

# Notices

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Thursday, September 15, 2005

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

### Farm Service Agency

#### Addition of Eligible States for Beginning Farmer and Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is adding California, Minnesota, and Nebraska as eligible states to its Beginning Farmer and Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program. Expanding the Pilot Program is intended to facilitate land transfers to a greater number of beginning farmers and ranchers.

**DATES:** FSA will accept applications from the additional states beginning on September 15, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** General information may be obtained from the FSA Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or the USDA, FSA office listed in your local telephone directory.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Trent Rogers, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs Loan Making Division, STOP 0522, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0522; telephone (202) 720-1657; Facsimile (202) 720-6797; e-mail:

[trent.rogers@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:trent.rogers@wdc.usda.gov). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 4, 2003, FSA published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing that funds were available for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program (68 FR 52557-52562). The notice provided the policies and procedures

under which the program would be administered, including application requirements, evaluation criteria, servicing requirements, and policies for payment of the guarantee in case of default.

The pilot program is mandated by Section 310 F of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936). That section provides that if the Secretary determines that the risk of such a program is comparable with the risk presented in the case of guarantees to commercial lenders, then:

“\* \* \* the Secretary shall carry out a pilot program in not fewer than 5 States, as determined by the Secretary, to guarantee up to 5 loans per State in each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007 made by a private seller of a farm or ranch to a qualified beginning farmer or rancher on a contract land sale basis, if the loan meets applicable underwriting criteria and a commercial lending institution agrees to serve as escrow agent.”

The pilot program was originally made available in Indiana, Iowa, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. By this notice FSA announces that the program is expanded to California, Minnesota, and Nebraska. All requirements of the current pilot program were provided in the notice of September 4, 2003, and remain in effect, except the definition of “Pilot State,” is revised to add California, Minnesota and Nebraska. The policies, procedures, and forms used in administration of the program are available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and are contained in FSA handbooks which may be obtained from the information contact listed above or any local FSA office. The additional information collection burden requirements of this program were approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned OMB Control No. 0560-0228.

Signed in Washington, DC on September 8, 2005.

**James R. Little,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Wednesday, October 5, 2005. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the South Room of the Stayton Community Center located on 400 West Virginia Street in Stayton, Oregon.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (Pub. L. 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA, and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. Tentative agenda items include project updates and season end reporting, Pearl Creek Guard Station restoration strategy subcommittee report, and future council membership.

A direct public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to October 5th by sending them to Designated Federal Official Paul Matter at the address given below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Paul Matter; Williamette