

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent; establishment of Advisory Board.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture is proposing to establish the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board to obtain advice and recommendations on a broad range of forest issues such as forest plan revisions or amendments, travel management, forest monitoring and evaluation, and site-specific projects having forestwide implications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Geraldine Bower, Planning Specialist, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Forest Service, (202) 205-1022.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Black Hills National Forest, proposes to establish a Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board. The Board will provide advice and recommendations on a broad range of forest planning issues. The Board membership will consist of individuals representing commodity interests, amenity interests, and state and local government.

The establishment of this Board has been determined to be in the public interest in connection with the duties and responsibilities of the Black Hills National Forest. National forest management requires improved coordination among the interests and governmental entities responsible for land management decisions and the public that the agency serves. The Board will consist of 15 members that shall be representative of the following interests (this membership closely follows the membership outlined by the Secure

Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act for Resource Advisory Committees (16 U.S.C. 500, *et seq.*):

1. Economic development interest
2. Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation
3. Energy and mineral development interests
4. Commercial timber industry
5. Permittee (grazing or other land use within the Black Hills area)
6. Nationally recognized environmental organizations
7. Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
8. Dispersed recreational activities
9. Archeological or historical interests
10. Nationally or regionally recognized sportsmen's groups, such as anglers or hunters
11. South Dakota elected office
12. Wyoming elected office
13. County or local elected official in South Dakota or Wyoming
14. Tribal government elected or appointed official
15. State natural resource agency official from South Dakota or Wyoming

The chairing responsibility of the Board will be determined by the membership of the Board. The Forest Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest will serve as the designated federal official under sections 10(e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

The Black Hills National Forest will provide further notices, as needed, of additional actions that will be taken to complete the formation of the Board.

Equal opportunity practices are followed in all appointments to advisory committees. To ensure that the recommendations of the Board have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Black Hills National Forest, membership will include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Dated: November 25, 2002.

Lou Gallegos,

Assistant Secretary, Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-1429 Filed 1-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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 Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (7 CFR 1703, subpart B).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 24, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Wing, Specialty Lenders Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3225, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone (202) 720-9558.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

OMB Number: 0572-0012.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: RBS is part of the Rural Development mission area of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. RBS administers the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, which provides zero interest loans and grants to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrowers for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects. The loans and grants under the REDLG program may be provided to approximately 1,700 electric and telephone utilities across the country that have borrowed funds from RUS. Under this program, the RUS borrowers may receive the loan funds and pass them on to businesses or other organizations. The RUS borrower is responsible for the loan even if it does not receive payments from the ultimate recipient. Grants may be provided to

RUS borrowers to establish revolving loan funds.

RBS needs to receive the information contained in this collection of information to select the projects it believes will provide the most long-term economic benefit to rural areas. The selection process is competitive, and RBS has generally received more applications than it could fund. RBS also needs to make sure the funds are used for the intended purpose and, in the case of the loan, that the funds will be repaid. RBS must determine that loans made from revolving loan funds established with grants are used for eligible purposes.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.7 hours per response.

Respondents: RUS borrowers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 120.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 13.3.

Estimated Number of Responses: 1,596.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,272.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, 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 the RBS 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, 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 Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 03-1455 Filed 1-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Dollar Amount on Awards Under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2003

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service hereby announces the maximum dollar amount on loan and grant awards under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2003. The maximum dollar award on zero-interest loans for FY 2003 is \$450,000. The maximum dollar award on grants for FY 2003 is \$200,000. The maximum loan and grant awards stated in this notice are effective for loans and grants made during the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2002, and ending September 30, 2003. REDLG loans and grants are available to Rural Utilities Service electric and telephone utilities to assist in developing rural areas from an economic standpoint.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Wing, Loan Specialist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3225, Room 6866, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225. Telephone: (202) 720-9558. FAX: (202) 720-2213.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The maximum loan and grant awards are determined in accordance with 7 CFR 1703.28. The maximum loan and grant awards are calculated as 3.0 percent of the projected program levels, rounded to the nearest \$10,000; however, as specified in 7 CFR 1703.28(b), regardless of the projected total amount that will be available, the maximum size may not be lower than \$200,000. The projected program level during FY 2003 for zero-interest loans is \$14.966 million, and the projected program level for grants is \$4 million. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for loans, rounded to the nearest \$10,000, results in the maximum loan award of \$450,000. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for grants results in an amount

lower than \$200,000. Therefore, the maximum grant award for FY 2003 will be \$200,000. This notice will be amended should an appropriation in excess of projected levels be received.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 03-1454 Filed 1-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011603B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling two public meetings of its (1) Monkfish Oversight Committee and (2) representatives of its Groundfish, Monkfish, Habitat, Sea Scallop, Skate, Whiting and Herring Advisory Panels in February, 2003 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held between February 6-13, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Taunton, MA and South Portland, ME. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Thursday, February 6, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. and Friday, February 7, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. Joint Advisory Panels Representatives Meeting.

Location: Holiday Inn Taunton, 700 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780; (508) 823-0430.