

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Foreign Agricultural Service****Refined Sugar Re-Export Program**

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for comment.

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) requests comments on a proposed temporary waiver of certain provisions of the Refined Sugar Re-Export Program. Due to Hurricane Katrina, major disruptions to some U.S. sugar refining operations have occurred and seriously impacted sugar trade, including exports. In response, and using the waiver authority under sugar re-export program found at 7 CFR 1530.113 for licensed refiners, FAS proposes to temporarily extend from 90 days to 270 days the period in which licensed refiners must export or transfer an equivalent amount of refined sugar, after entering a quantity of raw can sugar, if such entry results in a positive balance to their license. Comments are welcomed regarding whether the waiver should be made or not, or about details of the terms of such a proposed waiver. Comments to this notice should be submitted within October 5, 2005 to Ron Lord, Deputy Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, 202-720-2916, by fax to 202-720-0876, or by e-mail to Ronald.lord@usda.gov.

Dated: September 21, 2005.

W. Kirk Miller,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Request for Proposals for Woody Biomass Utilization Grant—Hazardous Fuel Reduction on National Forest System Lands**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Technology Marketing Unit, located at the Forest Products Laboratory, requests proposals for forest products projects that increase the use of woody biomass from or near national forest lands. The woody biomass utilization grant program is intended to help improve forest restoration activities by using and creating markets for small-diameter

material and low-valued trees removed from hazardous fuel reduction activities. These funds are targeted to help communities, entrepreneurs, and others turn residues from hazardous fuel reduction projects into marketable forest products and/or energy products.

DATES: *Pre-application Deadline:* Close of business December 1, 2005.

Full application Deadline: Close of business March 1, 2006.

ADDRESSES: All pre- and full-application packages must be sent to the following address: ATTN: Shawn Lacina, Grants and Agreements Specialist, Forest Products Laboratory, 507 Highland Ave., Madison, WI 53705-2398. More detailed information regarding what to include in the pre- and full-application and definitions of terms are available at <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/tmu> (under Woody Biomass Grants). Paper copies of the information are also available by contacting the USDA Forest Service, S&PF Technology Marketing Unit, Madison, Wisconsin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shawn Lacina, Grants and Agreements Specialist, (608) 231-9282, e-mail to slacina@fs.fed.us, or; technical questions, contact Susan LeVan-Green, Program Manager, (608) 231-9504, e-mail to slevan@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To meet the shared goals of Public Law 108-148 Healthy Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 109-190 the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and Public Law 109-54 Appropriation Act of 2006, the agency is requesting proposals to address the nationwide challenge in dealing with low-valued material removed from hazardous fuel reduction activities. The Woody Biomass Utilization Grant Program has a pre-application submission process, and upon notification, selected pre-applicants will be asked to submit a full application. Goals of the grant program are the following:

- Help reduce management costs by increasing value of biomass and other forest products generated by hazardous fuel treatments.
- Create incentives and/or reduce business risk for increased use of biomass from or near national forestlands (must include National Forest System lands, however, may also include other lands such as, Bureau of Land Management, Tribal, State, local, and private).
- Institute projects that target and help remove economic and market barriers to using small-diameter trees and woody biomass.
- Require a Forest Service letter of support for the woody biomass grant

project on or near National Forest System lands.

Woody Biomass Grants Program

1. Eligibility Information. a. Eligible Applicants. Eligible applicants are State, local, and Tribal governments, school districts, communities, non-profit organizations, businesses, companies, corporations, or special purpose districts, e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, or ports. Only one application per business or organization will be accepted. Construction projects involving a permanent building or infrastructure item, such as roads, are not allowed.

b. Cost Sharing (Matching Requirement). Applicants must demonstrate at least a 20% match from non-Federal sources, which can include cash or in-kind contributions.

2. Duns Number. All applicants must include a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B), Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number in their full application. For the purpose of this requirement, the applicant is the entity that meets the eligibility criteria and has the legal authority to apply for an award. For assistance in obtaining a DUNS number at no cost, call the DUNS number request line (1-866-705-5711) or register on-line at <https://eupdate.dnb.com/requestoptions/government/ccrreg/>.

3. Award Information. At least \$4.0 million are available for granting under this program. Individual grants will not be less than \$50,000 or more than \$250,000. Successful applicants will be announced by April 1, 2006. The maximum length of the award is 3 years from the date of award. Written, quarterly financial and semi-annual performance reports will be required.

4. Application Review Process. A two-step technical evaluation process is used for applications submitted under this solicitation. The first step requires the applicant to submit a preliminary application (pre-application). Pre-applications are evaluated on the evaluation criteria discussed in Section 5.

A review panel of technical experts from Federal agencies judges the pre-applications. Panel members independently review the pre-applications according to the evaluation criteria and point system. A total of 100 points is possible. As a result of this preliminary review, successful pre-applications are invited to submit a full-application package. Unsuccessful pre-applicants are removed from further consideration for funding under this solicitation. In either case, a letter of