

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 77, No. 89

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

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

Office of the Secretary

Request for Nominations of Members for the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Solicitation for membership.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces the solicitation for nominations to fill 9 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: All nomination materials should be mailed in a single, complete package and postmarked by June 29, 2012.

ADDRESSES: All nomination packages must be sent to: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: NAREEE Advisory Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. Robert Burk, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 3870, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2255, telephone: 202-720-3684; fax: 202-720-6199; email: Robert.Burk@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) was amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2008 by deleting six members to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which totals 25 members. Since the Advisory Board's inception by

congressional legislation in 1996, each member has represented a specific category related to farming or ranching, food production and processing, forestry research, crop and animal science, land-grant institutions, non-land grant college or university with a historic commitment to research in the food and agricultural sciences, food retailing and marketing, rural economic development, and natural resource and consumer interest groups, among many others. The Board was first appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture in September 1996 and one-third of its members were appointed for a one, two, and three-year term, respectively. The terms for 9 members who represent specific categories will expire September 30, 2012. Nominations for a 3-year appointment for these 9 vacant categories are sought. All nominees will be carefully reviewed for their expertise, leadership, and relevance to a category.

The 9 slots to be filled are:

- Category A. National Farm Organization;
- Category C. Food Animal Commodity Producer;
- Category I. National Human Health Association;
- Category N. Non-Land Grant College or University w/historic commitment to research in food and agricultural sciences;
- Category O. Hispanic-serving Institutions;
- Category Q. Transportation of Food and Agricultural Products to domestic and foreign markets;
- Category R. Food Retailing and Marketing Interests;
- Category S. Food and Fiber Processors;
- Category X. Private Sector Organization involved in International Development.

Individuals and organizations who wish to nominate experts for this or any other USDA advisory committee should submit a letter to the Secretary listing these individuals' names and business address, phone, and email contact information. These individuals may be contacted now or in the future to determine their interest in serving as a committee member.

Candidates who wish to be considered for membership on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board should submit an AD-755 application form and resume to the

Secretary of Agriculture. Cover letters should be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture. The application form and more information about advisory committees can be found at www.usda.gov/advisory_committees.xml.

Nominations for one individual who fits several of the categories listed above, or for more than one person who fits one category, will be accepted. In your nomination letter, please indicate the specific membership category for each nominee. Each nominee must fill out a form AD-755, "Advisory Committee Membership Background Information." All nominees will be vetted before selection.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that recommendations of the Advisory Board take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent all racial and ethnic groups, women and men, and persons with disabilities.

Appointments to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Done at Washington, DC, this 30 day of April 2012.

Ann Bartuska,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 2012-11044 Filed 5-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District; Tongass National Forest; Alaska; Saddle Lakes Timber Sale Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct roads and harvest timber in the Saddle Lakes

area of Revillagigedo Island, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. The proposed action would harvest almost 33 million board feet (MMBF) of timber on about 2,613 acres and would construct up to 19 miles of road.

DATES: Comments concerning this project should be received by June 7, 2012. Additional opportunity for formal comments will be accepted after release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected to be published in January 2013.

ADDRESSES: Send or hand-deliver written comments to the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Attn: Saddle Lakes Timber Sale, 3031 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901; telephone (907) 225-2148. The FAX number is (907) 225-8738. Comments may be sent via email to: *comments-alaska-tongass-ketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us* with Saddle Lakes on the subject line. In all correspondence, please include your name, address, and organization name if you are commenting as a representative of an organization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff DeFreest, District Ranger, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, 3031 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, telephone (907) 228-4100; or Rob Reeck, Planning Staff Officer, telephone (907) 228-4114, or Linda Pulliam, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, telephone (907) 228-4124, also at the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, 3031 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

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: This EIS will tier to the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Final EIS. The project area is administered by the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan, Alaska and occurs in Value Comparison Units (VCUs) 746, 747, and 753 between George and Carroll Inlets.

The project area is located about 14 miles northeast of Ketchikan, Alaska, on Revillagigedo Island. Portions of the North Revilla (526) and Carroll (535) Inventoried Roadless Areas lie within the project area. Land Use Designations (LUDs) for the 38,460 acre project area include Timber Production (15,328 acres), Modified Landscape (16,062 acres), Old-Growth Habitat (3,566 acres), and Non-National Forest Land (3,505 acres).

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the Saddle Lakes Project is to respond to the goals and objectives identified by the Forest Plan to guide timber management to support the local and regional economies of Southeast Alaska, while moving the project area towards the desired conditions of the Forest Plan, and to facilitate the transition to a sustainable wood product industry based on young-growth management.

The underlying need for the Saddle Lakes Project comes from the Forest Service's obligation, subject to appropriations, applicable law, and to the extent consistent with providing for the multiple use and sustained yield of all renewable forest resources, to seek to provide a supply of timber from the Tongass that meets market demand annually and for the planning cycle.

This project is essential to provide an orderly flow of timber to large and small timber purchasers, mill operators, and value-added wood product industries in Southeast Alaska who contribute to the local and regional economies. The project will help provide a reliable supply of timber that will support local jobs and facilitate a sustainable wood product industry.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would harvest almost 33 MMBF of timber on about 2,613 acres and would construct up to 19 miles of road, with around 9.3 miles of National Forest system and 9.2 miles of temporary (non-system) road. All new road construction would be closed to motorized use after timber harvest. Existing log transfer facilities at Shelter Cove and Coon Cove could be used.

The proposed action would not harvest timber or construct roads in inventoried roadless areas. Harvest would include helicopter, ground based, and cable yarding systems, and include even-aged and uneven-aged harvest prescriptions. All proposed activities would meet the standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan.

Possible Alternatives

Scoping comments will be used by the Forest Service to develop a range of alternatives in response to significant issues that are identified. A no-action alternative will be analyzed during the alternative process.

Responsible Official

The responsible official for the decision on this project is Forrest Cole, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The responsible official will decide: (1) The estimated timber volume to make available from the project, as well as the location, design, and scheduling of timber harvest, road construction and reconstruction, and silvicultural practices used; (2) access management measures; (3) mitigation measures and monitoring requirements; and (4) whether there may be a significant restriction on subsistence uses.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary concerns identified by the interdisciplinary team include (1) Designing an economical timber sale; (2) designing the timber sale to meet the scenic integrity objectives for visual priority routes; (3) the effects of timber harvest and road construction on wildlife habitat and travel corridors, and (4) designing the timber sale to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects to rare and sensitive plants.

Permits or Licenses Required

All necessary permits will be obtained prior to project implementation, and may include the following:

- (1) State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES):
 - General permit for Log Transfer Facilities in Alaska;
 - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification) Chapter 20;
 - Storm Water Discharge Permit/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System review (Section 402 of the Clean Water Act);
 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
- (2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
 - Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
 - Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
- (3) State of Alaska, Division of Natural Resources (DNR):
 - Authorization for occupancy and use of tidelands and submerged lands.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIS. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Tribal Governments, Federal, State, and local agencies, individuals and organizations interested in, or affected by the

proposed activities. In addition to this Notice of Intent, legal notices and display ads will be placed in the *Ketchikan Daily News*. The *Ketchikan Daily News* is the official newspaper of record for this project. A scoping document was mailed May 2, 2012 and will be posted on the Tongass National Forest public Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/projects>. Individuals who want to be placed on the project mailing list should contact the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District at the address above.

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 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, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

Dated: April 26, 2012.

Forrest Cole,

Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest.

[FR Doc. 2012-10989 Filed 5-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

Correction

In notice document 2012-10614 appearing on pages 26241-26245 the issue of Thursday, May 3, 2012 make the following correction:

On page 26244, in the second column, in the second full paragraph, "F. Deadlines", in the third line, "June 7, 2012" should read "June 18, 2012".

[FR Doc. C1-2012-10614 Filed 5-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1505-01-D

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Funding for FY 2012 of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is providing notice of Fiscal Year 2012 awards for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program. For Fiscal Year 2012, \$15 million in grants will be awarded to the top scoring applications in rank order for the national competition announced in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 2011 (Vol. 76, No. 37). Therefore, applications for DLT grant funds will not be solicited in FY 2012. Many of the applications submitted under the aforementioned Notice, which have been evaluated and scored, represent exemplary projects in their use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas. Only a limited number of these projects, however, could be funded with appropriated FY 2011 funds. The \$15 million appropriated in Fiscal Year 2012 will be awarded to fund the highest scoring of these remaining projects according to their ranking position in the 2011 competition. RUS will notify the public when it will be taking new applications

DATES: Upon publication, successful grant applicants will be notified in writing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David J. Villano, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 1590, Room 5151, Washington, DC 20250-1590. Telephone number (202) 720-9554

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 24, 2011, the Rural Utilities Service published a Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) and Grant Application Deadlines of its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program, which also established the application window for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 subject to the availability of funding.

In response to the NOSA, RUS received 211 applications with requests totaling \$60,002,789. As part of a national competition, RUS reviewed each project's eligibility, and scored the applications according to factors of rurality, National School Lunch Program statistics, need for services, innovativeness, cost effectiveness and percentage of matching funds committed. On December 8, 2011

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced the 100 highest scoring projects which would receive the 2011 funding.

From the initial response to the February 24, 2011 NOSA, RUS has on-hand eligible applications with requests totaling more than the \$15 million appropriations received for Fiscal Year 2012. These remaining unfunded FY 2011 proposals have fulfilled the requirements and stated objectives of the DLT Program, and represent imminently needed technology in their rural communities. RUS will utilize its FY 2012 appropriation by funding these top scoring projects in rank order that were submitted and scored in accordance with the February 24, 2011 NOSA.

This will eliminate the burden of these applicants in updating their project, and going through the process of reapplying. Announcement of the grant awards made in accordance with this notice utilizing 2012 Appropriations will be made at a later date and announced on the USDA Web site at www.usda.gov.

Dated: March 26, 2012.

Jonathan Adelstein,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-11045 Filed 5-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Grant and Loan Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability and solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces its Revolving Fund Program (RFP) application window for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. In addition to announcing the application window, RUS announces the available funding of \$497,000 and maximum amounts for RFP competitive grants for the fiscal year.

The RFP is authorized under section 306(a)(2)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Con Act), 7 U.S.C. 1926 (a)(2)(B). Under the RFP, qualified private, non-profit organizations receive RFP grant funds to establish a lending program for eligible entities. Eligible entities for the revolving loan fund will be the same entities eligible, under paragraph 1 or 2 of Section 306(a) of the Con Act, 7 U.S.C. 1926(1) or (2), to obtain a loan,