

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

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Guarantee Fee Rates for Guaranteed Loans for Fiscal Year 2010; Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2010; Annual Renewal Fee for Fiscal Year 2010

AGENCY: Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107(b) and 4280.126(c), Rural Development (the Agency) has the authority to charge an annual renewal fee for loans made under the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program and the Rural Energy for America (Section 9007; formerly Section 9006 Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program) Guaranteed Loan Program. Pursuant to that authority, the Agency is establishing the renewal fee rate at one-fourth of 1 percent for the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program and one-fourth of 1 percent for the Section 9007 Guaranteed Loan Program. These rates will apply to all loans obligated in fiscal year (FY) 2010 that are made under the cited programs. As established in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4280.126, the amount of the fee on each guaranteed loan will be determined by multiplying the fee rate by the outstanding principal loan balance as of December 31, multiplied by the percent of guarantee.

As set forth in 7 CFR 4280.126(a), each fiscal year the Agency shall establish the initial guarantee fee rate for loans made under the Section 9007 Guaranteed Loan Program. Pursuant to that authority, the Agency is establishing the initial guarantee fee rate at 1 percent for loans made in FY 2010.

As set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107(a) and 4279.119(b)(4), each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of B&I guarantee

authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a B&I guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain B&I guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119, will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious. For 1 percent fees, (1) the borrower's business must support value-added agriculture and result in farmers benefiting financially, or (2) such projects are "high impact" as defined in 7 CFR 4279.155(b)(5), and are located in rural communities that either (a) remain persistently poor, (b) have experienced long-term population decline and job deterioration, (c) are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster, or (d) are experiencing fundamental structural changes in its economic base. For guaranteed loans exceeding 80 percent, such projects must be a high-priority project in accordance with 7 CFR 4279.155 (and meet the other requirements of 7 CFR 4279.119(b)).

Not more than 12 percent of the Agency's quarterly apportioned B&I guarantee authority (including available Disaster funding) will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency's quarterly apportioned guarantee authority (including available Disaster funding) will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the respective quarterly limits are reached, all additional loans for that quarter will be at the standard fee and guarantee limits in 7 CFR part 4279. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank (NADBank) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. Up to 50 percent of CAIP loans may have a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent. The funding authority for CAIP loans is not derived carryover or recovered funding authority of the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program.

For B&I projects funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act (ARRA) funds, there is no renewal fee and all guaranteed loans will be charged a 1 percent guarantee fee. Any guaranteed loan that is \$10 million or less that scores at least 55 points in accordance with RD Instruction 4279-B, section 4279.155, will receive a 90 percent guarantee.

DATES: *Effective Date:* November 12, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brenda Griffin, e-mail brenda.griffin@wdc.usda.gov, Rural Development, Business Programs, Business and Industry Division, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224, telephone (202) 720-6802.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 as amended by Executive Order 13258.

Date: October 16, 2009.

Judith A. Canales,

Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E9-27143 Filed 11-10-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Helena National Forest, MT, Telegraph Vegetation Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Helena National Forest is going to prepare an environmental impact statement for vegetation management actions in the Little Blackfoot drainage west of the Continental Divide. The purpose and need for action is to be responsive to the mountain pine beetle outbreak in this area, specifically to recover economic value of dead and dying trees. Additional purposes for the project include promoting desirable regeneration, reducing fuels and the risk of catastrophic fire, and maintaining diverse wildlife habitats.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 14, 2009. The draft environmental impact statement is expected June 2010 and the final

environmental impact statement is expected November 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Liz Van Genderen, Helena National Forest, 2880 Skyway Dr., Helena, MT 59602. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to *comments-northern-Helena@fs.fed.us*, or via facsimile to 406-449-5436.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Liz Van Genderen at 406-449-5201.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

Wide-scale tree mortality has occurred due to the mountain pine beetle. This mortality causes changes to fire behavior in the event of a wildfire. Treatment is needed to ensure diverse and sustainable forest stands and to lessen the probability of a catastrophic wildfire which could threaten wildland urban interface areas. The project focuses on reducing hazardous fuels, establishing healthy regeneration, and recovering the economic value of dead trees. In addition, aspen and whitebark pine can be promoted with treatment. The project also seeks to maintain or improve watershed values.

Proposed Action

Approximately 6,335 acres are proposed for treatment. Roughly 2,000 acres are young stands that established after past harvest and are in need of thinning to ensure they reach viable maturity. The remaining acres are primarily mature stands of lodgepole pine with some Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir with high mountain pine beetle mortality. These acres would be treated using a combination of improvement cuts, regeneration harvests, thinning, and prescribed fire. Post treatment activities

would include approximately 3,800 acres of underburning, site prep, broadcast burning, jackpot burning, and hand piling/burning. In addition, trees that are hazardous to public and historic structures would be removed. Up to 7 miles of new road construction and approximately 5 miles of road reconstruction would be necessary to implement the proposed action.

Responsible Official

Helena National Forest Supervisor.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decisions to be made include: whether to implement the proposed action or an alternative to the proposed action, what monitoring requirements would be appropriate to evaluate the implementation of this project, and whether a forest plan amendment would be necessary as a result of the decision for this project.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. In November 2009, a scoping package will be mailed, an open house will be scheduled, and website information will be posted.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review.

Dated: November 5, 2009.

Kevin T. Riordan,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E9-27144 Filed 11-10-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Senior Executive Service: Membership of Performance Review Board

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists approved candidates who will comprise a standing roster for service on the Agency's SES Performance Review Board. The Agency will use this roster to select SES board members, and an outside member for the convening SES

Performance Review Board each year.

The standing roster is as follows:

Mauricio Vera, Chairperson;
Angelique Crumbly, Alternate;
Franklin Moore;
Susan Pascocello;
James Peters, Alternate;
Randy Streufert;
John Robinson, Outside SES Member.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Jackson, 202-712-1781.

Dated: November 5, 2009.

Helena Olivares,

Acting Chief, Civil Service Personnel Division.

[FR Doc. E9-27150 Filed 11-10-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the California Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a meeting of the California Advisory Committee (Committee) to the Commission will convene on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn on or about 11 a.m. at the Federal Building, 300 North Los Angeles St., Suite 2010, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to plan a briefing for fiscal year 2010.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments. The comments must be received in the regional office by January 2, 2010. The address is U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 300 North Los Angeles St., Suite 2010, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Persons wishing to e-mail their comments or who desire additional information should contact Peter Minarik, Regional Director, Western Regional Office, at (213) 894-3437 or 800-877-8339 for individuals who are deaf, hearing impaired, and/or have speech disabilities or by e-mail to *pminarik@usccr.gov*.

Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Western Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or to contact the