

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 69, No. 101

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA).

Date: June 23, 2004 (8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Location: The Hilton Washington, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20009.

This meeting will feature discussion on development and humanitarian assistance lessons learned in post-conflict and reconstruction. A session with Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO Paul Applegarth will also take place. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and participate in the discussion.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Persons wishing to attend the meeting can register online at <http://www.ACIFA.com> or e-mail their name to Ashley Mattison at Ashley.Mattison@triumph-tech.com.

Dated: May 13, 2004.

Adele Liskov,

Acting Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACIFA).

[FR Doc. 04-11794 Filed 5-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Funds Availability; Tree Assistance Program for California Tree Losses Due to Wild Fires

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of \$12,500,000 for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to compensate tree-fruit growers in disaster counties in California who had fruit tree losses as a result of the 2003

wild fires that occurred in southern California.

DATES: Applications by eligible persons may be submitted April 19, 2004 through May 28, 2004, or such other date as announced by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eloise Taylor, Chief, Compliance Branch, Production, Emergencies and Compliance Divisions, FSA/USDA, Stop 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517; telephone (202) 720-9882; e-mail:

Eloise_Taylor@wdc.usda.gov and <http://www.regulations.gov>. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of regulatory information, (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc. should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

TAP was authorized but not funded by section 10201 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (7 U.S.C. 8201) to provide assistance to eligible orchardists to replant trees, bushes and vines that were grown for the production of an annual crop and were lost due to a natural disaster. This notice sets out a special program within TAP for certain fruit tree losses due to wild fires in California. Section 102(e) of Division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Pub. L. 108-199) appropriated \$12,500,000 to provide assistance under TAP to compensate tree-fruit growers in those counties that suffered losses due to the wild fires that occurred in southern California in the fall of 2003.

Consistent with other subsections of the same legislation and what is understood to be Congressional intent, assistance will be limited to four counties.

Assistance will be provided subject to regulations and restrictions governing the new TAP provided for in the 2002 Act. Those regulations were published March 2, 2004 (69FR9744) and are found at 7 CFR part 783. Also, the restrictions of the statute apply. They include a requirement of replanting, a limitation on payments by "person", a limitation on acres for which relief can be claimed, a requirement that the loss be tied to a natural disaster, and others. If after the claims filed during the

allowed period set out in this notice are received, and the available funds are less than the eligible claims, a proration will be made. Claims are limited to the lesser of the established practice rates or 75 percent of actual costs for eligible replantings after adjusting for normal mortality. Reimbursement for those plantings cannot exceed the reasonable cost of those replantings as determined by FSA. In addition, under current law, no "person" as defined by reference to program regulations can receive, cumulatively, for all TAP claims over the life of the program as administered pursuant to the general authority of the 2002 Act, a total of \$75,000. Also, and cumulatively, no person for all TAP claims for all commodities over the life of the administration of the program can, under current law, receive benefits for losses on more than 500 acres. All other restrictions of the TAP regulations and statute apply as well. Other requirements may also apply.

Applications

Applications will be accepted until May 28, 2004, or such other date as announced by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of FSA. Only producers with losses in eligible counties in California may file an application. The counties are Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, and San Bernardino for 2003 wild fire losses.

Application forms are available for TAP at FSA county offices or on the Internet at www.fsa.usda.gov. A complete application for TAP benefits and related supporting documentation must be submitted to the county office before the deadline.

A complete application will include all of the following:

- (1) A form provided by FSA;
- (2) A written estimate of the number of fruit trees lost or damaged which is prepared by the owner or someone who is a qualified expert, as determined by the FSA county committee;
- (3) The number of acres on which the loss was suffered; and
- (4) Sufficient evidence of the loss to allow the county committee to calculate whether an eligible loss occurred.
- (5) Other information as requested or required by regulation.

Signed at Washington, DC April 27, 2004.

Michael W. Yost,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 04-11743 Filed 5-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Public Meeting, Davy Crockett National Forest Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Davy Crockett National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC meeting will be held June 24, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC meeting will be held at the Davy Crockett Ranger Station located on State Highway 7, approximately one quarter mile west of FM 227 in Houston County, Texas. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and adjourn at approximately 9 p.m. A public comment period will be at 8:45 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Raoul Gagne, District Ranger, Davy Crockett National Forest, Rt. 1, Box 55 FS, Kennard, Texas 75847: Telephone: 936-655-2299 or e-mail at: rgagne@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Davy Crockett National Forest RAC proposes projects and funding to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 203 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. The purpose of the June 24, 2004 meeting is to introduce the RAC members, discuss the operational requirements of the RAC, and elect a chairperson. These meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the RAC. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Dated: May 20, 2004.

Raoul W. Gagne,

Designated Federal Official, Davy Crockett National Forest RAC.

[FR Doc. 04-11808 Filed 5-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC19

Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Advanced notice of interim final guideline; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is announcing its intent to prepare an interim final guideline, in cooperation with Indian tribes, for the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program, as authorized by Title III, Section 303, of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-148). The Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program (TWFAP) is administered by the Forest Service and implemented by participating Indian tribes. The purpose of the TWFAP is to build and strengthen watershed partnerships that focus on forested landscapes at the State, regional, tribal, and local levels; to provide tribal forestry best-management practices and water quality technical assistance directly to Indian tribes; to provide technical guidance to tribal land managers and policy makers for water quality protection through forest management; to complement tribal efforts to protect water quality and provide enhanced opportunities for consultation and cooperation among Federal agencies and tribal entities charged with responsibility for water and watershed management; and to provide enhanced forest resource data and support for improved implementation and monitoring of tribal forestry best-management practices. In accordance with Forest Service policy, formal consultation is ongoing with Indian tribes on development of this new program. This notice supplements the consultation process. Comments are invited and will be considered in the development of the interim final guideline. Additional direction on the implementation of TWFAP will be issued to the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3500, Cooperative Watershed Management.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Karen Solari, USDA Forest Service,

Cooperative Forestry, Mail Stop Code 1123, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0003; via electronic mail to ksolari@fs.fed.us; or via facsimile to (202) 205-1271. Comments also may be submitted via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The agency cannot confirm receipt of comments. 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 during regular business hours at the office of the Cooperative Forestry Staff, 4th Floor SE., Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-1389 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Solari, USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry, (202) 205-1274, or Susan Johnson, USDA Forest Service, Office of Tribal Relations, sjohnson08@fs.fed.us, (303)275-5760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program (TWFAP) is established in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide technical, financial, and related assistance to Indian tribes for the purpose of expanding tribal stewardship capacities and activities through tribal forestry best-management practices and other means at the tribal level to address watershed issues on land under the jurisdiction of or administered by the Indian tribes. A copy of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, Title III, and other information on the watershed forestry program can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/wfa/>. The TWFAP provides for (1) Development a program of technical assistance; (2) Annual awards to participating tribes for watershed forestry projects; (3) Selection of priority watersheds to target watershed forestry projects for funding; and (4) An opportunity to create tribal watershed forester positions. At a minimum, the TWFAP interim final guideline will address these provisions.

In addition, the TWFAP interim final guideline will establish the criteria that Indian tribes should follow in implementing the TWFAP. These will include criteria for priority watershed selection, acceptable watershed forest projects, and best management practice programs. The guideline also will establish monitoring and accomplishment reporting requirements. The guideline will, to the extent consistent with Federal accountability and oversight responsibility, allow flexibility to the