

that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster or are experiencing fundamental structural changes in the economic base.

Not more than 12 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans

guaranteed during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. CAIP loans are subject to a 50 percent limit of the overall CAIP loan program.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent guarantee fee or a guaranteed loan exceeding 80 percent must be forwarded to the National Office, Attn: Director, Business and Industry Division, for review and consideration prior to obligation of the guaranteed loan. The Administrator will provide a written response to the State Office confirming approval or disapproval of the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 28, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Kieferle, Processing Branch Chief, Business and Industry Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue,

SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224, telephone (202) 720-7818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866.

Dated: March 7, 2002.

John Rosso,

Administrator.

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BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Notice of Petitions by Producing Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA).

ACTION: To give all interested parties an opportunity to comment.

Petitions have been accepted for filing on the dates indicated from the firms listed below.

LIST OF PETITION ACTION BY TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PERIOD FEBRUARY 19, 2002-MARCH 19, 2002

Firm name	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
Supreme Tool & Die Co., Inc..	1536 Fenpark Drive, Fenton, MO 63026.	02/21/02	Metal industrial tooling and die fabrication.
M. W. Technologies, Inc.	71 Midland Avenue, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407.	02/22/02	Industrial process control instruments and apparatus for the pharmaceutical and food processing industries.
Border Foods, Inc.	4065 J Street, S.E., Deming, NM 88030.	02/25/02	Processed green chile.
Airpax, L.L.C.	807 Woods Road, Cambridge, MD 21613.	02/27/02	Magnetic circuit breakers.
Eminence Speaker, L.L.C. ..	838 Mulberry, Eminence, KY40019.	02/28/02	Loudspeakers for the music and entertainment industries.
Quad Tool & Design, Inc. ...	8565 Highway 45, Kewaskum, WI 53040.	02/27/02	Tooling for the molding of plastic articles, machined of metal.
Southwest Specialty Heat Treat, Inc..	225 East Marshall Wytheville, VA 24382.	03/04/02	Heat treatment of metal fasteners.
Randolph Dimension Corp.	216 Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14272.	03/04/02	Hardwood furniture products such as rails, arms and backs, and cabinets and other wood products.
S.O.S. From Texas	Route 4, Box 49, Shamrock, TX 79070.	03/04/02	Unisex tee shirts.
Larand Corporation	2450 West 3rd Court, Miami, FL 33010.	03/05/02	Metal stock shapes of brass, carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminum alloy for the recreational marine industry.
Rezolex Limited Company ..	2240 Pepper Road, Las Cruces, NM 88005.	03/05/02	Paprika-based oleo resin.
Rowe Foundry & Machine Co. dba Rowe Foundry Inc..	147 West Cumberland St., Martinsville, IL 62442.	03/06/02	Counterweights for backhoes.
Paul Villwock Farms	600 Perrydale Road, Dallas, Oregon 97338.	03/18/02	Plums.
Henry County Plywood Corporation.	1580 Phospho Springs Road, Ridgeway, Virginia 24148.	03/19/02	Hardwood plywood for the furniture industry.

The petitions were submitted pursuant to section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2341). Consequently,

the United States Department of Commerce has initiated separate investigations to determine whether

increased imports into the United States of articles like or directly competitive with those produced by each firm

contributed importantly to total or partial separation of the firm's workers, or threat thereof, and to a decrease in sales or production of each petitioning firm.

Any party having a substantial interest in the proceedings may request a public hearing on the matter. A request for a hearing must be received by Trade Adjustment Assistance, Room 7315, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, no later than the close of business of the tenth calendar day following the publication of this notice.

(The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance official program number and title of the program under which these petitions are submitted is 11.313, Trade Adjustment Assistance.)

Dated: March 20, 2002.

Anthony J. Meyer,

Coordinator, Trade Adjustment and Technical Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02-7433 Filed 3-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 001206342-2025-02; I.D. 020502B]

RIN 0348-ZB00

NOAA Restoration Center; Request for National and Regional Habitat Restoration Partners

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for partnership proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to invite the public to submit multi-year proposals for establishing innovative partnerships with the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) at a national or regional level to further habitat restoration that will benefit living marine resources including anadromous fish. NOAA envisions working jointly on such partnerships, through its Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP), to select, competitively fund, and administer projects with substantial community involvement that restore NOAA trust resource habitats.

This document describes the types of habitat restoration partnerships that the RC envisions establishing, and describes criteria under which applications will be evaluated for funding consideration.

Partnerships selected through this notice will be implemented through a grant or cooperative agreement mechanism and will involve joint selection and co-funding of multiple community-based habitat restoration projects. Funding for establishing new partnerships in FY 02 is limited and the selection process is anticipated to be highly competitive. This is not a request for individual community-based habitat restoration project proposals.

DATES: This is an open notice for applications that runs through August 1, 2002. Applications will be evaluated and partners selected monthly after date of publication in the **Federal Register** until the close of this solicitation. Applications that are not selected in a previous month will be considered in subsequent months to compete on a rolling basis. Applications received later than 5 days following the closing date will not be accepted or returned. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Send applications to Christopher D. Doley, Director, NOAA Restoration Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway (F/HC3), Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282; ATTN: CRP Partnership Applications.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under Electronic Access for additional information on the CRP and for application form information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robin J. Bruckner or Alison Ward, (301) 713-0174, or by e-mail at Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov or Alison.Ward@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Description

The CRP, a financial and technical Federal assistance program, promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional and local levels to fund grass-roots, community-based activities that restore living marine resources and their habitats and promote stewardship and a conservation ethic for NOAA trust resources. NOAA trust resources are living marine resources that include commercial and recreational fishery resources (marine fish and shellfish and their habitats); anadromous species (fish, such as salmon and striped bass, that spawn in freshwater and then migrate to the sea); endangered and threatened marine species and their habitats; marine mammals, turtles, and their habitats; marshes, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and other coastal habitats; and resources associated with National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine

Research Reserves. Priorities for habitat restoration partnership activities include: areas identified by NOAA Fisheries as essential fish habitat (EFH) and areas within EFH identified as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; areas identified as critical habitat for federally or state listed marine and anadromous species; areas identified as important habitat for marine mammals and turtles; watersheds or such other areas under conservation management as special management areas under state coastal management programs; and other important commercial or recreational marine fish habitat, including degraded areas that historically were important habitat for living marine resources.

The CRP's objective is to bring together citizen groups, public and nonprofit organizations, watershed groups, industry, corporations and businesses, youth conservation corps, students, landowners, and local government, state, and Federal agencies to implement habitat restoration projects to benefit NOAA trust resources. Partnerships developed at national, regional and local levels contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support or other in-kind services to promote citizen participation in the improvement of locally-important living marine resources and develop local stewardship and monitoring activities to sustain and evaluate the success of the restoration.

The CRP recognizes the significant role that partnerships can play in making habitat restoration happen within communities, and acknowledges that habitat restoration is often best implemented through technical and monetary support provided at a community level. Community-based restoration projects supported by the CRP are successful because they have significant local backing, depend upon citizens' hands-on involvement, and typically involve NOAA technical assistance or oversight. The role of NOAA in the CRP is to help identify potential restoration projects, strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects within communities, and develop long-term, ongoing national and regional partnerships to support community-based restoration efforts of living marine resource habitats across a wide geographic area. For more information on the CRP, see Electronic Access.

II. Restoration Partnership Goals

NOAA is interested in developing national and regional partnerships that will lead to the accomplishment of on-the-ground, community-based