also known as Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG). The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the program's administration to USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

The primary objective of this grant program is to help eligible independent producers of agricultural commodities, agricultural producer groups, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures develop strategies to create marketing opportunities and to help develop business plans for viable marketing opportunities. Eligible agricultural producer groups, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures must limit their proposals to emerging markets. These grants will facilitate greater participation in emerging markets and new markets for value-added products. Grants will only be awarded if projects or ventures are determined to be economically viable and sustainable. No more than 10 percent of program funds can go to applicants that are majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Definitions

Agency—Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or a successor agency.

Agricultural Producer—Persons or entities, including farmers, ranchers, loggers, agricultural harvesters and fishermen, that engage in the production or harvesting of an agricultural product. Producers may or may not own the land or other production resources, but must have majority ownership interest in the agricultural product to which Value-Added is to accrue as a result of the project. Examples of agricultural producers include: a logger who has a majority interest in the logs harvested that are then converted to boards, a fisherman that has a majority interest in the fish caught that are then smoked, a wild herb gatherer that has a majority interest in the gathered herbs that are then converted into essential oils, a cattle feeder that has a majority interest in the cattle that are fed, slaughtered and sold as boxed beef, and a corn grower that has a majority interest in the