

public agencies, American Indian tribes, and non-profit corporations. The loans fund the development of drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste disposal facilities in rural areas with populations of up to 10,000 residents. Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act provides authorization to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace or rehabilitate dwellings and to provide decent, safe and sanitary living conditions in rural areas. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to prescribe regulations to ensure that these loans, made with federal funds, are legally secured.

Need and Use of the Information: The approved attorney/title company (closing agent) and the field office staff collect the required information. Forms and or guidelines are provided to assist in the collection, certification and submission of this information. Most of these forms collect information that is standard in the industry. If the information is collected less frequently, the agency would not obtain the proper security position on the properties being taken as security and would have no evidence that the closing agents and agency meet the requirements of this regulations.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit Institutions; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 18,410.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 25,042.

Charlene Parker,
Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-11239 Filed 6-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2007-0048]

Removal of Emergency Action Notice for Tiffany Creek Preserve in New York

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that we have lifted restrictions placed on Tiffany Creek Preserve in Nassau County, NY. In 2004, the preserve was put under an Emergency Action Notice after a sample taken from a northern red oak tested positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*. The preserve was required to

undergo biannual surveys for *P. ramorum* for 2 years, the last of which was conducted in September 2006. The results of all surveys conducted in Tiffany Creek Preserve, Nassau County, and the State of New York were negative. Therefore, we have released Tiffany Creek Preserve from all restrictions related to *P. ramorum* and consider no further surveys or actions are warranted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 25, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jonathan M. Jones, Senior Staff Officer, Invasive Species and Pest Management, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 160, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Phytophthora ramorum is a pathogen that causes the plant diseases commonly known as sudden oak death, ramorum leaf blight, and ramorum dieback. Since its initial discovery in Marin County, CA, in 1995, *P. ramorum* has been confirmed to exist in 13 additional northern California counties and in a portion of Curry County, OR. *P. ramorum* has caused the death of thousands of mature oaks in these counties, and there is presently no known treatment for infected plants that kills the fungus but allows plants to survive.

On June 30, 2004, a survey for *P. ramorum* was conducted at Tiffany Creek Preserve in Nassau County, NY. One of the samples taken during that survey was from a northern red oak tree. The sample was tested using an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) nested polymerase chain reaction protocol that resulted in reactions that indicated the presence of *P. ramorum*. The tree was removed and destroyed and APHIS, under the authority of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), placed the preserve under Emergency Action Notice (EAN) to contain any related risk. Under the EAN, the movement of soil, forest products, wood, and any plant material from the preserve was prohibited. APHIS also required 2 years of biannual surveys of the preserve, including sampling of the soil and water to determine if there were any indications of *P. ramorum* that could be associated with Tiffany Creek Preserve. In the EAN, we stated that if after 2 years all survey results were negative, the EAN would be lifted.

Delimiting surveys, the last of which was conducted in September 2006, of the Preserve and testing of all unhealthy appearing trees and shrubs yielded no further positive results and no sign of *P. ramorum* infestation. Surveys of the

Preserve and surrounding natural environments in Nassau County and neighboring Suffolk County resulted in no further detections. In New York, no forests or nurseries surveyed have had *P. ramorum* detected. Therefore, we are giving notice that we have lifted restrictions on Tiffany Creek Preserve and that *P. ramorum* is known not to occur at Tiffany Creek Preserve and is not known to occur at any other location within Nassau County or the State of New York.

Done in Washington, DC this 5th day of June 2007.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E7-11242 Filed 6-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Washington Province Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Washington Province Advisory Committee will meet on Friday, July 13, 2007, at the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters, 10600 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to share information and receive feedback on: Special Forest Products on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; Update on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest's Flood Damage; and to share information among Committee members.

All Southwest Washington Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The "open forum" provides an opportunity for the public to bring issues, concerns, and discussion topics to the Advisory Committee. The "open forum" is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Interested speakers will need to register prior to the open forum period. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on Committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Strebiger, Public Affairs Officer, at (360) 891-5005, or write Forest Headquarters Office: Gifford Pinchot National Forest, 10600 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682.

Dated: June 4, 2007.

Claire Lavendel,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 07-2881 Filed 6-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Notice Inviting Applications for Biomass Research and Development

AGENCY: Rural Development, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) jointly solicit applications for financial assistance addressing research and development of biomass based products, bioenergy, biofuels and related processes. This Notice herein referred to as the "Solicitation" is intended to promote greater innovation and development related to biomass, and to support the Biomass Research Development Act of 2000, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and Federal policy calling for greater use of biomass-based products, feedstock production, and processing and conversion.

This joint USDA/DOE solicitation for FY07 reflects the technical areas identified in the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 as amended by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. These technical areas will assist DOE and USDA in developing and maintaining a balanced portfolio of activities under the Federal Government's Biomass program to effectively advance cost effective utilization of biomass for the production of biobased fuels and products. DOE and USDA will have separate funding allocations and make separate awards under this Notice.

DATES: Pre-applications must be submitted no later than July 11, 2007, not later than 8 p.m. Eastern Time. The closing date for applications (only for those pre-applications which have been selected for further processing) will be 45 calendar days following notice of invitation by Agency, not later than 8 p.m. Eastern Time. You are encouraged to transmit your application well before the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered for an award. The comment period for the information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 continues through August 10, 2007.

ADDRESSES: For further information contact Lisa Siesennop, Business Loan

and Grant Analyst, USDA Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave, SW., 6870, Stop 3225, Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone: (202) 690-3810, Fax: (202) 720-6561, E-mail: lisa.siesennop@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Programs Affected

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 81.087. This program is subject to Executive Order 12372, which requires Intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Intergovernmental consultation will occur in accordance with the process and procedures outlined in 7 CFR part 3015 subpart V.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The collection of information requirements contained in this Notice has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for temporary emergency clearance. However, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, USDA Rural Development will seek standard OMB approval of the reporting requirements contained in this Notice and hereby opens a 60-day public comment period.

Title: Biomass Research and Development Initiative.

Type of Request: New collection.

Abstract: Rural Development needs to receive the information contained in this collection of information to select the projects that demonstrate the greatest potential for success. The selection process is competitive. Rural Development will ensure that the funds are used for the intended purpose.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 hours per response.

Respondents: Institutions of higher education; National laboratories; Federal research agencies; State research agencies; private sector entities to include companies, corporations, cooperatives, and other entities that compete in the marketplace; nonprofit organizations, other than 501(c)(4) organizations that engage in lobbying, and a consortium of two or more of these entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 466.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 871.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,252 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson,

Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) The accuracy of Rural Development's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (b) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (c) ways to minimize the burden of the collection information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this Notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also be a matter of public record.

E-Government Act Compliance

The Department of Agriculture is committed to complying with the E-Government Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 103-347, December 17, 2002), to promote the use of the Internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes. To demonstrate commitment for the E-Government Act, USDA is requiring that all applicants intending to submit pre-applications or applications in response to this solicitation use Grants.gov in the submission process.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority

The authority for the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (Initiative) is 7 U.S.C. 8606.

Objectives

The objectives of the Initiative as set out in 7 U.S.C. 8606(b) are to develop:

- (1) Technologies and processes necessary for abundant commercial production of biobased fuels at prices competitive with fossil fuels;
- (2) High-value biobased products;
- (A) To enhance the economic viability of biobased fuels and power; and
- (B) As substitutes for petroleum-based feedstocks and products; and
- (3) A diversity of sustainable domestic sources of biomass for conversion to biobased fuels and biobased products.