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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Region; Authorization of Livestock Graving Activities on the Sacramento Grazing Allotment, Sacramento Ranger District, Lincoln National Forest, Otero County, New Mexico

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare a final environmental impact statement for the authorization of livestock graving on the Sacramento Grazing Allotment.

SUMMARY: In a previous *Federal Register* announcement (December 8, 2003, Vol 68, No. 235, page 68325) the Forest Service provided notice it would prepare a final environmental impact statement on a proposal to authorize

livestock graving activities on the Sacramento Grazing Allotment by January 2004. The project area encompasses approximately 115,000 acres of National Forest lands on the Sacramento Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest. The Sacramento Grazing allotment comprises approximately 25% of the ranger district. The project has generated controversy on three main points: effects to threatened and endangered animal and plant species, concern for degraded riparian areas, and forage competition between wildlife and livestock. This notice is to advise interested parties that a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) will be available for public review in March 2004.

Responsible Official: The District Ranger will decide whether or not to authorize domestic livestock grazing on the Sacramento Allotment which will include appropriate forest plan standards and guidelines in part 3 of the existing grazing permit. If grazing is authorized, the District Ranger will decide on the permitted number of animals and season of use, range facilities to be constructed, allowable utilization standards, required monitoring, and mitigation measures (best management practices, BMPs).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed project and scope of analysis should be directed to Rick Newmon or Mark Cadwallader at (505) 682-2551.

Dated: February 25, 2004.

Jose M. Martinez,

Forest Supervisor, Lincoln National Forest.

[FR Doc. 04-5974 Filed 3-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans and Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Grants for Off-Farm Housing for Fiscal Year 2004

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This NOFA announces the availability of funds for section 514 Farm Labor Housing loan funds and section 516 Farm Labor Housing grant funds for new construction and acquisition and rehabilitation of off-farm units for farmworker households. Applications may also include requests for section 521 rental assistance (RA). A

"Notice of Timeframe for Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loan and Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Grant for Fiscal Year 2004" was published in the **Federal Register** on February 6, 2004 (69 FR 5818). This was done soon after passage of a final appropriations act to allow sufficient time for applicants to complete an application and for the Agency to select and process selected applications within the current fiscal year. In the notice dated February 6, 2004, the Agency announced a deadline of May 6, 2004, 5 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State Office, for submitting applications for sections 514/516 Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants and section 521 RA funds. Detailed information regarding the application and selection process, as well as a listing of the Rural Development State Offices, can be found in the February 6, 2004, notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information, applicants may contact Doug MacDowell, Senior Loan Specialist, of the Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Rural Housing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0781, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-1627 (voice) (this is not a toll free number) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD-Federal Information Relay Service).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Programs Affected

The Farm Labor Housing Program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 10.405, Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants. Rental Assistance is listed in the Catalog under Number 10.427, Rural Rental Assistance Payments.

Discussion of Notice

I. Authority and Distribution Methodology

A. Authority

The Farm Labor Housing program is authorized by the Housing Act of 1949: section 514 (42 U.S.C. 1484) for loans and section 516 (42 U.S.C. 1486) for grants. Tenant subsidies (rental assistance (RA)) are available through section 521 (42 U.S.C. 1490a). Sections 514 and 516 provide RHS the authority to make loans and grants for financing off-farm housing to broad-based nonprofit organizations, nonprofit organizations of farmworkers, federally recognized Indian tribes, agencies or political subdivisions of State or local government, public agencies (such as local housing authorities) and with section 514 loans to nonprofit limited

partnerships in which the general partner is a nonprofit entity.

B. Distribution Methodology

Because RHS has the ability to adjust loan and grant levels, final loan and grant levels will fluctuate. The estimated funds available for fiscal year (FY) 2004 for off-farm housing are:

Section 514 loans—\$35,774,000
Section 516 grants—\$13,400,759

Applications will be selected based on a national competition, as outlined in the February 6, 2004, notice.

II. Funding Limits

A. Individual requests may not exceed \$3 million (total loan and grant).

B. No State may receive more than 30 percent of the total available funds unless an exception is granted from the Administrator.

C. Rental Assistance will be held in the National Office for use with section 514 loans and section 516 grants and will be awarded based on each project's financial structure and need.

Dated: March 9, 2004.

Arthur A. Garcia,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-5963 Filed 3-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program for Fiscal Year 2004

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This NOFA announces the availability of new construction loan funds for the section 515 Rural Rental Housing (RRH) program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004. A "Notice of Timeframe to Submit Applications for the Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program for Fiscal Year 2004" was published in the **Federal Register** on February 6, 2004 (69 FR 5821). This was done soon after passage of a final appropriations act to allow sufficient time for applicants to complete an application and for the Agency to select and process selected applications within the current fiscal year. In the notice dated February 6, 2004, the Agency announced a deadline of April 6, 2004, 5 p.m. local time for each Rural Development State Office, for submitting applications for section 515 new construction loan funds and section 521 Rental Assistance (RA) funds. Detailed information regarding

the application and selection process, as well as a listing of the Rural Development State Offices, can be found in the February 6, 2004, notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information, applicants may contact Barbara Chism, Senior Loan Officer, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Rural Housing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0781, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 690-1436 (voice) (this is not a toll free number) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD-Federal Information Relay Service).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Programs Affected

The Rural Rental Housing program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 10.415, Rural Rental Housing Loans. Rental Assistance is listed in the Catalog under Number 10.427, Rural Rental Assistance Payments.

Discussion of Notice

Authority and Distribution Methodology

A. Authority

Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485) provides RHS with the authority to make loans to any individual, corporation, association, trust, Indian tribe, public or private nonprofit organization, consumer cooperative, or partnership to provide rental or cooperative housing and related facilities in rural areas for very-low, low, or moderate income persons or families, including elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Rental Assistance (RA) is a tenant subsidy for very-low and low-income families residing in rural rental housing facilities with RHS financing and may be requested with applications for such facilities.

B. Distribution Methodology

The total amount available for FY 2004 for section 515 is \$115,857,375, of which \$30,057,375 is available for new construction as follows:

Section 515 new construction funds—
\$7,837,343
Set-aside for nonprofits—\$10,427,163
Set-aside for Underserved Counties and Colonias—\$5,792,869
Set-aside for EZ, EC, and REAP Zones—
\$5,000,000
State Rental Assistance (RA) Designated reserve—\$ 1,000,000

C. Set-asides and State RA Reserve

1. *Nonprofit set-aside.* An amount of \$10,427,163 has been set aside for nonprofit applicants. Details on this set-