

storm, or related events for the purposes of debris removal, replanting of timber, and other related purposes. The USDA Forest Service will administer this program, in partnership with State forestry agencies in the States of Alabama and Florida, where significant loss and damage to forest resources has occurred.

DATES: Assistance will be made available to eligible landowners from March 2005 until such time as all funds are expended.

ADDRESSES: Information about the Forest Land Recovery Program can be obtained by writing to the USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry Staff headquarters located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1123.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl R. Dalla Rosa, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (202) 205-6206.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Program Administration

All program funds will be administered by the Chief of the Forest Service through the Forest Service Regional Forester, in partnership with State forestry agencies in the States of Alabama and Florida, where significant damage and loss to private forest resources has occurred. The State Foresters shall use all program funds to provide cost-share assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners in their States, who suffered losses to hurricanes and tropical storms during the 2004 hurricane season. All funds will be accounted for in accordance with Federal financial accounting standards. The Chief has final authority to resolve all issues that may arise in the administration of these funds.

State Program Administration

The State Foresters shall make all program funds available, as cost-share assistance to eligible landowners as follows:

1. For the purposes of site preparation (including debris removal), planting and other purposes related to the restoration of damaged or lost forest resources.
2. Following the preparation of a management or practice plan that identifies the needed practices, specifications, and performance period for the implementation of the practice(s) to achieve the forest restoration objectives of the landowner.
3. As reimbursements for practices completed on a 75% cost-share basis.
4. Consistent with appropriate per acre cost-share rate maximums for eligible practices, as established by the

State Foresters, through this or existing cost-share programs.

5. No single landowner shall receive more than \$75,000 total in cost-share assistance.

6. No single landowner shall receive assistance for the treatment of more than 1000 acres of forestland.

Landowner Eligibility Requirements for Cost-Share Assistance

A landowner is eligible for program assistance if all of the following requirements are met:

1. The landowner is an individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other legal private entity owning not more than 5,000 acres of timber producing forest land (or a person who has received concurrence from the landowner for practice implementation and who holds a lease on the land for a minimum of 10 years). Corporations whose stocks are publicly traded or owners principally engaged in the primary processing of raw wood products are excluded.

2. The landowner owns forest land in either Florida or Alabama, where significant forest resource loss or damage has occurred as a result of one or more hurricane or tropical storm during the 2004 hurricane season. The landowner has not received, nor will receive cost-share assistance from the USDA Farm Service Agency under Public Law 108-324, Section 101(c), the Tree Assistance Program.

Recapture of Cost-Share Assistance

Payments made to landowners may be recaptured under one or more of the following circumstances:

1. If any landowner, successor, or assignee uses any scheme or device to unjustly benefit from this program. A scheme or device includes, but is not limited to, coercion, fraud or misrepresentation, false claims, or any business dissolution, reorganization, revival, or other legal mechanism designed for or having the effect of evading the requirements of this program. Financial assistance payments shall be withheld or a refund of all or part of any cost-share payments otherwise due or paid to that person shall be secured.
2. If any landowner or successor takes any action or fails to take action, which results in the destruction or impairment of a prescribed practice for the duration of the practice. Cost-share payments shall be withheld or a recapture of all or part of any cost-share payments otherwise due or paid shall be secured, based on the extent and effect of destruction and impairment.

3. If it is determined that the landowner has also received assistance from the USDA Farm Service Agency under H.R. 4837, Section 101(c)(2), the Tree Assistance Program.

Landowner Application Information

Eligible landowners may apply for program assistance at their local office of the Florida Division of Forestry or the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Dated: February 25, 2005.

Sally Collins,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 05-4322 Filed 3-4-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yakutat, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting is continue business of the Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee. The committee was formed to carry out the requirements of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000. The agenda for this meeting is to review submitted project proposals and consider recommending projects for funding. Project proposals are due by March 7, 2005 to be considered at this meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 18, 2005 from 6-9 p.m. and will continue on March 19, 2005 from 9-12 a.m., if necessary.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Kwaan Conference Room, 712 Ocean Cape Drive, Yakutat, Alaska. Send written comments to Tricia O'Connor, c/o Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 327, Yakutat, AK 99689, (907) 784-3359 or electronically to poconnor@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tricia O'Connor, District Ranger and Designated Federal Official, Yakutat Ranger District, (907) 784-3359.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members. However, persons who wish to bring resource projects or other Resource Advisory Committee matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by March 7, 2005 will

have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions.

Dated: February 28, 2005.

Patricia M. O'Connor,

*District Ranger, Yakutat Ranger District,
Tongass National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 05-4304 Filed 3-4-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3401-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the program for "Rural Development Loan Servicing."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 6, 2005 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mel Padgett, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3225, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone: (202) 720-1495.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Development Loan Servicing.

OMB Number: 0570-0015.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2005.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: This regulation is for servicing and liquidating loans made by the RBS, under the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) to eligible IRP intermediaries and applies to ultimate recipients and other involved parties. This regulation is also for servicing the existing Rural Development Loan Fund (RDLF) loans previously approved and administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under 45 CFR part 1076. The objective of the IRP is to improve community facilities and employment opportunities and increase economic activity in rural areas by financing business facilities and community development. This purpose is achieved through loans made by RBS to intermediaries that establish programs for the purpose of providing

loans to ultimate recipients for business facilities and community development. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the intermediaries and some requirements may cause the intermediary to require information from ultimate recipients. The information requested is vital to RBS for prudent loan servicing, credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring. The provisions of this subpart supersede conflicting provisions of any other subpart.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit corporations, public agencies, and cooperatives.

Estimated number of Respondents: 420.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 10.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 11,235 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0035.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of 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 Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 23, 2005.

Peter J. Thomas,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 05-4309 Filed 3-4-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Announcement of Value-Added Producer Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$14.3 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year (FY) 2005 to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. RBS hereby requests proposals from eligible independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures interested in a competitively-awarded grant to fund one of the following two activities: (1) Planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product (e.g. conduct a feasibility study, develop a business plan, develop a marketing plan); or (2) acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets. In order to provide program benefits to as many eligible applicants as possible, applications can only be for one or the other of these two activities, but not both. The maximum award per grant is \$100,000 for planning grants and \$150,000 for working capital grants and matching funds are required.

DATES: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically by 4 p.m. Eastern time on May 6, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain application guides and materials for a Value-Added Producer Grant at the following Internet address: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> or by contacting the Agency Contact for your state listed in Section VII of this notice.

Submit final paper applications via the postal service for a grant to Cooperative Services, Attn: VAPG Program, Mail Stop 3250, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250. Submit final paper applications via UPS or Federal Express for a grant to Cooperative Services, Attn: VAPG Program, Room 4016, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250. The phone number that should be used for FedEx packages is (202) 720-7558.