

Notices

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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

Forest Service

Northwest Sacramento Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Northwest Sacramento Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on Thursday, May 18, 2000, at the Mt. Shasta Community Center, 629 Alder Street, Mt. Shasta, California. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. Topics for the meeting are: (1) An update on the High Complex Fire; (2) update on the Clear Creek/Resource Conservation District proposal; (3) update on the Story Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan; and (4) public comment periods. All PAC meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, 11263 N. Highway 3, Fort Jones, California 96032; telephone 530-468-1281; TDD (530) 468-2783; email: chendryx@fs.fed.us.

Dated: May 4, 2000.

Constance J. Hendryx,
PAC Support Staff.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Request for Proposals: Fiscal Year 2000 Funding Opportunity for Research on Rural Cooperative Opportunities and Problems

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$300,000 in competitive cooperative agreement funds allocated from FY 2000 appropriations. RBS hereby requests proposals from institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations interested in applying for competitively awarded cooperative agreements for research related to agricultural and nonagricultural cooperatives serving rural communities. The intent of the funding is to encourage research on critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities.

DATES: Cooperative agreement applications must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2000. Proposals postmarked after June 30, 2000, will not be considered for funding.

ADDRESSES: Send Proposals and other required materials to Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3252. Telephone: (202) 690-0368.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3252. Telephone: (202) 690-0368.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General Information

This solicitation is issued pursuant to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 making appropriations for programs administered by USDA's RBS for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000. The mission of RBS is to improve the quality of life in rural America by financing community facilities and businesses, providing technical assistance and creating effective strategies for rural development. RBS has authority to enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to section 607(b)(4) of the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended by section 759A of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

The primary objective of this funding is to encourage research through cooperative agreements on critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of user-owned cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities. Issue areas on which proposals should focus are:

(1) Equity management issues in new generation cooperatives including alternatives to appreciated delivery rights: the challenges, benefits, and pitfalls;

(2) Cooperatives and e-commerce: how the internet is changing the competitive landscape for farmer-owned businesses and their adaptation to it;

(3) Marketing-agencies-in-common: a case-study examination of successes and failures;

(4) The role of social capital in generating positive market outcomes for cooperatively owned agribusinesses;

(5) Governance and control issues in evolving cooperative structures and environments;

(6) Cooperatives as a means of putting global markets within reach of small farmers;

(7) The roles of cooperatives contracting and helping producers of identity-preserved crops match the needs of end-users and negotiate acceptable terms of trade; and

(8) Evaluation of cooperatives' roles in the changing market structure of the food and fiber system.

A cooperative agreement reflects a relationship between the United States Government and an eligible recipient where (1) The principal purpose of the relationship is the transfer of money, property, services, or anything of value to the eligible recipient to carry out research related to rural cooperatives; and (2) substantial involvement is anticipated between RBS acting for the United States Government, and the eligible recipient during the performance of the research in the agreement. A cooperative agreement is not a grant. Cooperative agreements are to be awarded on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance to advancing the purpose of federally-supported rural development programs that increase economic opportunities in farming and rural communities.

All forms required to apply are available from the Cooperative Services Program web-site at www.usda.gov/rbs/