

Malheur National Forest, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR 97845. The Responsible Official will decide if the proposed project will be implemented and will document the decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations. The responsibility for preparing the DEIS and FEIS has been delegated to Brooks Smith, District Ranger, Blue Mountain Ranger District.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues identified include the potential effect of the proposed action on: Soils, water quality and fish habitat, snags and down wood, disturbance to cultural resources, potential for noxious weed expansion, threatened, endangered and sensitive aquatic, terrestrial and plant species, potential loss of economic value of trees damaged by insects or wildfire, and the safety and use of the area by public and land managers.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis, beginning with the scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7). Initial scoping began with the project listed in the 2009 Winter Edition of the Malheur National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions. A Public meeting has been planned for April 8, 2009 to discuss the project. Also, correspondence with tribes, government agencies, organizations, and individuals who have indicated their interest will be conducted.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review.

Dated: March 6, 2009.

Doug Gochmour,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E9-5364 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

National Tree-Marking Paint Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Tree-marking Paint Committee will meet in Chicago, Illinois, on May 12-14, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss activities related to improvements in, concerns about, and the handling and use of tree-marking paint by personnel of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 12-14, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601. Persons who wish to file written comments before or after the meeting must send written comments to Dave Haston, Chairman, National Tree-marking Paint Committee, Forest Service, USDA, San Dimas Technology and Development Center, 444 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas, CA 91773, or electronically to dhaston@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Haston, Sr. Project Leader, San Dimas Technology and Development Center, Forest Service, USDA, (909) 599-1267, extension 294 or dhaston@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Tree-marking Paint Committee comprises representatives from the Forest Service National Headquarters, each of the nine Forest Service regions, the Forest Products Laboratory, the Forest Service San Dimas Technology and Development Center, and the Bureau of Land Management. The General Services Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health are ad hoc members and provide technical advice to the committee.

A field trip will be held on May 12 and is designed to supplement information related to tree-marking paint. This year the National Tree-marking Paint Committee will conduct a security inspection of the paint manufacturer and therefore the field trip is only open to committee members.

The main session of the meeting, which is open to public attendance, will be held on May 13-14.

Closed Sessions

While certain segments of this meeting are open to the public, there

will be two closed sessions during the meeting. The first closed session is planned for approximately 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 13, 2009. This session is reserved for individual paint manufacturers to present products and information about tree-marking paint for consideration in future testing and use by the agency. Paint manufacturers also may provide comments on tree-marking paint specifications or other requirements. This portion of the meeting is open only to paint manufacturers, the Committee, and Committee staff to ensure that trade secrets will not be disclosed to other paint manufacturers or to the public. Paint manufacturers wishing to make presentations to the Tree-marking Paint Committee during the closed session should contact the Committee chairperson at the telephone number listed at **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in this notice. The second closed session is planned for approximately 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 14, 2009. This session is reserved for Steering Committee members only.

Any person with special access needs should contact the Chairperson to make those accommodations. Space for individuals who are not members of the National Tree-marking Paint Committee is limited and will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dated: March 6, 2009.

Richard W. Sowa,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. E9-5341 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Applications for Rural Business Opportunity Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of grants of up to \$50,000 per application from the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2009, to be competitively awarded. For multi-state projects, grant funds of up to \$150,000 will be available on a competitive basis. These limits do not apply to specific funding for certain specifically designated rural areas as discussed below. This notice is being issued prior to passage of a final

appropriations bill, which may or may not provide funding for this program, to allow applicants sufficient time to apply for and obtain leverage financing, submit applications, and give the Agency time to process applications within the current fiscal year. The Agency will publish a subsequent notice identifying the amount received in the appropriations, if any. Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's risk.

DATES: The deadline for the receipt of applications in the Rural Development State Office is March 31, 2009. The RBOG appropriation for FY 2009 may provide specific funding for rural areas designated: Federally Recognized Native American Tribes' (FRNAT), Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Rural Economic Area Partnerships, and these applications must also be received in the Rural Development State Office by March 31, 2009. The Agency reserves the right to extend this application deadline. Any applications received at a Rural Development State Office after these dates for this type of assistance will not be considered for FY 2009 funding.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact a Rural Development State Office for further information and copies of the application package. Submit applications to the USDA Rural Development State Office in the state where your project is located. A list of the USDA Rural Development State Office addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

District of Columbia

USDA Rural Development, Specialty Lenders Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 6867, STOP 3225, Washington, DC 20250-3225, (202) 720-1400.

A list of Rural Development State Offices follows:

Alabama

USDA Rural Development State Office, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3400/TDD (334) 279-3495.

Alaska

USDA Rural Development State Office, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, (907) 761-7705/TDD (907) 761-8905.

Arizona

USDA Rural Development State Office, 230 N. 1st Ave., Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003, (602) 280-8701/TDD (602) 280-8705.

Arkansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little

Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3200/TDD (501) 301-3279.

California

USDA Rural Development State Office, 430 G Street, # 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169, (530) 792-5800/TDD (530) 792-5848.

Colorado

USDA Rural Development State Office, 655 Parfet Street, Room E-100, Lakewood, CO 80215, (720) 544-2903/TDD (720) 544-2976.

Delaware-Maryland

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904, (302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-3585.

Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338-3400/TDD (352) 338-3499.

Georgia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034.

Hawaii

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 311, 154 Waiianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933-8380/TDD (808) 933-8321.

Idaho

USDA Rural Development State Office, 9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-5600/TDD (208) 378-5644.

Illinois

USDA Rural Development State Office, 2118 West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821, (217) 403-6200/TDD (217) 403-6240.

Indiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278, (317) 290-3100/TDD (317) 290-3343.

Iowa

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 873, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515) 284-4663/TDD (515) 284-4858.

Kansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1303 S.W. First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040, (785) 271-2700/TDD (785) 271-2767.

Kentucky

USDA Rural Development State Office, 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 224-7300/TDD (859) 224-7422.

Louisiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 473-7921/TDD (318) 473-7655.

Maine

USDA Rural Development State Office, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207) 990-9160/TDD (207) 942-7331.

Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut

USDA Rural Development State Office, 451 West Street, Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002-2999, (413) 253-4300/TDD (413) 253-4590.

Michigan

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324-5190/TDD (517) 324-5169.

Minnesota

USDA Rural Development State Office, 375 Jackson Street, Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, (651) 602-7800/TDD (651) 602-3799.

Mississippi

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-4316/TDD (601) 965-5850.

Missouri

USDA Rural Development State Office, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-0976/TDD (573) 876-9480.

Montana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 900 Technology Boulevard, Suite B, P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771, (406) 585-2580/TDD (406) 585-2562.

Nebraska

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 437-5551/TDD (402) 437-5093.

Nevada

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1390 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89703-5146, (775) 887-1222/TDD (775) 885-0633.

New Jersey

USDA Rural Development State Office, 8000 Midlantic Drive, 5th Floor North, Suite 500, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856) 787-7700/TDD (856) 787-7784.

New Mexico

USDA Rural Development State Office, 6200 Jefferson Street, NE., Room 255, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 761-4950/TDD (505) 761-4938.

New York

USDA Rural Development State Office, The Galleries of Syracuse, 441 South Salina Street, Suite 357, Syracuse, NY 13202-2541, (315) 477-6400/TDD (315) 477-6447.

North Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh, NC 27609, (919) 873-2000/TDD (919) 873-2003.

North Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East
Rosser, P.O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND
58502-1737, (701) 530-2037/TDD (701)
530-2113.

Ohio

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North
High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-2418,
(614) 255-2400/TDD (614) 255-2554.

Oklahoma

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100
USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074-
2654, (405) 742-1000/TDD (405) 742-1007.

Oregon

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1201
NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 801, Portland, OR
97232, (503) 414-3300/TDD (503) 414-
3387.

Pennsylvania

USDA Rural Development State Office, One
Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg,
PA 17110-2996, (717) 237-2299/TDD (717)
237-2261.

Puerto Rico

USDA Rural Development State Office, IBM
Building, Suite 601, 654 Munos Rivera
Avenue, San Juan, PR 00918-6106, (787)
766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332.

South Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, Strom
Thurmond Federal Building, 1835
Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC
29201, (803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-
5697.

South Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 210, 200 Fourth
Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-
1100/TDD (605) 352-1147.

Tennessee

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3322
West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville,
TN 37203-1084, (615) 783-1300.

Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South
Main, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9700/
TDD (254) 742-9712.

Utah

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125
South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake
City, UT 84138, (801) 524-4320/TDD (801)
524-3309.

Vermont/New Hampshire

USDA Rural Development State Office, City
Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street,
Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-6000/
TDD (802) 223-6365.

Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1606
Santa Rosa Road, Suite 238, Richmond, VA
23229-5014, (804) 287-1550/TDD (804)
287-1753.

Washington

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1835
Black Lake Boulevard SW., Suite B,
Olympia, WA 98512-5715, (360) 704-
7740/TDD (360) 704-7760.

West Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, 75
High Street, Room 320, Morgantown, WV
26505-7500, (304) 284-4860/TDD (304)
284-4836.

Wisconsin

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4949
Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481,
(715) 345-7600/TDD (715) 345-7614.

Wyoming

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100
East B, Federal Building, Room 1005, P.O.
Box 11005, Casper, WY 82602-5006, (307)
233-6700/TDD (307) 233-6733.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Overview**

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

Funding Opportunity Type: Rural
Business Opportunity Grants.

Announcement Type: Initial
Solicitation Announcement.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic
Assistance Number:* 10.773.

Dates: Application Deadline:
Completed applications for these funds
must be received in the Rural
Development State Office no later than
March 31, 2009, to be eligible for FY
2009 grant funding. Applications
received after this date will not be
eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The RBOG program is authorized
under section 306(a)(11) of the
Consolidated Farm and Rural
Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C.
1926(a)(11)). The Rural Development
State Offices administer the RBOG
program on behalf of USDA Rural
Development at the State level. The
primary objective of the program is to
improve the economic conditions of
rural areas. Assistance provided to rural
areas under this program may include
technical assistance for business
development and economic
development planning. To ensure that a
broad range of communities have the
opportunity to benefit from the program,
no grant will exceed \$50,000, unless it
is a multi-State project where funds may
not exceed \$150,000. As indicated in
the summary, these limits do not apply
to specified funding for rural areas
designated: FRNAT's, Empowerment
Zones, Enterprise Communities, and
Rural Economic Area Partnerships.

Awards are made on a competitive
basis using specific selection criteria
contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart

G. Information required to be in the
application package include an SF-424,
"Application for Federal Assistance;"
applicant's organizational documents;
Scope of Work Narrative; Income Sheet;
Balance Sheet or current audit if
available; AD-1047, "Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and
Other Responsibility Matters—Primary
Covered Transactions;" AD-1048,
"Certification Regarding Debarment,
Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary
Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered
Transactions;" AD-1049, "Certification
Regarding Drug-Free Workplace
Requirements;" Restrictions on
Lobbying, RD 400-1, "Equal
Opportunity Agreement;" and RD 400-
4, "Assurance Agreement." See 7 CFR
4284.639 for additional application
requirements. Information required to
be in the application package are
contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart
G. The State Director may assign up to
15 discretionary points to an
application, and the Agency
Administrator may assign up to 20
additional discretionary points for
projects funded from the National Office
reserve. Discretionary points awarded
by the State Director or Administrator
must be based on geographic
distribution of funds, special
importance for implementation of a
strategic plan in partnership with other
organizations, or extraordinary potential
for success due to superior project plans
or qualifications of the grantee. To
ensure the equitable distribution of
funds, a maximum of two projects from
each State that score the greatest
number of points based on the selection
criteria and discretionary points will be
considered by the National Office for
funding. Applications will be
tentatively scored by the State Offices
and submitted to the National Office for
final review and selection.

The National Office will review the
scores based on the grant selection
criteria and weights contained in 7 CFR
part 4284, subpart G. All applicants will
be notified by USDA Rural Development
of the Agency's decision on the awards.

Definitions

The definitions are published at 7
CFR 4284.603.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Grant.

Fiscal Year Funds: FY 2009.

Total Funding: To be determined by
appropriations bill, if any.

Approximate Number of Awards: To
be determined by amount received in
appropriations bill, if any.

Maximum Award: \$50,000 (except as
otherwise specifically provided herein).

Anticipated Award Date: June 30, 2009.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Grants may be made to public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Indian tribes on Federal or State reservations and other federally recognized tribal groups, and cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents and that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the members.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Matching funds are not required.

C. Other Eligibility Requirements

Applications will only be accepted for projects to assist in promoting sustainable economic development in rural communities.

D. Completeness Eligibility

Applications will not be considered for funding if they do not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility or are missing required elements.

IV. Fiscal Year 2009 Application and Submission Information

A. Address To Request Application Package

For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the Rural Development State Office identified in this notice to obtain copies of the application package.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications through the Grants.gov Web site at: <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications may be submitted in either electronic or paper format. Users of Grants.gov will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov Web site. Applications may not be submitted by electronic mail.

- When you enter the Grants.gov Web site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site as well as the hours of operation. USDA Rural Development strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov. Applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1-866-705-5711.

- You may submit all documents electronically through the Web site, including all information typically included on the application for RBOGs

and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- After electronically submitting an application through the Web site, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgment from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.

- USDA Rural Development may request that the applicant provide original signatures on forms at a later date.

- If applicants experience technical difficulties on the closing date and are unable to meet the deadline, you may submit a paper copy of your application to your respective Rural Development State Office. Paper applications submitted to a Rural Development State Office must meet the closing date and local time deadline.

Please note that applicants must locate the downloadable application package for this program by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number or FedGrants Funding Opportunity Number, which can be found at <http://www.fedgrants.gov>.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirement contained in this Notice is approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0024.

B. Content and Form of Submission

An application must contain all of the required elements. Each application received in a Rural Development State Office will be reviewed to determine if it is consistent with the eligible purposes contained in section 306 of the CONACT. Each selection priority criterion outlined in 7 CFR 4284.639, must be addressed in the application. Failure to address any of the criteria will result in a zero-point score for that criterion and will impact the overall evaluation of the application. Copies of 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G, will be provided to any interested applicant making a request to a Rural Development State Office listed in this notice, or can be obtained at the Rural Development Web link: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs_toc.html.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Application Deadline date: March 31, 2009.

Explanation of Deadlines:

Applications for funds must be in the Rural Development State Office by the deadline date.

V. Application Review Information

The National Office will score applications based on the grant selection criteria and weights contained

in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G and will select a grantee subject to the grantee's satisfactory submission of the additional items required by 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G and the RBS Letter of Conditions.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification for funding from the Rural Development State Office. Applicants must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations before the grant award will be approved. Unsuccessful applications will receive notification by mail.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Additional requirements that apply to grantees selected for this program can be found in the 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G.

VII. Agency Contacts

For general questions about this announcement, please contact your USDA Rural Development State Office identified in this notice.

Nondiscrimination Statement

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.”

Dated: March 4, 2009.

Pat Fiala,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E9-5407 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

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