

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

Sante Fe National Forest; New Mexico; Amendment of the Land Management Plan for the Santa Fe National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Santa Fe National Forest, located in New Mexico, prepared a nonsignificant, programmatic forest plan amendment to allow the use of herbicides in municipal watersheds and on soils with low revegetation potential to accompany its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and a Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for Invasive Plant Control. This notice is to inform the public that a 60-day period is being initiated where individuals or entities with specific concerns on Santa Fe's Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control may file an objection for Forest Service review prior to the approval of the Record of Decision for Invasive Plant Control.

DATES: Santa Fe's Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control, SEIS, Draft ROD, and other supporting information, will be available for review at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/santafe/landmanagement/projects> starting December 21, 2017.

A legal notice of the initiation of the 60-day objection period is also being published in Santa Fe National Forest's newspaper of record, which is the *Albuquerque Journal*. The date of publication of the legal notice in the *Albuquerque Journal* will determine the actual date of initiation of the 60-day objection period. A copy of the legal notice that is published in the *Albuquerque Journal* will be posted on the website listed above.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Santa Fe's Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control on Santa Fe National Forest, the SEIS, and the Draft ROD can

be obtained online at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/santafe/landmanagement/projects>; or by visiting or mailing a request to the Forest Supervisor's Office at the following location:

- 11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87508 (Telephone: 505-438-5443);

Objections must be submitted to the Reviewing Officer:

- Regional Forester, USDA-Forest Service, ATTN: Objection Reviewing Officer, 333 Broadway Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102 (Fax: 505-842-3173).

Objections may be submitted electronically at objections-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us.

Note that the office hours for submitting a hand-delivered objection are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a commonly used format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf) or Microsoft Word® (.doc or .docx).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandra Imler-Jacquez, Environmental Coordinator, Santa Fe National Forest at 505-438-5443. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Eastern time), Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Santa Fe National Forest, prepared a Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control. This notice is to inform the public that a 60-day period is being initiated where individuals or entities with specific concerns on Santa Fe's Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control may file an objection for Forest Service review prior to the approval of the ROD for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Invasive Plant Control Project.

The publication date of the legal notice in Santa Fe National Forest's newspaper of record, the *Albuquerque Journal*, will initiate the 60-day objection period and is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 219.16 and 219.52). An electronic scan of the notice with the publication date will be posted on Santa Fe National Forest's website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/santafe/landmanagement/projects>.

The objection process under 36 CFR 219 subpart B, provides an opportunity for members of the public who have participated in the planning process for the Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control on Santa Fe National Forest to have any unresolved concerns reviewed by the Forest Service prior to a final decision by the Responsible Official. Only those who provided substantive formal comments during the public comment period during the planning process are eligible to file an objection. Regulations at 36 CFR 219.62 define substantive formal comments as:

Written comments submitted to, or oral comments recorded by, the responsible official or his designee during an opportunity for public participation provided during the planning process, and attributed to the individual or entity providing them. Comments are considered substantive when they are within the scope of the proposal, are specific to the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider.

How To File an Objection

The Forest Service will accept mailed, emailed, faxed, and hand-delivered objections concerning Santa Fe's Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control for 60 calendar days following the date of the publication of the legal notice of this objection period in the newspaper of record, the *Albuquerque Journal*. It is the responsibility of the objector to ensure that the Reviewing Officer receives the objection in a timely manner. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the objection filing period.

Objections must be submitted to the Reviewing Officer, who will be the Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

An objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

(1) The objector's name and address along with a telephone number or email address if available—in cases where no identifiable name is attached to an objection, the Forest Service will attempt to verify the identity of the objector to confirm objection eligibility;

(2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);

(3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an

objection. The Forest Service will communicate to all parties to an objection through the lead objector. Verification of the identity of the lead objector must also be provided if requested;

(4) The name of the forest plan amendment being objected to, and the name and title of the Responsible Official;

(5) A statement of the issues and/or parts of the forest plan amendment to which the objection applies;

(6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes that the forest plan amendment is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy, an explanation should be included;

(7) A statement that demonstrates the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment; and

(8) All documents referenced in the objection (a bibliography is not sufficient), except that the following need not be provided:

- a. All or any part of a Federal law or regulation,
- b. Forest Service Directive System documents and land management plans or other published Forest Service documents,
- c. Documents referenced by the Forest Service in the planning documentation related to the proposal subject to objection, and
- d. Formal comments previously provided to the Forest Service by the objector during the plan amendment comment period.

Responsible Official

The responsible official for the Santa Fe's Forest Plan Amendment for Invasive Plant Control on Santa Fe National Forest is James Melonas, Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe National Forest, 11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

Dated: November 7, 2017.

Glenn P. Casamassa,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2017-27490 Filed 12-20-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Solicitation of Applications for Loan Guarantees Under the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program for Fiscal Year 2018

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS or Agency), an agency within Rural Development, announces that it is soliciting competitive lender submissions (responses) regarding proposed projects for the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP). The amount of program dollars available for the GRRHP will be determined by the Appropriations Act for each fiscal year that this Notice is open.

DATES: Eligible responses to this Notice will be accepted until December 31, 2021, 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Funding for selected responses that develop into complete applications and meet all Federal eligibility requirements will be based on the Appropriations Act for each individual fiscal year that this NOSA is open. Selected responses to this Notice that are deemed eligible for further processing after each fiscal year ends, will be funded to the extent an Appropriations Act provides sufficient funding in the fiscal year the response is selected. Approved applications are subject to the fee structure in effect when the response was selected for further processing. For example, a response that was selected under the 2016 NOSA will be subject to all fees stated in the 2016 NOSA.

ADDRESSES: Responses to this Notice may be submitted either electronically using the Section 538 electronic response form found at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/multi-family-housing-loan-guarantees> under the Forms and Resources tab or in hard copy to the appropriate Rural Development State Office where the project will be located. USDA Rural Development State Offices, their addresses, and telephone numbers may be found at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>. *Note:* Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free. Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to submit the response electronically.

Eligible lenders mailing a response or application must provide sufficient time to permit delivery to the appropriate *submission address* below on or before the closing deadline and time. Acceptance by a U.S. Post Office or

private mailer does not constitute delivery. Postage due responses and applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Monica Cole, Financial and Loan Analyst, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program, Multi-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 1263S–STOP 0781, Washington, DC 20250–0781 or email: monica.cole@wdc.usda.gov. Telephone: (202) 720–1251. This number is not toll-free. Hearing or speech-impaired persons may access that number by calling the Federal Information Relay Service toll-free at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The obligation of available funds, via the issuance of Conditional Commitments for loan guarantees, will be made in the following order: (1) To outstanding approved applications from prior years for which Conditional Commitments have not been issued; then (2) to applications approved under this Notice in the order by which the request for funding obligation is received by the USDA Rural Development National Office (National Office) from the State Offices. When funding is insufficient to serve all applications approved under this Notice, they will be funded according to the priority scoring set forth in Section V of this Notice.

Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's risk. The following paragraphs outline the timeframes, eligibility requirements, lender responsibilities, and the overall response and application processes.

Any modifications to this Notice, including cancellation, will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Eligible lenders are invited to submit responses for new construction and acquisition with rehabilitation of affordable rural rental housing. The Agency will review responses submitted by eligible lenders, on the lender's letterhead, and signed by both the prospective borrower and lender. Although a complete application is not required in response to this Notice, eligible lenders may submit a complete application concurrently with the response. Submitting a complete application will not have any effect on the respondent's response score.

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Housing Service.

Solicitation Opportunity Title: Guaranteed Multi-Family Housing Loans.

Announcement Type: Initial Solicitation Announcement.