

hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of October 2006.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-17777 Filed 10-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Implementation of an American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Farm Service Agency (FSA) soliciting applications for competitive cooperative agreement funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 to initiate a credit outreach initiative targeted to American Indian farmers, ranchers and youth residing primarily on Indian reservations within the contiguous United States. FSA anticipates the availability of \$1,166,400 in funding. FSA requests proposals from eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, land-grant institutions and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments interested in a competitively-awarded cooperative agreement to create and implement a mechanism that will provide credit outreach and promotion, pre-loan education, one-on-one loan application preparation assistance and other related services as proposed by the successful applicant that are specific to FSA's Agricultural Credit Programs.

The successful applicant must provide evidence that it has the capability to put in place a data tracking system that thoroughly records all credit outreach-specific related activities and has the ability to provide detailed statistical information on an ad hoc basis. This database must also be functional on a real-time basis as well as being available online through the Internet.

This request for proposals is made prior to passage of a final appropriations bill to allow applicants sufficient time to submit proposals, give the Agency maximum time to process applications, and permit continuity of this program. If actual funding differs from that anticipated (\$1,166,400) based on

historical funding levels, then the Agency will publish a separate Notice of Funds Availability.

**DATES:** Applications should be completed and submitted as soon as possible, and must be received by the Agency no later than November 24, 2006. Late applications will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant. Applicants must ensure that the service they use to deliver their applications can do so by the deadline. Due to recent security concerns, packages sent to the Agency by mail have been delayed several days or even weeks.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit proposals and other required materials to Mike Hill, Acting Director, Outreach Staff, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0511, Suite 508 Portals Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0511.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mike Hill at (202) 690-1299, or at [mike.hill@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:mike.hill@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Objective**

This solicitation is issued pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Federal programs affecting rural areas. The principal objective of this cooperative agreement is to initiate a national outreach program that enables American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth primarily located on Indian reservations in the contiguous United States to understand and have access to the various FSA Agriculture Credit Programs. All proposed approaches must have, within three months upon acceptance of award: (1) A data tracking system that thoroughly records all credit outreach specific activities and has the ability to provide detailed statistical information on an ad hoc basis, that must also be functional on a real-time basis as well as being available online through the Internet, and (2) the applicant must demonstrate its ability to learn to deliver these credit outreach services utilizing the FSA online Farm Business Plan software program.

Proposals should demonstrate innovative and unique ways of ensuring that American Indians: (1) Will be provided a targeted promotional campaign about, (2) have ready access to, (3) are educated about and (4) can obtain one-on-one assistance specific to the various FSA Agricultural Credit Programs. Applicants must also demonstrate and provide evidence of their ability to record and track

program-specific data which can be accessed on a real-time basis and be available online through the Internet.

### Background

Today, American Indians own and control approximately 56 million acres of agricultural lands held in trust by the United States Government and administered, for the most part, by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) of the Department of the Interior. Land-based agricultural enterprises are considered the primary source of revenue for most tribes, due in large part to their severe isolation from any urban type industrial development activities. Thus, protecting this resource is an important function of the elected tribal officials charged with operating business activities that take place within reservations.

In the late 1800's the United States Government recognized the significant needs of agriculture, the agricultural community, and the impacts they had on the American economy and the world as a whole. With this in mind, the government created the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to insure a safe, reliable, and cheap supply of food for this country and ultimately the world. The USDA provides farmers and ranchers technical, financial, and educational resources.

Until 1987, American Indian agricultural producers on reservations had been less able to benefit from USDA services. Since 1987, changes, such as Farm Bills with Indian-specific language, have begun to close some of the gaps in American Indians' lack of access to USDA's programs and services. As positive as these changes were, they did not fully address an implementation plan or the funds to implement sorely needed agribusiness education and direct services to American Indian Reservation farmers and ranchers as a group.

On May 13, 2002, President Bush signed into law the "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002" (2002-Farm Bill). Again, American Indian Reservation farmers and ranchers are faced with the challenge of understanding and accessing the programs and services afforded through this new law. With this in mind, American Indian agribusinesses, as well as individual Indians, have consistently reported that the primary need in Indian agriculture was access to the capital required to own and operate their own farm or ranch. Therefore, FSA has undertaken this initiative to create and implement a mechanism that will provide credit outreach and other related services related to FSA's Agricultural Credit Programs as a way to

resolve some of the credit needs of Indian agriculture.

### Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposals requested by this notice do not involve a collection of information as defined by section 1320.3(c) of 5 CFR part 1320, because it will not involve the collection of information from 10 or more persons.

#### I. Definitions

The following definitions are applicable to this Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Implementation of an American Indian Credit Outreach Program.

*Agency or FSA.* The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency or its successor agency.

*Farm land.* Land used for commercial agriculture crops, poultry and livestock enterprises, or aquaculture.

*Federally-Recognized Indian Tribal Government.* The governing body or a governmental agency of any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community (including any Native village as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for the special programs and services provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

#### *Land Grant Institutions.*

(1) A 1994 institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)), or an 1890 institution.

(2) An Indian tribal community college or an Alaska Native cooperative college.

(3) A Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

*Non-Profit Organization.* Any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that:

(1) Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;

(2) Is not organized primarily for profit; and

(3) Must be an organization that is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as being certified as 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### II. Recipient Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must either be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, a federally-recognized Indian tribe, or a land grant institution as defined in the Definitions section of this NOFA. Cooperative agreement funds cannot be used to

support the organization's general operations. Applications without sufficient information to determine their eligibility will not be considered.

#### III. Proposal Preparation

A proposal must contain an original and two copies of the following:

1. *Form SF-424*, "Application for Federal Assistance."

2. *Form SF-424A*, "Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs."

3. *Form SF-424B*, "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs."

4. *Table of Contents*—For ease of locating information, each proposal must contain a detailed Table of Contents immediately following the required Federal forms. The Table of Contents should include page numbers for each component of the proposal. Pagination should begin immediately following the Table of Contents.

5. *Proposal Summary*—A summary of the Project Proposal, not to exceed one page, that includes the title of the project, a description of the project (including goals and tasks to be accomplished), the names of the individuals responsible for conducting and completing the tasks, and the expected time frame for completing all tasks (which should not exceed twelve months).

6. *Eligibility*—A detailed discussion, not to exceed two pages, describing how the applicant meets the definition of land grant institution, non-profit organization, or Federally-recognized Indian tribal government, as outlined in the "Recipient Eligibility Requirements" section of this NOFA. In addition, the applicant must describe all other collaborative organizations that may be involved in the project.

7. *Proposal Narrative*—The narrative portion of the project proposal must be in a font such as Times New Roman, 12 pt. or comparable font, and must include the following:

(i) *Project Title*—The title of the proposed project must be brief, not to exceed 100 characters, yet represent the major thrust of the project.

(ii) *Information Sheet*—A separate one page information sheet which lists each of the evaluation criteria listed in this NOFA under the "Evaluation Criteria and Weights" subsection followed by the page numbers of all relevant material and documentation contained in the proposal which address or support that criteria.

(iii) *Goals and Objectives of the Project*—A clear statement of the ultimate goals and objectives of the project must be presented.

(iv) *Evaluation Criteria*—Each of the evaluation criteria listed in the "Evaluation Criteria and Weights" subsection of this NOFA must be addressed specifically and individually by category. These criteria should be in narrative form with any specific supporting documentation attached as addenda and should be placed directly following the proposal narrative. If other materials including financial statements will be used to support any evaluation criteria it should also be placed directly following the proposal narrative. The applicant must also propose and delineate significant agency participation in the project.

#### IV. Amount of Award

The amount of funds available for FY 2007 is approximately \$1,166,400.

#### V. Number of Awards

Only one cooperative agreement will be awarded.

#### VI. Eligible Cooperative Agreement Fund Uses

Cooperative agreement funds may be used to cover allowable costs incurred by the recipient and approved by the Agency. Allowable costs will be governed by 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019, as applicable, and applicable Office of Management and Budget Circulars.

#### VII. Ineligible Fund Uses

Cooperative agreement funds cannot be used to:

(1) Plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct a building or facility (including a processing facility);

(2) Purchase, rent, or install fixed equipment, including mobile and other processing equipment;

(3) Pay for the preparation of the grant application;

(4) Pay expenses not directly related to the funded venture;

(5) Fund political or lobbying activities;

(6) Pay costs incurred prior to receiving this Cooperative Agreement;

(7) Fund any activity prohibited by 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019, as applicable; and

(8) Fund architectural or engineering design work for a specific physical facility.

#### VIII. Methods for Evaluating and Ranking Applications

A National Office panel of career FSA and/or USDA Agency employees will review applications for eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness to this NOFA. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will be returned

to the applicant and not evaluated further. If the submission deadline has not expired and time permits, ineligible applications may be returned to the applicants for possible revision.

#### *IX. Evaluation Criteria, Proposal Review*

The proposal will be evaluated using the following criteria. Failure to address any one of the criteria will disqualify the application. All proposals must be in compliance with this NOFA and applicable statutes.

(1) *Proposal Review*—Prior to technical examination, a preliminary review will be made by FSA Outreach Staff for responsiveness to this solicitation. Proposals that do not fall within the solicitation guidelines or are otherwise ineligible will be eliminated from competition. All responsive proposals will be reviewed by a panel of reviewers using the evaluation criteria stated below. The selected FSA and/or USDA Agency employee reviewers will be chosen to provide maximum expertise and objective judgment in the evaluation of proposals. Evaluated proposals will be ranked by the FSA Outreach Staff based on the evaluation criteria and weights listed below. Final approval of those proposals will be made by the Administrator of FSA, subject to the availability of funds.

(2) *Evaluation Criteria and Weight*—All responsive proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

(i) *Proposer's Commitment and Resources* (15 points)—The standard evaluates the degree to which the organization is committed to the project, and the experience, qualifications, competency, and availability of personnel and resources to direct and carry out the project. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate its ability to be able to deliver these credit outreach services utilizing the new FSA online Farm Business Plan software program upon acceptance of any financial award.

(ii) *Feasibility and Policy Consistency* (20 points)—The standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal clearly describes its objectives and evidences a high level of feasibility. This criterion relates to the adequacy, soundness of the proposed approach to the solution of the problem and evaluates the plan of operation, timetable, evaluation and dissemination plans.

(iii) A detailed description of the anticipated number of underserved American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth served and collaborative partnerships, if any (20 points)—This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal reflects partnerships and collaborative initiatives with other

agencies or organizations to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the program. Additionally, the areas and number of underserved American Indian farmers, ranchers and youth who would benefit from the services offered will be evaluated.

(iv) *Socially Disadvantaged American Indian Applicants—Outreach* (10 points)—This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal contains detailed programs to reach persons identified as socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers and youth. The proposal will be evaluated for its potential for encouraging and assisting socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth to utilize the various FSA agriculture credit programs. Elements considered include impact, continuation plans, innovation, and expected products and results.

(v) *Innovative Strategies* (25 points)—This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal reflects innovative strategies for reaching the population targeted in the proposal and achieving the project objectives. Elements also evaluated include: (1) Evidence that the applicant has the ability to put in place a data tracking system that can thoroughly record all credit outreach specific related activities and the ability to provide detailed statistical information on an ad hoc basis, with additional evidence supporting its ability to function on a real-time basis as well its ability to be available online through the Internet, and (2) originality, practicality, and creativity in proposing ways to develop and test innovative solutions to existing or anticipated credit issues or problems of socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers and youth. The proposal will be reviewed for its responsiveness to the need to provide socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth with promotion, relevant information, and direct assistance in applying for and receiving FSA agriculture credit, and other essential information to enhance participation in agricultural programs and conducting a successful farming or ranching operation.

(vi) *Overall Quality of the Proposal* (5 points)—This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal complies with this NOFA and is of high quality. Elements considered include adherence to instructions, accuracy and completeness of forms, clarity and organization of ideas, thoroughness and sufficiency of detail in the budget narrative, specificity of allocations between targeted areas if the proposal addresses more than one area, and

completeness of vitae for all key personnel associated with the project.

(vii) *Accuracy of Proposed Budget and Justification* (5 points)—This standard evaluates the accuracy of the proposed budget and the accompanying budget justification and should sufficiently provide the reviewer with a detailed description of each budget category that includes categorical subtotals as well as an attached budget justification that clearly defines and explains each and every proposed budget line item.

3. *Selection Process*—When the reviewers have completed their individual evaluations, the panel reviewers based on the individual reviews, will make recommendations to the Administrator that one responsive proposal be approved for support from available funds. Prior to award, the Administrator reserves the right to negotiate with an applicant whose project is recommended for funding regarding project revisions (e.g., change in scope of work or the Agency's significant involvement), funding level, or period of support. A proposal may be withdrawn at any time before a final funding decision is made.

#### *X. Program Administration*

##### *(1) Cooperative Agreement Awards:*

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the Administrator shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the successful applicant. The date specified by the Administrator as the effective date of the award shall not be later than 12 months after the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law.

##### *(2) When to Submit an Application.*

The deadline for receipt of all applications is November 24, 2006. The Agency will not consider any application received after the deadline.

#### *XI. Cooperator Requirements*

Cooperators will be required to do the following:

(1) Sign required Federal grant-making forms including Form AD-1047, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters—Primary Covered Transactions; Form AD-1048, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions; Form AD-1049, Certification Regarding a Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants); and Form RD 400-4, Assurance Agreement (Civil Rights).

(2) Use Standard Form 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement to request payments.

(3) Submit a Standard Form 269, Financial Status Report and list expenditures according to agreed upon budget categories on a semi-annual basis. A semi-annual financial report is due within 45 days after the first 6-month project period and an annual financial report is due within 60 days after the second 6-month project period.

(4) Submit quarterly performance reports which compare accomplishments to the objectives; if established objectives are not met, discuss problems, delays, or other problems that may affect completion of the project; establish objectives for the next reporting period; and discuss compliance with any special conditions on the use of awarded funds.

(5) Maintain a financial management system that is acceptable to the Agency.

(6) Submit a final project performance report.

(7) Sign an agency approved cooperative agreement.

#### *XII. Other Federal Statutes and Regulations That Apply*

In addition to the requirements provided in this notice, other Federal statutes and regulations apply to proposals considered for review and to our cooperative agreement awarded. These include, but are not limited to:

(1) 7 CFR part 15, subpart A, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Agriculture-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

(2) 7 CFR part 3015, Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations;

(3) 7 CFR parts 3016, Uniform Administrative Regulations for Grants and Cooperative Agreements & State and Local Governments.

(4) 7 CFR part 3017, Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants);

(5) 7 CFR part 3018—New Restrictions on Lobbying;

(6) 7 CFR part 3019—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations; and

(7) 7 CFR part 3052—Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

Signed in Washington, DC, on October 16, 2006.

**Glen L. Keppy,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

#### **United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency**

##### *Cooperative Agreement—American Indian Outreach Initiative*

This Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) dated \_\_\_\_\_, between \_\_\_\_\_ (Cooperator), and the United States of America, acting through the Farm Service Agency of the Department of Agriculture (the Agency, or Grantor), for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in cooperative agreement funds under the program, delineates the agreement of the parties.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the cooperative agreement;

The parties agree that:

(1) All the terms and provisions of the Notice entitled "Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Implementation of an American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative," published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 2006 [ENTER FR PAGE NUMBER] and the application submitted by the Grantee for this Agreement, including any attachments or amendments, are incorporated and included as part of this Agreement. Any changes to these documents or this agreement must be approved in writing by the Agency.

(2) As a condition of the Agreement, the Cooperator certifies that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the Agreement with all applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and other generally applicable requirements, including those contained in 7 CFR 3015.205(b), which are incorporated into this agreement by reference, and such other statutory provisions as are specifically contained herein. The Grantee will comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Executive Order 12250.

(3) The provisions of 7 CFR part 3015, Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations and 7 CFR part 3019, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations, as applicable are incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference.

Further, the Cooperator agrees that it will:

(1) Not use cooperative agreement funds to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct a building or facility (including a processing facility); or to purchase, rent, or install fixed equipment.

(2) Use funds only for the purpose and activities specified in the proposal approved by the Agency including the approved budget. Any uses not provided for in the approved budget must be approved in writing by the Agency in advance of obligation by the Agency.

(3) Submit a Standard Form 269, Financial Status Report and list expenditures according to agreed upon budget categories on a semi-annual basis. Reports are due by April 30 and October 30 after the grant is awarded.

(4) Provide periodic reports as required by the Agency. A financial status report and a project performance report will be required on a semi-annual basis. The financial status report must show how grant funds have been used to date and project the funds needed and their purposes for the next quarter. A final report may serve as the last semi-annual report. Grantees shall constantly monitor performance to ensure that time schedules are being met and projected goals by time periods are being accomplished. The project performance reports shall include the following:

a. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives for that period.

b. Reasons why established objectives were not met, if applicable.

c. Reasons for any problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will affect attainment of overall program objectives, prevent meeting time schedules or objectives, or preclude the attainment of particular objectives during established time periods. This disclosure shall be accomplished by a statement of the action taken or planned to resolve the situation.

d. Objectives and timetables established for the next reporting period.

e. The final report will also address the following:

(i) What have been the most challenging or unexpected aspects of this program?

(ii) What advice you would give to other organizations planning a similar program. These should include strengths and limitations of the program. If you had the opportunity, what would you have done differently?

(iii) If an innovative approach was used successfully, the cooperator should describe their program in detail so that other organizations might consider replication in their areas.

(5) Provide Financial Management Systems which will include:

a. Records that identify adequately the source and application of funds for cooperative agreement supported activities. Those records shall contain information pertaining to grant and cooperative agreement awards and authorizations, obligations, un-obligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays, and income.

b. Effective control over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets. Cooperator shall adequately safeguard all such assets and shall ensure that they are used solely for authorized purposes.

c. Accounting records supported by source documentation.

(6) Retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to the grant for a period of at least 3 years after grant closing, except that the records shall be retained beyond the 3-year period if audit findings have not been resolved. Microfilm or photocopies or similar methods may be substituted in lieu of original records. The Agency and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Grantee which are pertinent to the specific cooperative

agreement program for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts.

(7) Not encumber, transfer, or dispose of the equipment or any part thereof, acquired wholly or in part with Agency funds without the written consent of the Agency.

(8) Not duplicate other program purposes for which monies have been received, are committed, or are applied to from other sources (public or private). The Agency agrees to make funds available to the Cooperator under this Agreement in an amount not to exceed the amount indicated above. The funds will be reimbursed or advanced based on submission to the Agency by the Cooperator of a complete Standard Form 270.

Authorized and executed this day by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Cooperator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

United States of America  
Farm Service Agency  
By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

[FR Doc. E6-17736 Filed 10-23-06; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-05-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 2006 projects and to listen to speakers. The meeting is being held pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393). The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on October 24, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor Office, 1801 N. 1st Street, Hamilton, Montana. Send written comments to Dan Ritter, District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870, by facsimile (406) 777-7423, or electronically to [dritter@fs.fed.us](mailto:dritter@fs.fed.us).

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

Dated: October 17, 2006.

**Barry Paulson,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 06-8838 Filed 10-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Environmental Assessment; Rehabilitation of Grade Stabilization Structure 2, Turtle Creek Watershed, Sary County NE

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability, Finding of No Significant Impact.

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prepared an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended. Pursuant to the implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); the USDA Departmental Policy for the NEPA (7 CFR part 1b); the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR part 650); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service policy (General Manual Title 190, Part 410); the Natural Resources Conservation Service gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the rehabilitation of grade stabilization Structure 2 in Turtle Creek Watershed, Sary County Nebraska. The Environmental Assessment was developed in coordination with the sponsoring local organization (Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District) for a federally assisted action to address grade stabilization in the Turtle Creek Watershed and the status of grade stabilization dam Structure 2. Upon consideration of the affected environment, alternatives, environmental consequences, and comments and coordination with concerned public and agencies, the State Conservationist for NRCS, Nebraska found that based on the significance and context and intensity that the proposed action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Thus, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was made.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen K. Chick, State Conservationist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial

Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3866; telephone (402) 437-5300.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The sponsoring local organization concurs with this determination and agrees with carrying forward the proposed project. Structure 2 no longer meets the NRCS safety and performance standards for a High Hazard Class structure. The proposed action is to rehabilitate Structure 2 to a full-flow grade stabilization structure, meet safety requirements, and extend its life for 100 years. The existing principal spillway would be removed, the auxiliary spillway would be abandoned, the top of dam would be lowered to remove storage capacity and a broad-crested weir chute spillway would be built. Existing embankment removed from the structure would be placed in the existing auxiliary spillway and graded to drain.

Information regarding this finding may be obtained at the contact information listed above. No administrative action on implementation of the proposed funding action will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

**Stephen K. Chick,**

*State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. E6-17797 Filed 10-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Availability of the "Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Programs Manual—Part 513: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program"

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) seeks comments on the proposed revision of the "Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Programs Manual—Part 513: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program." USDA asks for comments from RC&D Council members and individuals from tribal, State, and local governments and organizations involved in either natural resource conservation or community development groups. These comments will assist USDA in