

While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 14 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft environmental impact statement. The scoping process will include identifying potential issues, significant issues to be analyzed in depth, alternatives to the proposed action, and potential environmental effects of the proposal and alternatives.

#### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

#### Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or

chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21).

Dated: April 4, 2002.

**Margaret J. Boland**,

*Forest Supervisor, Klamath National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 03-8755 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Forest Service

#### Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on May 6, 2003 in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on May 6, 2003 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Del Norte County Unified School District Board Room, 301 West Washington Boulevard, Crescent City, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Laura Chapman, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501. Phone: (707) 441-3549. E-mail: [lchapman@fs.fed.us](mailto:lchapman@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The committee will hear revised public proposals and new proposals from the Six Rivers National Forest. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: April 4, 2003.

**S.E. "Lou" Woltering**,

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 03-8749 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Inviting Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Preapplications for Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of two individual grants: one single \$496,750 grant from the passenger transportation funds appropriated for the RBS Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and another single \$248,375 grant from the Federally Recognized Native American Tribes funds appropriated for RBS under the RBEG Program for fiscal year (FY) 2003. Each grant is to be competitively awarded to a qualified national organization. These grants are to provide technical assistance for rural transportation.

**DATES:** The deadline for receipt of preapplications in the Rural Development State Office is May 15, 2003. Preapplications received at a Rural Development State Office after that date would not be considered for FY 2003 funding.

**ADDRESSES:** For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact a Rural Development State Office to receive further information and copies of the pre-application package. A list of Rural Development State Offices follows:

##### District of Columbia

Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA  
Specialty Lenders Division  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
STOP 3225, Room 6867  
Washington, DC 20250-3225  
(202) 720-1400

##### Alabama

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Sterling Center, Suite 601  
4121 Carmichael Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106-3683  
(334) 279-3400

##### Alaska

USDA Rural Development State Office  
800 West Evergreen, Suite 201  
Palmer, AK 99645-6539

(907) 761-7705

**Arizona**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 900  
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2906  
(602) 280-8700

**Arkansas**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225  
(501) 301-3200

**California**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
430 G Street, Agency 4169  
Davis, CA 95616-4169  
(530) 792-5800

**Colorado**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
655 Parfet Street, Room E-100  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
(720) 544-2903

**Delaware-Maryland**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
P.O. Box 400  
4607 South DuPont Highway  
Camden, DE 19934-9998  
(302) 697-4300

**Florida/Virgin Islands**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
P.O. Box 147010  
4440 NW 25th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
(352) 338-3402

**Georgia**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Stephens Federal Building  
355 E. Hancock Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601-2768  
(706) 546-2162

**Hawaii**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 311  
154 Waiuanuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 933-8380

**Idaho**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
9173 West Barnes Dr., Suite A1  
Boise, ID 83709  
(208) 378-5600

**Illinois**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
2118 West Park Court, Suite A  
Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 403-6202

**Indiana**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
5975 Lakeside Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46278  
(317) 290-3100

**Iowa**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 873  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2196  
(515) 284-4663

**Kansas**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Suite 100  
1303 SW First American Place  
Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 271-2700

**Kentucky**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200  
Lexington, KY 40503  
(859) 224-7300

**Louisiana**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
3727 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302  
(318) 473-7921

**Maine**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
P. O. Box 405  
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4  
Bangor, ME 04402-0405  
(207) 990-9106

**Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
451 West Street, Suite 2  
Amherst, MA 01002-2999  
(413) 253-4300

**Michigan**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 324-5100

**Minnesota**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
410 AgriBank Building 375 Jackson Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1853  
(651) 602-7800

**Mississippi**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Suite 831  
100 West Capitol Street  
Jackson, MS 39269  
(601) 965-4316

**Missouri**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
601 Business Loop 70 West  
Parkade Center, Suite 235  
Columbia, MO 65203  
(573) 876-0976

**Montana**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
P. O. Box 771  
900 Technology Blvd., Unit 1, Suite B  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 585-2580

**Nebraska**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 152  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 437-5551

**Nevada**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1390 South Curry Street  
Carson City, NV 89703-9910  
(775) 887-1222

**New Jersey**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Tarnsfield Plaza, Suite 22  
790 Woodlane Road  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060  
(609) 265-3600

**New Mexico**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
6200 Jefferson Street, NE.  
Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(505) 761-4950

**New York**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
The Galleries of Syracuse 441 South Salina  
Street, Suite 357  
Syracuse, NY 13202-2541  
(315) 477-6400

**North Carolina**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
4405 Bland Road, Suite 260  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 873-2000

**North Dakota**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
P. O. Box 1737  
Federal Building, Room 208  
220 East Rosser Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1737  
(701) 530-2037

**Ohio**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 507  
200 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-2418  
(614) 255-2500

**Oklahoma**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
SDA, Suite 108  
Stillwater, OK 74074-2654  
(405) 742-1000

**Oregon**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
101 SW Main Street, Suite 1410  
Portland, OR 97204-3222  
(503) 414-3300

**Pennsylvania**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 330  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996  
(717) 237-2299

**Puerto Rico**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
654 Munoz Rivera Avenue  
IBM Plaza, Suite 601  
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918-6106  
(787) 766-5095

**South Carolina**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Strom Thurmond Federal Building 1835  
Assembly Street, Room 1007  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 765-5163

**South Dakota**

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 210

200 4th Street, SW.  
Huron, SD 57350  
(605) 352-1100

#### Tennessee

USDA Rural Development State Office  
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300  
Nashville, TN 37203-1084  
(615) 783-1300

#### Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Suite 102  
101 South Main Street  
Temple, TX 76501  
(254) 742-9700

#### 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  
(801) 524-4321

#### Vermont/New Hampshire

USDA Rural Development State Office  
City Center, 3rd Floor  
89 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 828-6010

#### Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Culpeper Building, Suite 238  
1606 Santa Rosa Road  
Richmond, VA 23229-5014  
(804) 287-1550

#### Washington

USDA Rural Development State Office  
1835 Black Lake Boulevard, SW.  
Suite B  
Olympia, WA 98512-5715  
(360) 704-7740

#### West Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building  
75 High Street, Room 320  
Martinsburg, WV 26505-7500  
(304) 284-4860

#### Wisconsin

USDA Rural Development State Office  
4949 Kirschling Court  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 345-7610

#### Wyoming

USDA Rural Development State Office  
Federal Building, Room 1005  
100 East B Street  
P. O. Box 820  
Casper, WY 82602  
(307) 261-6300

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The passenger transportation portion of the RBEG program is authorized by section 310B(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(2)). The RBEG program is administered on behalf of RBS at the State level by the Rural Development State Offices. The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic

conditions of rural areas. Assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include on-site technical assistance to local and regional governments, public transit agencies, and related nonprofit and for-profit organizations in rural areas; the development of training materials; and the provision of necessary training assistance to local officials and agencies in rural areas.

Awards under the RBEG passenger transportation program are made on a competitive basis using specific selection criteria contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, and in accordance with section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. That subpart also contains the information required to be in the preapplication package. For the \$248,375 grant, at least 75 percent of the benefits of the project must be received by members of Federally Recognized Tribes. The project that scores the greatest number of points based on the selection criteria and Administrator's points will be selected for each grant. Preapplications will be tentatively scored by the State Offices and submitted to the National Office for review, final scoring, and selection.

To be considered "national", a qualified organization is required to provide evidence that it operates in multi-State areas. There is not a requirement to use the grant funds in a multi-State area. Under this notice, grants will be made to qualified, private, non-profit organizations for the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation services or facilities. Public bodies are not eligible for passenger transportation RBEG grants.

The information collection requirements contained within this Notice have received approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0022 (7 CFR part 1942, subpart G).

#### Fiscal Year 2003 Preapplications Submission

Each preapplication received in a Rural Development State Office will be reviewed to determine if this preapplication is consistent with the eligible purposes contained in section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. Each selection priority criterion outlined in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, section 1942.305(b)(3), must be addressed in the preapplication. Failure to address any of the criteria will result in a zero-point score for that criterion and impact the overall evaluation of the preapplication. Copies of 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, will be provided to any interested

applicant making a request to a Rural Development State Office listed in this notice. All projects to receive technical assistance through these passenger transportation grant funds are to be identified when the preapplications are submitted to the Rural Development State Office. Multiple project preapplications must identify each individual project, indicate the amount of funding requested for each individual project, and address the criteria as stated above for each individual project. For multiple-project preapplications, the average of the individual project scores will be the score for that preapplication.

All eligible preapplications, along with tentative scoring sheets and the Rural Development State Director's recommendation, will be referred to the National Office no later than June 13, 2003, for final scoring and selection for award.

The National Office will score preapplications based on the grant selection criteria and weights contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G and will select a grantee subject to the grantee's satisfactory submission of a formal application and related materials in the manner and time frame established by RBS in accordance with 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G. It is anticipated that the grantees will be selected by July 31, 2003. All applicants will be notified by RBS of the Agency's decision on the awards.

Dated: April 3, 2003.

**John Rosso,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-8818 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Inviting Applications for Rural Business Opportunity Grants

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of grants of up to \$50,000 per application from the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) Program for fiscal year (FY) 2003, to be competitively awarded. For multi-State projects, grant funds of up to \$150,000 will be available on a competitive basis.