

results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives including a "no-action" alternative will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), will be conducted, if necessary, during the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment, the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the Draft Environmental Impact Statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may require the agency to withhold submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstance, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request of confidentiality, and where the request is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within seven days.

To be most helpful and timely, scoping comments should be received within 30 days of the publication of this Notice of Intent. Public scoping meetings are planned for mid-May at four locations on Price of Wales Island where written comments can be given.

Preliminary Issues

Based on preliminary analysis and internal scoping efforts, we have developed an initial list of issues to be analyzed in the EIS:

- Increased hunting and trapping pressure, as a result of additional open road densities, may have an adverse affect on the wolf population in the project area.
- Cumulative effects of the proposed harvest and road construction may increase sedimentation, which could alter stream channel morphology and degrade fish habitat in the project area.
- The proposed action may adversely affect deer winter range, which could affect subsistence and sport hunting of deer.
- The proposed action would benefit local communities by providing additional employment opportunities and income.

Permits or Licenses Required

Permits required for implementation include the following:

1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers:
 - Approval of discharge of dredge or fill material into the waters for the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
 - Approval of the construction of

structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899;

2. Environmental Protection Agency:
 - General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for Log Transfer Facilities in Alaska;
 - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources:
 - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification) Chapter 20;
4. Office of Project Management & Permitting (DNR):
 - Coastal Zone Consistency Determination concurrence.

Responsible Official

Forrest Cole, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest Supervisor, Federal Building, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide: (1) The estimated timber volume to make available from the project, as well as the location, design, and scheduling of timber harvest, road construction and reconstruction, and silvicultural practices used; (2) access management measures (road, trail, and area restrictions and closures); (3) mitigation measures and monitoring requirements; (4) whether to make adjustments to the small old-growth reserve (OGR) in VCU 5700; and (5) whether there may be a significant restriction on subsistence uses.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: May 2, 2005.

Forrest Cole,

Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest.

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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 for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR part 4279.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 12, 2005 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brenda Griffin, Loan Specialist, Business and Industry Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224. Telephone: (202) 720-6802. The TDD number is (800) 877-8339 or (202) 708-9300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Guaranteed Loanmaking—Business and Industry Loans.

OMB Number: 0570-0017.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2005.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program was legislated in 1972 under Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended. The purpose of the program is to improve, develop, or finance businesses, industries, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guaranteeing of quality loans made by lending institutions, thereby providing lasting community benefits.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, local or tribal; lenders, accountants, attorneys.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,269.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 10,269.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20,624 hours.

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 RBS,

including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS'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, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250. 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: May 4, 2005.

Peter J. Thomas,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 05-9614 Filed 5-12-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Announcement of Rural Cooperative Development 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 \$5.952 million in competing Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) funds for fiscal year (FY) 2005. Of this amount, up to \$1.488 million will be reserved for applications that focus on assistance to small, minority producers through their cooperative businesses. This action will comply with legislation that authorizes grants for establishing and operating centers for rural cooperative development. The intended effect of this notice is to solicit applications for FY 2005 and award grants on or before September 15, 2005. The maximum award per grant is \$300,000 and matching funds are required.

DATES: You must submit completed applications for grants on paper or

electronically by 4 p.m. eastern time on July 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain application materials for a Rural Cooperative Development Grant via the Internet at the following Web address: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/rcdg.htm> or by contacting the Agency Contact for your State listed on the following Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/contacts.htm>.

Submit completed paper applications via commercial delivery or mail to USDA-RBS-Cooperative Services (CS), Attn: RCDG Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mail Stop 3250, Room 4016—South, Washington, DC 20250-3250. The phone number that should be used for FedEx packages is (202) 720-7558.

Submit electronic grant applications to the following Internet address: <http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants will need to complete a registration process before a grant application can be submitted through Grants.gov. Applicants should register at least 2 weeks prior to the application deadline to ensure timely submission of their applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Agency contact for your State listed on the program Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/rcdg.htm>. The program Web site contains application guidance, including a Frequently Asked Questions section, and an application guide.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS).

Funding Opportunity Title: Rural Cooperative Development Grant.

Announcement Type: Initial announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.771.

Dates: *Application Deadline:* 4 p.m. eastern time on July 1, 2005.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

RCDGs are authorized by section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)). Regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subparts A and F. The primary objective of the RCDG program is to improve the economic condition of rural areas through cooperative development by Centers. RCDG grants are used to facilitate the creation or retention of jobs in rural areas through the development of new rural cooperatives, value-added processing and other rural businesses. The program