

for tree measurement timber sale procedures. These proposed revisions will be the first substantive changes in the standard timber sale contract provisions in over 30 years. Contract provisions to implement laws and policies, formerly included as special provisions, are proposed to be consolidated into the standard provisions. A side-by-side comparison of the proposed revised contracts and the existing contracts is available as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Comments received will be considered when the Forest Service prepares the final timber sale contracts.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments by mail to the Director of Forest and Rangeland Management, MAIL STOP 1105, Forest Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1105; via e-mail to timbercontracts@fs.fed.us; or via facsimile to (202) 205-1045. These proposed timber sale contract forms are available for public review on the Forest Service World Wide Web/Internet site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/infocenter/newcontracts/index.shtml>. Alternatively, the contracts can be reviewed in the office of the Director of Forest and Rangeland Management, Third Floor, Northwest Wing, Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will become a matter of public record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the same address where copies of the contracts can be reviewed. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-0893 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rex Baumbach, Forest and Rangeland Management Staff, (202) 205-0855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T are used by the Forest Service for the sale of all large, complex timber sales. Timber sale contract Form FS-2400-6 is used when timber is measured for payment after it is harvested, and timber sale contract Form FS-2400-6T is used when the basis for payment is measurement prior to sale. These contracts were originally brought into use in July 1970 and January 1972, respectively, and were the result of extended discussions between the Federal Timber Purchasers Committee and the Forest Service. After

2 years, these contracts were revised in September 1973 and October 1973, respectively, to incorporate modifications based upon experience gained and policy changes since their inception.

From 1973 until July 2001, the requirements of new legislation and Forest Service policy were implemented in the contracts by issuing special provisions that replaced or added to the standard contract provisions. In July 2001, new versions of timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T were issued. The July 2001 versions incorporated the special provisions that had been brought into use since 1973, but did not make any other changes that affect the rights and obligations of the Forest Service and timber sale purchasers.

Proposed Contract Revisions

The Forest Service is proposing to revise timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T to:

1. Clarify the remedies available when contracts are suspended, modified, or terminated for environmental reasons.
2. Incorporate special provisions that are applicable to all timber sales into the standard contract provisions.
3. Correct inconsistencies and clarify ambiguous language that has accumulated by the addition of 30 years of special provisions to the timber sale contracts.
4. Make organizational and editorial changes intended to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary provisions.
5. Decrease the need in the existing contracts to make certain standard provisions inapplicable by replacing those provisions with the appropriate former special provisions.
6. Provide for liquidated damages when the Forest Service unilaterally terminates or partially terminates a timber sale contract.
7. Provide for a rate redetermination after a specified time when the Forest Service orders the delay or interruption of operations for specific reasons.

A side-by-side comparison of the specific differences between the existing contracts and the proposed revised contracts is available electronically and in paper copy as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Comments received will be considered when the Forest Service prepares the final timber sale contracts. When the timber sale contracts are finalized, a subsequent notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Tom L. Thompson,

Acting Chief.

[FR Doc. 03-31315 Filed 12-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

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 intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 17, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane M. Berger, Loan Specialist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3225, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone: (202) 720-2383.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Business Opportunity Grants.

OMB Number: 0570-0024.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2004.

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

Abstract: The objective of the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural areas. This purpose is achieved through grants made by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to public and private non-profit organizations and cooperatives to pay costs of economic development planning and technical assistance for rural businesses. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the grant applicants and recipients. The information requested is necessary for RBS to be able to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent program decisions, and effectively monitor the grantees' activities to ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. Objectives include gathering information to identify the applicant, describe the applicant's

experience and expertise, describe the project and how the applicant will operate it, and other material necessary for prudent Agency decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5.97 hours per response.

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 210.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 13.8.

Estimated Number of Responses: 2895.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 17,290.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of Rural Business-Cooperative Service, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of Rural Business-Cooperative Service's 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 Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 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: December 10, 2003.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 03-31341 Filed 12-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List products and a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Comments Must Be Received on or Before: January 18, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly, (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions. If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in the notice for each product or service will be required to procure the products and service listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. If approved, the action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the products and service to the Government.
2. If approved, the action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the products and service to the Government.
3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the products and service proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which

they are providing additional information.

End of Certification

The following products and service are proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Products:

Product/NSN: 1 1/2' Round Ring Vinyl Clad Binder

7510-00-NIB-0130—White

7510-00-NIB-0145—Blue

7510-00-NIB-0146—Red

7510-00-NIB-0147—Gray

7510-00-NIB-0148—Cinnamon

7510-00-NIB-0149—Brown

7510-00-NIB-0150—Green

7510-00-NIB-0151—Jade

NPA: South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Double Pocket Presentation Folder

7530-00-NIB-0698—Black

NPA: L.C. Industries For The Blind, Inc., Durham, North Carolina.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Four Month Planner

7520-00-NIB-1689

NPA: The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. (Seattle Lighthouse), Seattle, Washington.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Ranger Load Carrying System (RLCS)

8470-00-NSH-0018—Chest Harness

Adapter (Individual Component)

8415-00-NSH-1129—Ranger Load

Carrying System

8415-00-NSH-1130—Individual

RLCS Kit

8415-00-NSH-1131—Rifle Squad

RLCS Kit

8415-00-NSH-1132—Weapons

Squad RLCS Kit

8415-00-NSH-1133—Sniper RLCS

Kit

8415-00-NSH-1134—Medic RLCS

Kit

8415-00-NSH-1135—Regimental

Recon Detachment RLCS Kit

8415-00-NSH-1136—Radio Pocket

(Individual Component)

8415-00-NSH-1137—War Belt

Suspender (Individual Component)

8415-00-NSH-1138—Horizontal

Pouch Adapter (Individual

Component)

8415-00-NSH-1139—Squad Casualty

Bag (Individual Component)

8415-00-NSH-1140—RLCS Kit Bag