

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 4,203.

**Ruth Brown,**

Departmental Information Collection  
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2010-13330 Filed 6-2-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

#### Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Risk Management Agency (RMA), USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) this notice announces the Risk Management Agency's intention to request an extension and revision to a currently approved information collection for Notice of Funds Availability—Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice will be accepted until close of business, August 2, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *By Mail to:* David Wiggins or Jay Howard-Brock, Civil Rights and Community Outreach, USDA/RMA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 6714-S, Stop 0809, Washington, DC 20250-0809.

- *E-Mail:*

*David.Wiggins@rma.usda.gov*, or  
*Jacqueline.Howard-Brock@rma.usda.gov*.

All comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Contact David Wiggins or Jay Howard-Brock, Civil Rights and Community Outreach, USDA/RMA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 6714-S, Stop 0809, Washington, DC 20250-0809, telephone (202) 690-4789 or 202-690-2686.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Notice of Funds Availability—Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program.

**OMB Number:** 0563-0066.

**Type of Request:** Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

**Abstract:** The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation administers cooperative agreements that will be used to provide outreach and assistance to under-served agricultural producers such as women, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and other traditionally under served farmers and ranchers (under-served agricultural producers). With this submission, RMA seeks to obtain OMB's approval for an information collection project that will assist RMA in operating and evaluating these programs. The primary objective of the information collection projects is to enable RMA to better evaluate the performance capacity and plans of organizations that are applying for funds for cooperative agreements for the Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program.

This information collection package will be used for evaluating applications and awarding partnership agreements, applicants are required to submit materials and information necessary to evaluate and rate the merit of proposed projects and evaluate the capacity and qualification of the organization to complete the project.

**Estimate of Burden:** The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6 hours per response for new applications and 4 hours for renewal applications.

**Respondents/Affected Entities:** Education institutions, community based and cooperative organizations, and non-profit organizations.

**Estimated annual number of respondents:** 120.

**Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:** 1.

**Estimated annual number of responses:** 120.

**Estimated total annual burden on respondents:** 1,160 hours.

**Comments are invited on:** (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection information; (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 those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other

collection technologies, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 27, 2010.

**William J. Murphy,**

Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2010-13253 Filed 6-2-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-08-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business—Cooperative Service

#### Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

**AGENCY:** Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Notice announces the availability of \$45.1 million in program level to support rural microentrepreneurship in rural America and solicits applications for funds available under the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program to provide direct loans, technical assistance grants, and technical assistance-only grants to microdevelopment organizations to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. The Agency will make awards on a quarterly basis. In the event, as expected in the first quarter, all program funds are not awarded in a quarter, the remaining funds will be carried over to the subsequent quarter.

**DATES:** Applications for participating in this Program will be accepted on an ongoing basis, but will be awarded on a quarterly basis. For Fiscal Year 2010, applications must be received by July 16, 2010 for consideration for award under Fiscal Year 2010 and September 30, 2010 for consideration for award for funds available in Fiscal Year 2010, but not obligated.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications and forms may be obtained from any Rural Development State Office. Applicants must submit an original complete application to the USDA Rural Development National Office and provide a copy of the application package to the USDA Rural Development State Office in the state where the applicant's project is located. The National Office address and a list of the USDA Rural Development State Offices addresses and telephone numbers are listed below.

**Note:** Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

**National Office**

Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program, Business Programs, Specialty Programs Lending Division, USDA Rural Development, Room 6868, South Agricultural Building, Stop 3225, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, (202) 720-1400.

**Alabama**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3400/TDD (334) 279-3495.

**Alaska**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, (907) 761-7705/TDD (907) 761-8905.

**Arizona**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 230 N. 1st Ave., Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003, (602) 280-8701/TDD (602) 280-8705.

**Arkansas**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3200/TDD (501) 301-3279.

**California**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 430 G Street, # 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169, (530) 792-5800/TDD (530) 792-5848.

**Colorado**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 655 Parfet Street, Room E-100, Lakewood, CO 80215, (720) 544-2903/TDD (720) 544-2976.

**Delaware-Maryland**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904, (302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-3585.

**Florida/Virgin Islands**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338-3400/TDD (352) 338-3499.

**Georgia**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034.

**Hawaii**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 311, 154 Waiuanue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933-8380/TDD (808) 933-8321.

**Idaho**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 9173 West Barnes Dr., Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-5600/TDD (208) 378-5644.

**Illinois**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 2118 West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821, (217) 403-6200/TDD (217) 403-6240.

**Indiana**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278, (317) 290-3100/TDD (317) 290-3343.

**Iowa**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 873, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515) 284-4663/TDD (515) 284-4858.

**Kansas**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1303 S.W. First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040, (785) 271-2700/TDD (785) 271-2767.

**Kentucky**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 224-7300/TDD (859) 224-7422.

**Louisiana**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 473-7921/TDD (318) 473-7655.

**Maine**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207) 990-9160/TDD (207) 942-7331.

**Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 451 West Street, Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002-2999, (413) 253-4300/TDD (413) 253-4590.

**Michigan**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324-5190/TDD (517) 324-5169.

**Minnesota**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 375 Jackson Street, Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, (651) 602-7800/TDD (651) 602-3799.

**Mississippi**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-4316/TDD (601) 965-5850.

**Missouri**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-0976/TDD (573) 876-9480.

**Montana**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 900 Technology Boulevard, Suite B, P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771, (406) 585-2580/TDD (406) 585-2562.

**Nebraska**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 437-5551/TDD (402) 437-5093.

**Nevada**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1390 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89703-5146, (775) 887-1222/TDD (775) 885-0633.

**New Jersey**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 8000 Midlantic Drive, 5th Floor North, Suite 500, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856) 787-7700/TDD (856) 787-7784.

**New Mexico**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 6200 Jefferson Street, NE, Room 255, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 761-4950/TDD (505) 761-4938.

**New York**

USDA Rural Development State Office, The Galleries of Syracuse, 441 South Salina Street, Suite 357, Syracuse, NY 13202-2541, (315) 477-6400/TDD (315) 477-6447.

**North Carolina**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh, NC 27609, (919) 873-2000/TDD (919) 873-2003.

**North Dakota**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East Rosser, P.O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND 58502-1737, (701) 530-2037/TDD (701) 530-2113.

**Ohio**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-2418, (614) 255-2400/TDD (614) 255-2554.

**Oklahoma**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100 USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074-2654, (405) 742-1000/TDD (405) 742-1007.

**Oregon**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 801, Portland, OR 97232, (503) 414-3300/TDD (503) 414-3387.

**Pennsylvania**

USDA Rural Development State Office, One Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996, (717) 237-2299/TDD (717) 237-2261.

**Puerto Rico**

USDA Rural Development State Office, IBM Building, Suite 601, 654 Munos Rivera Avenue, San Juan, PR 00918-6106, (787) 766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332.

**South Carolina**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-5697.

**South Dakota**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 210, 200 Fourth Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-1100/TDD (605) 352-1147.

**Tennessee**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203-1084, (615) 783-1300.

**Texas**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9700/TDD (254) 742-9712.

**Utah**

USDA Rural Development State Office, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake City, UT 84138, (801) 524-4320/TDD (801) 524-3309.

**Vermont/New Hampshire**

USDA Rural Development State Office, City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-6000/TDD (802) 223-6365.

**Virginia**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 238, Richmond, VA 23229-5014, (804) 287-1550/TDD (804) 287-1753.

**Washington**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1835 Black Lake Boulevard SW., Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512-5715, (360) 704-7740/TDD (360) 704-7760.

**West Virginia**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 75 High Street, Room 320, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500, (304) 284-4860/TDD (304) 284-4836.

**Wisconsin**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 345-7600/TDD (715) 345-7614.

**Wyoming**

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100 East B, Federal Building, Room 1005, P.O. Box 11005, Casper, WY 82602-5006, (307) 233-6700/TDD (307) 233-6733.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on this Notice, please contact the USDA Rural Development State Office for your respective State, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Paperwork Reduction Act**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the paperwork burden associated with this Notice has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0062.

**Overview**

*Federal Agency Name:* Rural Business—Cooperative Service (an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development mission area).

*Solicitation Opportunity Title:* Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.  
*Announcement Type:* Initial announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number. The CFDA number for this Notice is 10.870.

**DATES:** Completed applications must be received in the USDA Rural Development National Office no later than the quarterly deadlines of July 16 and September 30, 2010 to be considered for funds available in FY 2010 and, assuming availability of funds, by December 31, 2010, for the first quarter in FY 2011.

Availability of Notice and Rule. This Notice and the interim rule for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) are available on the USDA Rural Development Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP-LoanAndGrants.html> and at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/bprogs.htm>.

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

A. Purpose of the Program. The purpose of RMAP is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises (businesses generally with ten employees or fewer and in need of financing in the amount of \$50,000 or less as defined in 7 CFR 4280.302).

Assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include the provision of loans and grants to rural Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) for the provision of microloans to rural microenterprises and microentrepreneurs; provision of business-based training and technical assistance to rural microborrowers and potential microborrowers; and other such activities as deemed appropriate by the Secretary to ensure the development and ongoing success of rural microenterprises.

B. Statutory Authority. The RMAP is authorized by Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 USC 2008s). Regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 4280, subpart D.

C. Definition of Terms. The definitions applicable to this Notice are published at 7 CFR 4280.302.

**II. Award Information**

A. *Type of Award:* Loan and/or Grant.

B. *Fiscal Year Funds:* FY 2010.

C. *Funding Availability:* The total amount of available program level in Fiscal Year 2010 is \$45.1 million. Of this total, \$36.2 million will be initially available for loans, \$7.6 million will be initially available for Microlender technical assistance grants, and \$1.3

million will be initially available for Technical assistance-only grants. Exact funding is dependent on the quality of applicants for each funding type.

Any funds not awarded under this notice will be carried over into Fiscal Year 2011. Applications received after July 16, 2010, will be reviewed and evaluated for funding beginning October 1st. Applications for the first quarter are due September 30th. In the event some of the program funds allocated for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 are not awarded, the remaining funds will be carried over to the second quarter.

D. *Approximate Number of Awards:* 82.

E. *Awards:* The minimum loan amount an MDO may borrow under this program is \$50,000. The maximum loan any MDO may borrow in any given year is \$500,000.

The maximum amount of a technical assistance-only grant under this program will not exceed an estimated \$130,000.

Microlender Technical Assistance grants will be limited to an amount equal to not more than 25 percent of the total outstanding balance of microloans made under this program and active by the microlender as of the date the grant is awarded for the first \$400,000 plus an additional 5 percent of the loan amount owed by the microborrowers to the lender under this program over \$400,000 up to and including \$2.5 million. Funds cannot be used to pay off the loans. During the first year of a microlender's operation under this program, the percentage will be determined based on the amount of the loan to the microlender, but will be disbursed on a quarterly basis based on the amount of microloans made. Any grant dollars obligated, but not spent, from the initial grant, will be subtracted from the subsequent year grant to ensure that obligations cover only microloans made and active.

F. *Anticipated Award Dates:*

\* August 31, 2010 for applications received by July 16, 2010.

\* November 15, 2010 for applications received by September 30, 2010.

\* February 15, 2011 for applications received by December 31, 2010.

**III. Eligibility Information**

A. Eligible Applicants. To be eligible for this program, the applicant must meet the eligibility requirements in 7 CFR 4280.310.

B. Cost share requirements. The Federal share of the eligible project cost of a microborrower's project funded under this Notice shall not exceed 75 percent. The cost share requirement shall be met by the microlender in

accordance with the requirements specified in 7 CFR 4280.311(d).

C. Matching fund requirements. The MDO is required to provide a match of not less than 15 percent of the total amount of the grant in the form of matching funds, indirect costs, or in-kind goods or services.

D. Other Eligibility Requirements. Applications will only be accepted from eligible MDOs. Eligible MDOs must score a minimum of 70 points out of 100 points to be considered to receive an award. Awards will be based on ranking with the highest ranking applications being funded first, subject to available funding.

E. Completeness Eligibility. All applications must be submitted as a complete application, in one package. Applications will not be considered for funding if they do not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility or are unbound, falling apart, or otherwise not suitable for evaluation. Such applications will be returned.

#### **IV. Fiscal Year 2010 Application and Submission Information**

A. Application Submittal. Applications may be submitted in either paper or electronic format. If applications are submitted in paper format, they must be bound in a 3-ring binder and must be organized in the same order set forth in 7 CFR 4280.315. To ensure timely delivery, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications using an overnight, express, or parcel delivery service.

Applicants are encouraged to submit grant only applications through the Grants.gov Web site at: <http://www.grants.gov>. Users of Grants.gov

will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov Web site. USDA Rural Development strongly encourages applicants not to wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov. Applications may not be submitted by electronic mail.

When applicants enter the Grants.gov Web site, they will find information about submitting a grant application electronically through the site as well as the hours of operation. Applicants may submit all documents electronically through the Web site, including all information required for a complete application and all necessary assurances and certifications under 7 CFR 4280.315. After electronically submitting an application through the Web site, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. USDA Rural Development may request that the applicant provide original signatures on forms at a later date.

All applicants, whether filing applications through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) or by paper, must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1-866-705-5711.

Please note that applicants can locate the downloadable application package for this program by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number, which is 10.870, or FedGrants Funding Opportunity Number, which can be found at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

B. Content and Form of Submission. An application must contain all of the required elements outlined in 7 CFR 4280.315. Each application must address the applicable scoring criteria presented in 7 CFR 4280.316 for the type of funding being requested.

C. Submission Dates and Times.

The original complete application must be received by the USDA Rural Development National Office no later than 4:30 p.m. local time by the application deadline dates listed above, regardless of the postmark date.

Applications received at the USDA Rural Development National Office, unless withdrawn by the applicant, will be retained by the Agency for consideration in subsequent reviews through a total of four quarterly reviews. Applications unsuccessful after four quarters will not be considered further for an award.

#### **V. Application Review Information**

Awards under this Notice will be made on a competitive basis each quarter. Each application received in the USDA Rural Development National Office will be reviewed, scored, and ranked to determine if it is consistent with the program requirements. Applications will be scored based on the applicable scoring criteria contained in 7 CFR 4280.316. Failure to address any of the applicable scoring criteria will result in a zero-point score for that section. Applications must receive at least 70 points to be considered for funding in the quarter in which it is scored. Figure 1 illustrates the scoring associated with 7 CFR 4280.316.

**BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P**

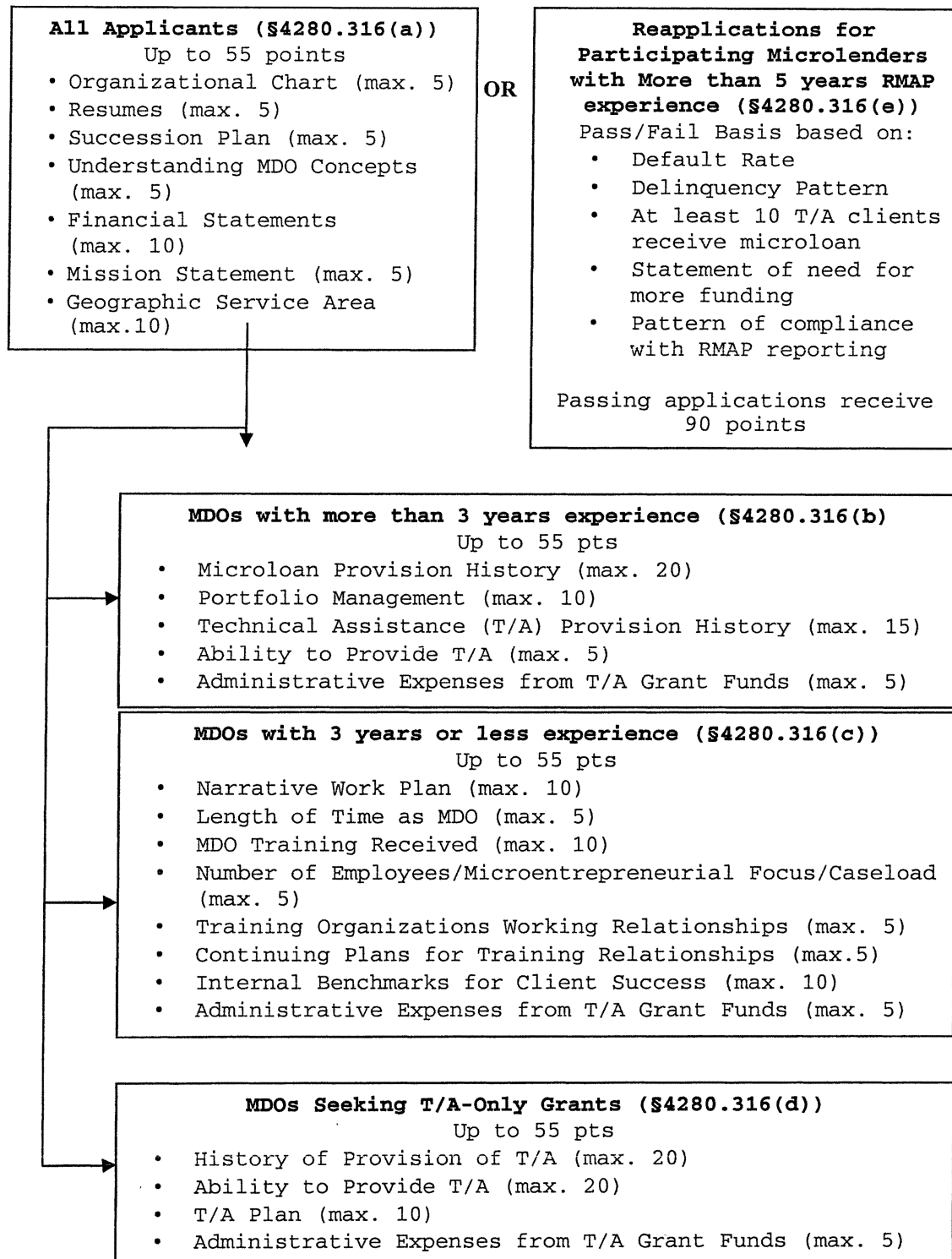


Figure 1. Summary of RMAP Scoring

**VI. Award Administration Information**

Successful applicants will receive notification for funding from the USDA Rural Development State Office. Applicants must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations

before the award will be approved. Unsuccessful applications will receive notification by mail.

**VII. Agency Contacts**

For general questions about this Notice, please contact your USDA Rural Development State Office as provided in the Addresses section of this Notice.

**NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: May 28, 2010.

**Judith A. Canales,**

*Administrator, Rural Development, Business and Cooperative Programs, [OMB1]Section.*

[FR Doc. 2010-13380 Filed 6-2-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XY-C**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Intermountain Region, Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District; Idaho; Mill Creek—Council Mountain Landscape Restoration Project**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Council Ranger District of the Payette National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Mill Creek—Council Mountain Landscape Restoration Project. The approximate 51,900 acre project area is located about two miles east of Council, Idaho. The Mill Creek—Council Mountain Landscape Restoration Project proposes to improve wildlife habitat, reduce wildland fire hazard, encourage woody biomass utilization, contribute to the economic vitality of the communities adjacent to the Payette National Forest, and improve watershed conditions through a variety of activities including commercial and noncommercial vegetation management and road system modifications and maintenance.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by July

6, 2010. The draft environmental impact statement is expected December 2010 and the final environmental impact statement is expected May 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to P.O. Box 567, Council, ID 83612. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to [comments-intermtn-payette-council@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-payette-council@fs.fed.us), or via facsimile to 208-253-0109.

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:** Steve Penny, Project Team Leader, 208-253-0164. 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**

*The Purpose of the project is to:* (1) Improve wildlife habitat for white-headed woodpeckers, by restoring appropriate forested stands to historical range of variability, and improve habitat for other wildlife species as appropriate; (2) reduce wildland fire hazard in forested stands with conditions that depart from the historical range of variability; (3) encourage woody biomass utilization as a revenue source to for restoration goals; and (4) contribute to the economic vitality of the communities adjacent to the Payette NF.

Land management activities over the last century, such as fire suppression, timber harvest (especially large diameter ponderosa pine) and road construction have affected forest, grassland, shrubland plant species composition and structure, and watershed conditions. The need for this action is move landscape conditions toward the historical range of variability, and to meet 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) direction.

##### **Proposed Action**

*The Proposed Action includes the following restoration treatments:* (1)

Harvesting of sawtimber and biomass (woody material not meeting sawtimber specifications) on 4,800 acres by thinning from below to reduce tree density, crown spacing, and ladder fuels followed by underburning to promote ponderosa pine and other fire-resistant tree species reproduction, reduce non-fire resistant vegetation, and reduce fuel accumulation; (2) harvesting sawtimber and biomass on 700 acres by regeneration harvest treatments followed by prescribed burning to promote fire resistant tree species reproduction, reduce non-fire resistant vegetation, and reduce fuel accumulation; (3) underburn 2,800 acres of additional timber vegetated stands not proposed for harvest and use planned wildland fire on 12,100 acres of grass, brush, scattered timber or quaking aspen stands; and (4) thinning of 4,500 acres of tree plantations which would include some removal of biomass. Harvesting activities would be accomplished using tractor, tractor/jammer, and skyline methods. Skid trails would be designated to concentrate use in a limited amount of areas and reclaimed following harvest. There would be no harvest within 30' of intermittent streams or within 120' of perennial streams. There would be no equipment entry in riparian conservation areas (RCAs) except on existing roads or skid trails approved of in advance by the District Hydrologist or Fisheries Biologist.

To facilitate access, approximately 6 miles of temporary roads would be constructed where needed to access harvest units and landings and decommissioned after use. Approximately 5 miles of existing non-National Forest System roads would be converted to National Forest Service System roads. There would be no permanent road construction in the project area with this proposal.

*To improve watershed conditions and fisheries habitat, the proposed action includes:* (1) The upgrade of culverts that are undersized and restrict passage of fish and other aquatic organisms, (2) road improvement such as improving drainage and surfacing and (3) the decommission of old roadbeds that are not needed for future management or public access to reduce levels of soils impacts, and reduce drainage and erosion problems.

##### **Lead and Cooperating Agencies**

Adams County, Idaho has expressed interest becoming a cooperating agency for this project and intends to submit such a request to the Payette National Forest in late May, 2010.