

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plum Creek Watershed, Pepin and Pierce Counties, WI.

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Plum Creek Watershed, Pepin and Pierce Counties, Wisconsin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia S. Leavenworth, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 6515 Watts Road, Suite 200, Madison, Wisconsin, 53719. Telephone (608) 276-8732.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Patricia S. Leavenworth, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purposes are grade stabilization, sediment damage reduction, and incidental flood prevention. The planned works of improvement include the repair of Structure Number 19, the removal of accumulated sediment, and the enactment of a county floodplain zoning ordinance which restricts future

development within the hydraulic shadow of Structure Number 19.

A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Sheryl B. Paczwa.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Patricia S. Leavenworth,
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 01-8734 Filed 4-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oregon

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Oregon for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Oregon to issue revisions to Conservation Practice Standards 313, Waste Storage Facility, 590, Nutrient Management, and 633, Waste Utilization, in Section IV of the State Technical Guide in Oregon. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before May 10, 2001. Once the review and comment period is over and the standards are finalized, they will be placed in the individual Field Office Technical Guide in each field office.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to Roy M. Carlson, Jr., Leader for Technology, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1300, Portland, Oregon 97204. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to roy.carlson@or.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy M. Carlson, Jr., 503-414-3231

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Oregon will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Oregon regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of changes will be made. In Oregon, "technical guides" refers to the Field Office Technical Guide maintained at each NRCS Field Office in Oregon.

Dated: April 2, 2001.

Bob Graham,

State Conservationist, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 01-8735 Filed 4-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Inviting Preapplications for Rural Cooperative Development Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$4.5 million in competing Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) funds for fiscal year (FY) 2001. Of this amount, \$1.5 million will be reserved for preapplications which focus on assistance to small, minority producers whose governing board or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minorities through their cooperative businesses. This action will comply with legislation which authorizes grants for establishing and operating centers for rural cooperative development. The intended effect of this notice is to solicit preapplications for FY 2001 and award grants before September 1, 2001.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of a preapplication is May 24, 2001. Preapplications received after that date will not be considered. Preapplications should be sent to the Rural Development State offices. State offices will forward the preapplications to the National office by June 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact their USDA Rural Development State office to receive further information and copies of the preapplication package.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James E. Haskell, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Cooperative Services, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 3250, Room 4016, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250. Telephone (202) 720-8460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirements continued in this regulation were previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and were assigned OMB control number 0570-0006.

General Information

Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG) are authorized by section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.1932). Regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. The primary objective of the RCDG program is to improve the economic condition of rural areas through cooperative development. The program is administered through USDA Rural Development State offices acting on behalf of RBS.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education based on specific selection criteria. The priorities described in this paragraph will be used by RBS to rate preapplications. RBS review of preapplications will include the complete preapplication package submitted to the Rural Development State office. Points will be distributed according to ranking compared with other preapplications on hand. Points will be awarded to each factor on a 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 basis depending on the applicant's ranking compared to other applicants. Each factor will receive equal weight. Preference will be given to applications that:

1. Demonstrate a proven track record in administering a nationally

coordinated, regionally or Statewide operated project;

2. Demonstrate previous expertise in providing technical assistance to cooperatives in rural areas;

3. Demonstrate the ability to assist in the retention of businesses, facilitate the establishment of cooperatives and new cooperative approaches, and generate employment opportunities that will improve the economic conditions of rural areas;

4. Demonstrate the ability to create horizontal linkages among cooperative businesses within and among various sectors in rural areas of the United States and vertical linkages to domestic and international markets;

5. Commit to providing technical assistance and other services to underserved and economically distressed rural areas of the United States;

6. Commit to providing greater than a 25 percent matching contribution, with private funds and in-kind contributions;

7. Demonstrate transferability or demonstration value to assist rural areas outside of project area; and

8. Demonstrate that any cooperative development activity is consistent with positive environmental stewardship.

Fiscal Year 2001 Preapplication Submission

Preapplications must include a clear statement of the goals and objectives of the project and a plan which describes the proposed project as required by the statute and 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. Each preapplication received in the Rural Development State office will be reviewed to determine if the preapplication is consistent with the eligible purposes outlined in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. Preapplications without supportive data to address selection criteria will not be considered.

Since the cooperative center concept is to provide technical assistance services, including feasibility analysis, preapplications that do not propose development or continuation of the cooperative center concept will not be considered. Also, preapplications that focus on assistance to only one cooperative within the project area will not be considered. To enhance the long-term viability of cooperative development centers, strengthening of technical assistance capacity within new and existing centers is strongly encouraged.

Copies of 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, will be provided to any interested applicant by making a request to the Rural Development State office or RBS National office.

Preapplications must be completed and submitted to the Rural Development State office as soon as possible, but no later than May 24, 2001. Preapplications received after May 24 will not be considered.

For ease of locating information, each preapplication should contain the following:

1. A detailed Table of Contents containing page numbers for each component of the preapplication.

2. A project summary of 250 words or less on a separate page. This page must include the title of the project and the names of the primary project contacts and the applicant organization, followed by the summary. The summary should be self-contained and describe the overall goals, relevance of the project, and a listing of all organizations involved in the project. The project summary should immediately follow the Table of Contents.

3. A separate one-page information sheet which lists each of the eight evaluation criteria followed by the page numbers of all relevant material and documentation contained in the preapplication which supports that criteria. This page should immediately follow the project summary.

4. An additional requirement for those applicants who have received funding under the Rural Cooperative Development Grant program in fiscal years 1997 through 2000 is a summation, not to exceed three pages, of progress and results for all projects funded fully or partially by the RCDG program in those years. This summary should include the status of cooperative businesses organized and all eligible grant purpose activities listed under 7 CFR, § 4284.515. The summary should immediately follow the page described above in (3) documenting the location of evaluation criteria supporting material.

Preapplications requesting Federal funds in excess of \$300,000 will not be considered.

The National office will score preapplications based on the grant selection criteria contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, and will select awardees subject to the availability of funds and the awardees's satisfactory submission of a formal application and related materials in accordance with subpart F. Entities submitting preapplications that are selected for awards will be invited by the Rural Development State office to submit a formal application prior to September 1. It is anticipated that grant awardees will be selected by September 1, 2001.

In the event that the applicant is awarded a grant that is less than the amount requested, the applicant will be

required to modify its application to conform to the reduced amount before execution of the grant agreement. The Agency reserves the right to reduce or de-obligate the award, if acceptable modifications are not submitted by the awardees within 15 working days from

the date the application is returned to the applicant. Any modifications must be within the scope of the original application.

All applicants and grants must be in compliance with the requirements of 7 CFR parts 3015 and 3019.

Dated: April 2, 2001.

William F. Hagy, III,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

Revised April 2, 2001

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATE OFFICES**

ALABAMA USDA Rural Development State Office Sterling Center, Suite 601 4121 Carmichael Road Montgomery, AL 36106-3683 T: (334) 279-3400 F: (334) 279-3484	GEORGIA USDA Rural Development State Office Stephens Federal Building 355 E. Hancock Avenue Athens, GA 30601-2768 T: (706) 546-2162 F: (706) 546-2152	LOUISIANA USDA Rural Development State Office 3727 Government Street Alexandria, LA 71302 T: (318) 473-7920 F: (318) 473-7829
ALASKA USDA Rural Development State Office 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201 Palmer, AK 99645-6539 T: (907) 761-7700 F: (907) 761-7783	HAWAII USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Room 311 154 Waianuenu Avenue Hilo, HI 96720 T: (808) 933-8380 F: (808) 933-8327	MAINE USDA Rural Development State Office 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4 P.O. Box 405 Bangor, ME 04402-0405 T: (207) 990-9106 F: (207) 990-9165
ARIZONA USDA Rural Development State Office 3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 900 Phoenix, AZ 85012-2906 T: (602) 280-8700 F: (602) 280-8770	IDAHO USDA Rural Development State Office 9173 West Barnes Dr. Suite A1 Boise, ID 83709 T: (208) 378-5600 F: (208) 378-5643	MASS/RI/CONN USDA Rural Development State Office 451 West Street Amherst, MA 01002 T: (413) 253-4300 F: (413) 253-4347
ARKANSAS USDA Rural Development State Office 700 West Capitol Ave., Room 3416 Little Rock, AR 72201-3225 T: (501) 301-3200 F: (501) 301-3278	ILLINOIS USDA Rural Development State Office Illini Plaza, Suite 103 1817 South Neil Street Champaign, IL 61820 T: (217) 398-5235 F: (217) 398-5337	MICHIGAN USDA Rural Development State Office 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200 East Lansing, MI 48823 T: (517) 324-5100 F: (517) 324-5225
CALIFORNIA USDA Rural Development State Office 430 G Street, Agency 4169 Davis, CA 95616-4169 T: (530) 792-5800 F: (530) 792-5837	INDIANA USDA Rural Development State Office 5975 Lakeside Boulevard Indianapolis, IN 46278 T: (317) 290-3100 F: (317) 290-3095	MINNESOTA USDA Rural Development State Office 410 AgriBank Building 375 Jackson Street St. Paul, MN 55101-1853 T: (651) 602-7800 F: (651) 602-7824
COLORADO USDA Rural Development State Office 655 Parfet Street, Room E-100 Lakewood, CO 80215 T: (303) 236-2801 F: (303) 236-2854	IOWA USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Room 873 210 Walnut Street Des Moines, IA 50309 T: (515) 284-4663 F: (515) 284-4859	MISSISSIPPI USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Suite 831 100 West Capitol Street Jackson, MS 39269 T: (601) 965-4316 F: (601) 965-5384
DELAWARE-MARYLAND USDA Rural Development State Office 4607 South Dupont Hwy P.O. Box 400 Camden, DE 19934-9998 T: (302) 697-4300 F: (302) 697-4390	KANSAS USDA Rural Development State Office 1200 SW Executive Drive P.O. Box 4653 Topeka, KS 66615 T: (785) 271-2701 F: (785) 271-2708	MISSOURI USDA Rural Development State Office 601 Business Loop 70 West Parkade Center, Suite 235 Columbia, MO 65203 T: (573) 876-0976 F: (573) 876-0977
FLORIDA/VI USDA Rural Development State Office 4440 NW 25th Place P.O. Box 147010 Gainesville, FL 32614-7010 T: (352) 338-3400 F: (352) 338-3450	KENTUCKY USDA Rural Development State Office 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200 Lexington, KY 40503 T: (606) 224-7300 F: (606) 224-7340	MONTANA USDA Rural Development State Office Unit 1, Suite B P.O. Box 850 900 Technology Boulevard Bozeman, MT 59715 T: (406) 585-2580 F: (406) 585-2565

Revised April 2, 2001

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATE OFFICES**

NEBRASKA USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Room 152 100 Centennial Mall N Lincoln, NE 68508 T: (402) 437-5551 F: (402) 437-5408	OKLAHOMA USDA Rural Development State Office 100 USDA, Suite 108 Stillwater, OK 74074-2654 T: (405) 742-1000 F: (405) 742-1005	UTAH USDA Rural Development State Office Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building 125 South State Street, Room 4311 P.O. Box 11350 Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0350 T: (801) 524-4320 F: (801) 524-4406
NEVADA USDA Rural Development State Office 1390 South Curry Street Carson City, NV 89703-9910 T: (775) 887-1222 F: (775) 885-0841	OREGON USDA Rural Development State Office 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1410 Portland, OR 97204-3222 T: (503) 414-3300 F: (503) 414-3392	VERMONT/NH USDA Rural Development State Office City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street Montpelier, VT 05602 T: (802) 828-6000 F: (802) 828-6018
NEW JERSEY USDA Rural Development State Office Tarnsfield Plaza, Suite 22 790 Woodlane Road Mt. Holly, NJ 08060 T: (609) 265-3600 F: (609) 265-3651	PENNSYLVANIA USDA Rural Development State Office One Credit Union Place, Suite 330 Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996 T: (717) 237-2299 F: (717) 237-2191	VIRGINIA USDA Rural Development State Office Culpeper Building, Suite 238 1606 Santa Rosa Road Richmond, VA 23229 T: (804) 287-1550 F: (804) 287-1721
NEW MEXICO USDA Rural Development State Office 6200 Jefferson Street NE, Room 255 Albuquerque, NM 87109 T: (505) 761-4950 F: (505) 761-4976	PUERTO RICO USDA Rural Development State Office IBM Building - Suite 601 654 Munos rivera Avenue Hato rey, PR 00918-6106 T: (787) 766-5095 F: (787) 766-5844	WASHINGTON USDA Rural Development State Office 1835 Blacklake Boulevard, SW. Suite B Olympia, WA 98512-5715 T: (360) 704-7740 F: (360) 704-7742
NEW YORK USDA Rural Development State Office The Galleries of Syracuse 441 South Salina Street Suite 357 Syracuse, NY 13202-2541 T: (315) 477-6400 F: (315) 477-6438	SOUTH CAROLINA USDA Rural Development State Office Strom Thurmond Federal Building 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007 Columbia, SC 29201 T: (803) 765-5163 F: (803) 765-5633	WEST VIRGINIA USDA Rural Development State Office 75 High Street, Room 320 Morgantown, WV 26505-7500 T: (304) 291-4791 F: (304) 291-4032
NORTH CAROLINA USDA Rural Development State Office 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260 Raleigh, NC 27609 T: (919) 873-2000 F: (919) 873-2075	SOUTH DAKOTA USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Room 210 200 4th Street SW Huron, SD 57350 T: (605) 352-1100 F: (605) 352-1146	WISCONSIN USDA Rural Development State Office 4949 Kirschling Court Stevens Point, WI 54481 T: (715) 345-7600 F: (715) 345-7669
NORTH DAKOTA USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Room 208 220 East Rosser, P.O. Box 1737 Bismarck, ND 58502-1737 T: (701) 530-2037 F: (701) 530-2108	TENNESSEE USDA Rural Development State Office 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300 Nashville, TN 37203-1084 T: (615) 783-1300 F: (615) 783-1301	WYOMING USDA Rural Development State Office 100 East B, Federal Building, Rm 1005 P.O. Box 820 Casper, WY 82602 T: (307) 261-6300 F: (307) 261-6327
OHIO USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Room 507 200 North High Street Columbus, OH 43215-2477 T: (614) 255-2500 F: (614) 255-2559	TEXAS USDA Rural Development State Office Federal Building, Suite 102 101 South Main Temple, TX 76501 T: (254) 742-9700 F: (254) 742-9709	