

speaking slot. Oral comments must be sent by email to [monique.rea@usda.gov](mailto:monique.rea@usda.gov) or via mail (*i.e.*, postmarked) to Monique Rea, 360 Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Monique Rea, RAC Coordinator, via email at [monique.rea@usda.gov](mailto:monique.rea@usda.gov) or via phone at 530-623-2121 or Tara Jones, Designated Federal Officer, via email at [tara.jones@usda.gov](mailto:tara.jones@usda.gov) or via phone at 530-623-2121.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meetings are to:

1. Hear from Title II project proponents and discuss Title II project proposals;
2. Make funding recommendations on Title II projects;
3. Approve meeting minutes; and
4. Schedule the next meeting.

The agenda will include time for individuals to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should make a request in writing at least three days prior to the meeting date to be scheduled on the agenda for that particular meeting. Written comments may be submitted to the Forest Service up to 10 days after the meeting date listed under **DATES**.

Please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, by or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received upon request.

**Meeting Accommodations:** The meeting location is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpretation, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation to the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section or contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance

program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken in account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: February 7, 2024.

**Egypt Simon,**

*Acting USDA Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024-02894 Filed 2-12-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Directive Publication Notice

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service (Forest Service or Agency), U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides direction to employees through issuances in its Directive System, comprised of the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbooks. The Agency must provide public notice of and opportunity to comment on any directives that formulate standards, criteria, or guidelines applicable to Forest Service programs. Once per quarter, the Agency provides advance notice of proposed and interim directives that will be made available for public comment during the next three months; proposed and interim directives that were previously published for public comment but not yet finalized and issued; and notice of final directives issued in the last three months.

**DATES:** This notice identifies proposed and interim directives that will be published for public comment between January 1, 2024, and March 31, 2024; proposed and interim directives that were previously published for public comment but not yet finalized and issued; and final directives that have been issued since October 1, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions or comments may be submitted by email to the contact listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

JoLynn Anderson, 971-313-1718 or [jolynn.anderson@usda.gov](mailto:jolynn.anderson@usda.gov). Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays. You may register to receive email alerts regarding Forest Service directives at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/regulations-policies>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Proposed and Interim Directives

Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1612(a) and 36 CFR part 216, the Forest Service publishes for public comment Agency directives that formulate standards, criteria, and guidelines applicable to Forest Service programs. Agency procedures for providing public notice and opportunity to comment are specified in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1109.12, Chapter 30, Providing Public Notice and Opportunity to Comment on Directives.

The following proposed directives are planned for publication for public comment from January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024:

1. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2100, Environmental Management, Chapter 80, Mitigation of Adverse Impacts on Resources (planned for publication for public comment on November 8, 2023 (88 FR 77074)).
2. FSH 2709.11, Special Uses Handbook, Chapter 70, Renewable Energy (currently entitled Wind Energy Uses, planned for publication for public comment on November 8, 2023 (88 FR 77074)).
3. FSH 2109.15, Mitigation of Adverse Impacts on Resources, Chapter 10, Mitigation Principles and Compensatory Mitigation.

The following proposed directives have been published for public comment but have not yet been finalized:

1. FSM 2200, Rangeland Management, Chapters Zero Code; 2210, Rangeland Management Planning; 2220, Management of Rangelands (Reserved); 2230, Grazing Permit System; 2240, Rangeland Improvements; 2250, Rangeland Management Cooperation; and 2270, Information Management and Reports; FSH 2209.13, Grazing Permit Administration Handbook, Chapters 10, Term Grazing Permits; 20, Grazing Agreements; 40, Livestock Use Permits; 50, Tribal Treaty Authorizations and Special Use Permits; and 90, Rangeland Management Decision-Making; and FSH 2209.16, Allotment Management Handbook, Chapter 10, Allotment Management and Administration.
2. FSM 3800, Landscape Scale Restoration Program.

3. FSH 2409.12, Timber Cruising Handbook, Chapters 30, Cruising Systems; 40, Cruise Planning, Data Recording, and Cruise Reporting; 60, Quality Control; and 70, Designating Timber for Cutting; FSH 2409.15, Timber Sale Administration Handbook, Chapters 20, Measuring and Accounting for Included Timber; 40, Rates and Payments; and 60, Operations and Other Provisions.

4. FSH 5509.11, Title Claims, Sales, and Grants Handbook, Chapter 10, Title Claims and Encroachments.

5. FSM 2000, National Forest Resource Management, Chapter 40, National Forest System Monitoring.

6. FSM 2300, Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management, Chapter 50, section 55, Climbing Management.

### Final Directives That Have Been Issued Since October 1, 2023

No final directives have been issued since October 1, 2023.

Dated: February 7, 2024.

**JoLynn Anderson,**

*Branch Lead, Directives, Information Collections and Government Clearance, Policy Office, National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. 2024-02853 Filed 2-12-24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

### Rural Housing Service

### Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RBS-23-BUSINESS-0025]

### Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Strategic Economic and Community Development Program for FY 2024

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Under Secretary for Rural Development (RD or Agency) is seeking applications for the Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) priority, as reauthorized by section 6401 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) for projects that support multi-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral strategic community investment plans. In fiscal year (FY) 2024, the covered RD programs will implement SECD by reserving loan and/or grant funds from the appropriations of the programs covered by this funding priority. This notice describes the requirements by which the RD programs will consider projects eligible for the covered programs' reserved appropriated funds and the information

needed to submit an application. This NOSA is being issued prior to passage of a final appropriations act for FY 2024 to allow potential applicants time to submit applications for financial assistance under the covered programs and to give the RD programs time to process applications. Information on estimated FY 24 funding amounts can be found under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, section B. Federal Award Information of this notice.

**DATES:** Each of the participating covered programs has a different established deadline for receipt of applications. Please refer to the RD website or the appropriate covered program's **Federal Register** Notice for application deadline information.

**ADDRESSES:** SECD applications, except for the covered Water and Waste Loans and Grant Programs, must be submitted electronically to the USDA RD Office servicing the area where the project is located. Applications for Water and Waste Loans and Grants Programs must be submitted electronically at <https://rdapply.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. For lenders assigned a CRM, SECD applications must be submitted to their assigned CRM.

All applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in preparing and submitting applications.

To apply for SECD funding in FY 2024, applicants must follow the instructions as published in this notice:

- All applicants must submit the Form RD 1980-88, "Strategic Economic and Community Development (Section 6401, Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334))," located at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/strategic-economic-and-community-development>, with their program application to the appropriate covered program.

- SECD applications, except for the Water and Waste Loans and Grant Program SECD applications, must be submitted electronically to the USDA RD Office servicing the area where the project is located. A list of the USDA RD State Offices can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>.

- Water and Waste Loans and Grant Program must submit SECD applications electronically at <https://rdapply.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

- For lenders assigned a OneRD Loan Guarantee Initiative Customer Relationship Manager (CRM), SECD applications must be submitted to their assigned CRM.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information, please contact your respective RD State Office listed here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>.

For all other inquiries, you may contact Dr. Gregory Batson, Rural Development Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6138, Stop 0793, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (573) 239-2945, Email: [gregory.batson@usda.gov](mailto:gregory.batson@usda.gov).

A checklist of all required application information for regional planning priority can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/strategic-economic-and-community-development>.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Overview

*Federal Awarding Agency Name:* Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, Rural Utilities Service.

*Funding Opportunity Title:* Strategic Economic and Community Development.

*Announcement Type:* Notice of Solicitation of Applications.

*Funding Opportunity Number:* The following covered programs with their Assistance Listing (AL) numbers are listed as follows:

- Community Facilities Loans; see 7 CFR part 1942, subpart A.
- Community Facilities Grants; see 7 CFR part 3570, subpart B.
- Community Facilities Guaranteed Loans; see 7 CFR part 5001.
- Water and Waste Disposal Programs Guaranteed Loans; see 7 CFR part 5001.
- Water and Waste Loans and Grants; see 7 CFR part 1780.
- Rural Business Development Grants; see 7 CFR part 4280, subpart E.

*Dates:* See information provided in the **DATES** section of this notice.

*Rural Development Key Priorities:* The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Justice. Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Advancing Racial Justice, Place-Based Equity, and Opportunity. Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects.
- Creating More and Better Market Opportunities. Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

For further information on FY 24 Rural Development Priorities, please visit the following website: Rural