

subcontracting with other organizations, etc., as well as the financial condition of the organization. All of this information is considered by CSREES prior to award to determine the grantee is both managerially and fiscally responsible. This information is submitted to CSREES on a one-time basis. If sufficient changes occur within the organization, the grantee submits revised information.

With regards to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (44 U.S.C. 3504 note), CSREES is proposing to postpone making an electronic option available for this information collection until the Federal government-wide electronic process is developed for collecting organizational information and statutory certifications from new grantees. Under the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (Pub.L. No. 106-107), Federal agencies and OMB have been working together to streamline and simplify the award and administration of Federal grants. As a result of these activities, Federal agencies and OMB are proposing various regulations, policies, and business processes that will decrease the overall information collection burden to grant recipients by having a central location where this information is collected for use by all Federal grantmaking agencies.

Estimate of the Burden: CSREES estimates the number of responses for the Form CSREES-665 will be 150 with an estimated response time of .5 hour per form, representing a total annual burden of 75 hours for this form. CSREES estimates the number of responses for the Form CSREES-666 will be 150 with an estimated response time of 6.3 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 945 hours for this form. These estimates are based on a survey of grantees who had recently been approved for grant awards. They were asked to give an estimate of time it took them to complete each form. This estimate was to include such things as: (1) Reviewing the instructions; (2) searching existing data sources; (3) gathering and maintaining the data needed; and (4) actual completion of the forms. The average time it took each respondent was calculated from their responses.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency'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 information collection 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.

Done at Washington, DC, this 4th day of March 2006.

Joseph Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. E6-5227 Filed 4-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Mendocino Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mendocino County Resource Advisory Committee will meet April 21, 2006 (RAC) in Willits, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Approval of minutes, (2) Public Comment, (3) Sub-committees, (4) Discussion—items of interest, (5) Next agenda and meeting date.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 21, 2006, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mendocino County Museum, located at 400 E. Commercial St., Willits, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roberta Hurt, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Covelo Ranger District, 78150 Covelo Road, Covelo, CA 95428. (707) 983-8503; e-mail rhurt@fs.fed.us

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff by April 17, 2006. Public comment will have the opportunity to address the committee at the meeting.

Dated: March 30, 2006.

Blaine Baker,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 06-3427 Filed 4-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee (Committee) will meet in Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting is to review and draft recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on state petitions for inventoried roadless area management. Petitions to be reviewed include those received from Virginia, North Carolina, and possibly any petitions received between the publication of this notice and meeting dates.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 8-9, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Forest Service's headquarters: Sydney R. Yates Federal Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Committee Coordinator, Garth Smelser, at gsmelser@fs.fed.us or (202) 205-0992, USDA Forest Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The state petitions scheduled for review and other relevant meeting materials will be available online at www.roadless.fs.fed.us.

The meeting is open to the public and interested parties are invited to attend. Building security requires you to provide your name to the Committee Coordinator by May 1, 2006. You will need photo identification to enter the building. Due to limited seating, public attendance will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

While meeting discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members, the public will be allowed to offer written and oral comments for the Committee's consideration. Because of the limited time and space, those wishing to offer their comments to the Committee are strongly encouraged to submit written statements for the Committee's review. Written comments should be addressed to the Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory

Committee Chair and mailed to: USDA Forest Service, ATTN: Roadless Advisory Committee Chair, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250.

Attendees wishing to comment orally will be allotted a specific amount of time—based on the number of speakers—to address the Committee on May 8, 2006. To offer oral comments on this day, contact the Committee Coordinator, Garth Smelser, at gsmelser@fs.fed.us or (202) 205-0992.

Both oral and written comments should (1) specifically address the state petition(s) being reviewed, (2) focus on the basis for agreement/disagreement with a petition, and (3) if in disagreement, recommend an alternative. All public comment will become a permanent part of the official meeting record and, therefore, be made available to the public.

Dated: April 4, 2006.

Frederick Norbury,

Associate Deputy Chief, NFS.

[FR Doc. E6-5268 Filed 4-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Funding Availability and Solicitation of Applications

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability and solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: USDA Rural Development administers rural utilities programs through the Rural Utilities Service. USDA Rural Development announces the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program grant application window for funding during fiscal year (FY) 2006. FY 2005 funding for the DLT grant program was approximately \$29.4 million.

In addition to announcing an application window, the Agency announces the available funding, and the minimum and maximum amounts for DLT grants applicable for the fiscal year.

DATES: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

- Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight *no later* than June 12, 2006 to be eligible for FY 2006 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications are not eligible for FY 2006 grant funding.
- Electronic copies must be received by June 12, 2006 to be eligible for FY

2006 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications are not eligible for FY 2006 grant funding.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of the FY 2006 application guide and materials for the DLT grant program at the DLT Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm>. You may also request the FY 2006 application guide and materials by contacting the DLT Program at (202) 720-0413.

Submit completed paper applications for grants to the Telecommunications Program, USDA Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2845, STOP 1550, Washington, DC 20250-1550. Applications should be marked "Attention: Director, Advanced Services Division."

Submit electronic grant applications at <http://www.grants.gov> (Grants.gov), following the instructions you find on that Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Orren E. Cameron, III, Director, Advanced Services Division, Telecommunications Program, USDA Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, telephone: (202) 720-0413, fax: (202) 720-1051.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

Funding Opportunity Title: Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants.

Announcement Type: Initial announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.855.

Dates: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

- Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight no later than June 12, 2006, to be eligible for FY 2006 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications are not eligible for FY 2006 grant funding.
- Electronic copies must be received by June 12, 2006 to be eligible for FY 2006 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications are not eligible for FY 2006 grant funding.

Items in Supplementary Information

- I. Funding Opportunity: Brief introduction to the DLT program.
- II. Minimum and Maximum Application Amounts: Projected Available Funding.
- III. Eligibility Information: Who is eligible, what kinds of projects are eligible, what criteria determine basic eligibility.
- IV. Application and Submission Information: Where to get application materials, what constitutes a completed application, how

and where to submit applications, deadlines, items that are eligible.

V. Application Review Information: considerations and preferences, scoring criteria, review standards, selection information.

VI. Award Administration Information: award notice information, award recipient reporting requirements.

VII. Agency Contacts: Web, phone, fax, email, contact name.

I. Funding Opportunity

Distance learning and telemedicine grants are specifically designed to provide access to education, training and health care resources for people in rural America. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program provides financial assistance to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. The grants are awarded through a competitive process.

As in years past, the FY 2006 grant application guide has been changed to reflect recent changes in technology and application trends. Details of changes from the FY 2005 application guide are highlighted throughout this Notice and described in full in the FY 2006 application guide. The Agency strongly encourages all applicants to carefully review and *exactly* follow the FY 2006 application guide and sample materials when compiling a DLT grant application.

II. Maximum and Minimum Amount of Grant Applications; Projected Available Funding

Under 7 CFR 1703.124, the Administrator has determined the maximum amount of an application for a grant in FY 2006 is \$500,000 and the minimum amount of a grant is \$50,000. The anticipated amount available to fund grant awards in FY 2006 is \$20 million.

The USDA Rural Development will make awards and execute documents appropriate to the project prior to any advance of funds to successful applicants.

DLT grants cannot be renewed. Award documents specify the term of each award. Applications to extend existing projects are welcomed (grant applications must be submitted during the application window) and will be evaluated as new applications.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Who is eligible for grants? (See 7 CFR 1703.103.)