

Notices

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Friday, June 29, 2007

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

Forest Service

Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP) Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP) participants will meet in Salt Lake City, UT, from July 17–19, 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to engage participants on CROP information gathered, analyzed, and used. The meeting will include a public input session from July 17, 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. through July 19, until 3 p.m.

DATES: The Salt Lake City, UT meeting will be held from July 17–19, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The July 17–19 meeting will be held at the Red Lion Hotel (downtown), 161 West 600 South, Salt Lake City, UT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edmund A. Gee, National Woody Biomass Utilization Team Leader, 202–205–1787 or via e-mail at eagee@fs.fed.us. 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: Under Title II of Sections 201–203 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 (Pub. L. 108–148) provides the authority to obtain information that will help overcome barriers to the production and use of biomass and help communities and businesses create economic opportunity through sustainable use of the Nation's forest resources. CROP is a new biomass removal model employed on 10 pilot biomass projects across the United States. The projects incorporate proposed 5-year removal data from 36 national forests, 105 ranger districts, 41

BLM districts, and multiple natural resource agencies located in 15 states across the United States. CROP is intended to:

- Coordinate and levelize sustainable removals of biomass between public agencies in each CROP landscape;
- Facilitate the use of long-term multi-agency stewardship contracts;
- Heighten environmental and public trust in coordinated, sustainable biomass removal;
- Increase the 'surety' of annual biomass removal contracts from public agencies; and
- Invite investment back into our Nation's forest landscapes based on sustainable removals of woody biomass.

Meeting agenda items will specifically focus on (1) reviewing completed CROP results for all 10 geographic pilot areas and (2) securing collaborative, coordinated, and cooperative input from agency personnel and stakeholders regarding CROP deliverables, on-the-ground annual performance, and monitoring protocols. Agenda items will also detail new collaborative contracting provisions and authority that might be used in CROP landscapes; identify lessons learned during the CROP pilots; target any changes required to make CROP a better forest restoration tool; and define CROP data update and contracting protocols that could be initiated in the next 6–12 months.

Dated: June 25, 2007.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Director, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. E7–12623 Filed 6–28–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Forest Counties Payments Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Forest Counties Payments Committee has scheduled a meeting to discuss how it will provide Congress with the information specified in Section 320 of the Fiscal Year 2001 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 12, 2007. The meeting will consist of a business meeting from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Council Room on the 2nd floor at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20001. Written comments concerning this meeting should be addressed to Randle G. Phillips, Executive Director, Forest Counties Payments Committee, P.O. Box 34718, Washington, DC 20043–4713. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to rphillips01@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 202–273–4750.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at USDA Forest Service, Franklin Court Building, Ste. 5500W, 1099 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 202–208–6574 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Randle G. Phillips, Executive Director, Forest Counties Payments Committee, at 202–208–6574 or via e-mail at rphillips01@fs.fed.us.

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: Section 320 of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001 created the Forest Counties Payments Committee to make recommendations to Congress on a long-term solution for making Federal payments to eligible States and counties in which Federal lands are situated. The Committee will consider the impact on eligible States and counties of revenues from the historic multiple use of Federal lands; evaluate the economic, environmental, and social benefits which accrue to counties containing Federal lands; evaluate the expenditures by counties on activities occurring on Federal lands, which are Federal responsibilities; and monitor payments and implementation of The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–393).

Dated: June 25, 2007.

Tim DeCoster,

Chief of Staff.

[FR Doc. E7-12622 Filed 6-28-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funds availability.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency delivering the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities Program, hereinafter referred to as Rural Development, announces its Community Connect Grant Program application window for funding during fiscal year (FY) 2007. In addition, RUS announces the minimum and maximum amounts for Community Connect grants applicable for the fiscal year. The Community Connect Grant Program regulations can be found at 7 CFR part 1739, subpart A.

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

- Paper copies must carry proof of shipping *no later than* August 13, 2007 to be eligible for FY 2007 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2007 grant funding.
- Electronic copies must be received by August 13, 2007 to be eligible for FY 2007 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2007 grant funding.

ADDRESSES: Application guides and materials for the Community Connect Grant Program may be found at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm>. You may also request application guides and materials from Rural Development by contacting the appropriate individual listed in section VII of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. Completed applications may be submitted either electronically or by mail.

To submit electronically, follow the instructions provided at <http://www.grants.gov> (Grants.gov).

To submit by mail, send your completed packet to Utilities, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2870, STOP 1599, Washington, DC 20250-1599. Applications should be marked "Attention: Director, Broadband

Division, Rural Development Utilities Program."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth Kuchno, Director, Broadband Division, Rural Development Utilities Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, telephone: (202) 690-4673, fax: (202) 690-4389.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

Funding Opportunity Title: Community Connect Grant Program.

Announcement Type: Initial announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.863.

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

- Paper copies must carry proof of shipping *no later than* August 13, 2007, to be eligible for FY 2007 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2006 grant funding.
- Electronic copies must be received by August 13, 2007, to be eligible for FY 2007 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2007 grant funding.

Items in Supplementary Information

I. Funding Opportunity: Brief introduction to the Community Connect Grant Program.

II. Award Information: Available funds and minimum and maximum amounts.

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, e-mail, contact name.

I. Funding Opportunity

The provision of broadband transmission service is vital to the economic development, education, health, and safety of rural Americans. The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide currently unserved areas with residential and community-oriented broadband transmission service that

fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services. Rural Development will give priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need for broadband transmission services, based on the criteria contained in 7 CFR part 1739.

Grant authority will be used for the deployment of broadband transmission service to extremely rural, lower-income communities on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis. The "community-oriented connectivity" concept will stimulate practical, everyday uses and applications of broadband facilities by cultivating the deployment of new broadband transmission services that improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Such an approach will also give rural communities the opportunity to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to achieve these goals. Please see 7 CFR part 1739, subpart A for specifics.

This notice has been formatted to conform to a policy directive issued by the Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM) of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), published in the **Federal Register** on June 23, 2003. This Notice does not change the Community Connect Grant Program regulation (7 CFR part 1739, subpart A).

II. Award Information

A. Available Funds

1. *General.* The Administrator has determined that the following amounts are available for grants in FY 2007 under 7 CFR 1739.2(a).

2. Grants.

a. \$8.91 million in grant funding is available for award. Under 7 CFR 1739.2, the Administrator has established a minimum grant amount of \$50,000 and a maximum grant amount of \$1,000,000 for FY 2007.

b. Assistance instrument: Rural Development will execute grant documents with successful applicants appropriate to the project prior to any advance of funds.

B. More than one Community Connect grant cannot be awarded to the same project. 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.