

unless, within sixty days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Criteria for Evaluating Market Development Proposals for Participation in the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has developed approval criteria and weighting factors for allocating funds on a competitive basis under the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program. FAS invites suggestions and comments regarding these proposed factors.

DATES: In order to be considered, written comments must be received by June 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Marketing Operations Staff at (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Foreign Market Development Cooperator (Cooperator) Program is authorized by Title VII of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, 7 U.S.C. 5721, *et seq.* The program is intended to create, expand and maintain foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities and products. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) administers the Cooperator Program and provides cost share assistance to eligible trade organizations to carry out approved market development activities. Program regulations appear at 7 CFR part 1550. Under the Cooperator Program, FAS enters into Market Development Project Agreements with nonprofit U.S. trade

organizations or associations of State Departments of Agriculture. FAS enters into agreements with those nonprofit U.S. trade organizations that have the broadest possible producer representation of the commodity being promoted and gives priority to those organizations that are nationwide in membership and scope. Program participants may not, during the term of their agreement with FAS, make export sales of the agricultural commodity being promoted or charge fees for facilitating an export sale if promotional activities designed to result in that specific sale are supported by Cooperator program funds.

Market Development Project Agreements involve the promotion of agricultural commodities on a generic basis and, therefore, do not involve activities targeted directly toward individual consumers. Approved activities contribute to the maintenance or growth of demand for the agricultural commodities and generally address long-term foreign import constraints by focusing on matters such as:

- Reducing infra-structural or historical market impediments;
- Improving processing capabilities;
- Modifying codes and standards; and
- Identifying new markets or new applications or uses for the agricultural commodity or product in the foreign market.

Approval Criteria

FAS allocates funds in a manner that effectively supports the strategic decision-making initiatives of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993. In deciding whether a proposed project will contribute to the effective creation, expansion or maintenance of foreign markets, FAS seeks to identify a clear, long-term agricultural trade strategy by market or product and a program effectiveness time line against which results can be measured at specific intervals using quantifiable product or country goals. These performance indicators are part of FAS's resource allocation strategy to fund applicants which can demonstrate performance based on a long-term strategic plan, consistent with the strategic objectives of the United States Department of Agriculture's Long-term Agricultural Trade Strategy, and address the performance measurement objectives of the GPRA.

FAS considers a number of factors when reviewing proposed projects. These factors include:

- The ability of the organization to provide an experienced U.S.-based staff with technical and international trade expertise

to ensure adequate development, supervision and execution of the proposed project;

- The organization's willingness to contribute resources including cash and goods and services of the U.S. industry and foreign third parties;
- The conditions or constraints affecting the level of U.S. exports and market share for the agricultural commodities and products;
- The degree to which the proposed project is likely to contribute to the creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets; and
- The degree to which the strategic plan is coordinated with other private or U.S. government-funded market development projects.

Allocation Criteria

The purpose of this notice is to obtain comments from interested parties regarding a proposed method of evaluating the relative merits of different proposals for the purpose of determining an appropriate funding level for each proposed project. Meritorious proposals will compete for funds on the basis of the following allocation criteria (the numbers in parentheses represent a percentage weight factor). Data used in the calculations for contribution levels, past export performance and past demand expansion performance will cover not more than a 6-year period, to the extent such data is available.

(a) Contribution Level (40)

- The applicant's 6-year average share of all contributions (contributions may include cash and goods and services provided by U.S. entities in support of foreign market development activities) compared to

- The applicant's 6-year average share of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets.

(b) Past Export Performance (20)

- The 6-year average share of the value of exports promoted by the applicant across Cooperator Program targeted markets compared to

- The applicant's 6-year average share of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets plus a 6-year average share of Market Access Program (MAP) program ceiling levels and a 6-year average share of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural trade office in those targeted markets.

(c) Past Demand Expansion Performance (20)

- The 6-year average share of the total value of world imports of the commodities promoted by the applicant across Cooperator Program targeted markets compared to

- The applicant's 6-year average share of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets plus a 6-year average share of MAP program ceiling levels and a 6-year average share of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural trade office in those targeted markets.

(d) Future Demand Expansion Goals (20)

(This criterion will receive a weight of 10 beginning with the year 2000 program)

- The total dollar value of the applicant's projected world imports of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2003 across all Cooperator Program targeted markets compared to

- The applicant's requested funding level.

(e) Accuracy of Past Demand Expansion Projections

(Since the information is not currently available, this criterion will be used beginning with the year 2000 program and will receive a weight of 10)

- The actual dollar value share of world imports of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 1998 across all Cooperator Program targeted markets compared to

- The applicant's past projected share of world imports of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 1998, as specified in the 1998 Cooperator Program application.

The Commodity Division's recommended program levels for each applicant are converted to a percent of the total Cooperator Program funds available and multiplied by the total weight factor to determine the amount of funds allocated to each applicant.

Dated: May 6, 1997.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort Master Development Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Salt Lake Ranger District, Salt Lake County, Utah and Uinta National Forest, Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Utah County, Utah

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement on Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort's proposed master development plan.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by June 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Michael Sieg, District Ranger, 6944 South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Cruz, District Environmental Coordinator, (801) 943-9483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, a "Special Use Permit" permittee is proposing to update its master plan. Much of the resort's permitted boundary lies on National Forest System Land. This proposal includes elements on both public and private lands. Public land elements include the following: upgrade the Big Emma NASTAR course; regrade and asphalt the Gad Valley parking lot; construct a new day lodge facility in the lower Gad Valley; upgrade the skier services facilities on Hidden Peak with a multi-use structure; add additional snowmaking capacity which would be completed in three phases and total approximately 110 acres; construct a new Gad III Chairlift; upgrade the Little Cloud Chairlift to a fixed-grip quad; implement a vegetation management plan; regrade portions of the following ski trails: Middle Bassackwards, Madam Annie, ski access to upper Big Emma, Upper Regulator intermediate route, Big Emma creek crossing, and Modify the Blackjack Road; construct the following summer trails: Extension to the barrier-free trail; trails that would augment existing trails on both sides of Hidden Peak; construct an access road to the top station of the Gad III lift; construct ski trails associated with the God III chairlift; improve skier access from Hidden Peak into Peruvian Gulch and Mineral Basin.

The following private land elements are also included in this proposal; construct a quad lift and fixed-grip double in Mineral Basin; develop, improve or maintain the following trails and roads: Chips Switchback; Lower Men's Downhill Chute; South Ridge widening; construct new ski trails in Mineral Basin; a snowcat route from the top of Little Cloud lift down into Mineral Basin; Mineral Basin access tunnel/road; alter a rock chute in Mineral Basin and install three avalauncher platforms in Mineral Basin.

Associated with the Mineral Basin expansion, the special use permit would be expanded to include portions of the Uinta National Forest. A complete description of the proposal and its elements is available from the Salt Lake Ranger District.

In addition to obtaining a new Ski Area Term Special Use Permit from the Forest Service, Snowbird may also be required to obtain a Department of Army 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and consult with the Environmental Protection Agency. They may also be required to obtain an amendment of water supply permit agreement from Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities.

A scoping document will be sent to over 750 individuals, organizations and government agencies on May 16, 1997, explaining the decision to conduct an environmental impact statement, and soliciting comments. Comments received from scoping documents on Snowbird's Three and Five-year plans will be included in this analysis. Two public meetings will be held during the scoping period: June 2, 1997 at the Hampton Inn (10690 South, 160 West) in Sandy, Utah, and June 3, at the Lehi Public Library, 120 Center Street, Lehi, Utah. Both meetings will run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Preliminary issues identified by the Forest Service interdisciplinary team include effects on visual quality, effects on wetland and riparian areas, effects on water quality and quantity, effects on vegetation diversity, effects on fish and wildlife, effects on traffic and parking in Little Cottonwood Canyon, recreational conflicts and effects on threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Two preliminary alternatives have been identified. The proposed action alternative would permit the aforementioned projects and require Snowbird to convert to a new Ski Area Term Special Use Permit. The No Action alternative would continue the use as currently permitted with no new facilities.

The public is invited to submit comments or suggestions to the address above. Comments received from individuals, groups and government agencies received from the September 1993 and May 1995 scoping documents will be incorporated into this analysis. The responsible officials are Bernie Weingardt and Peter Karp, Forest Supervisors. A draft EIS is anticipated to be filed in May 1998 and the final EIS filed in November 1998.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's