

Bear District: "Ruidoso News", published Wednesday and Friday in Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico.

Santa Fe National Forest

Notice by Forest Supervisor of Availability Comment and Decisions: "Albuquerque Journal", published daily in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

Notice by District Ranger of Availability for Comment and Decisions: Coyote District:

"Albuquerque Journal", published daily in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Cuba District: "Albuquerque Journal", published daily in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Espanola District:

"Albuquerque Journal", published daily in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Pecos-Las Vegas District: "Albuquerque Journal", published daily in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

Dated: December 8, 2003.

Abel Camarena,

Deputy Regional Forester, Southwestern Region.

[FR Doc. 03-31356 Filed 12-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council will meet in Washington, DC, February 26-28, 2004. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss emerging issues in urban and community forestry.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 26-28, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hotel Monaco, 700 F Street, NW, Washington, DC. Individuals who wish to speak at the meeting or to propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Suzanne M. del Villar, Executive Assistant, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, P.O. Box 1003, Sugarloaf, CA 92386-1003. Individuals may fax their names and proposed agenda items to (909) 585-9527.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne M. del Villar, Urban and

Community Forestry Staff, (909) 585-9268.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members; however, persons who wish to bring urban and community forestry matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided.

Dated: December 15, 2003.

Joel D. Holtrop,

Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

[FR Doc. 03-31316 Filed 12-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on the following dates in Redding, California. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss committee actions and to review projects to nominate for approval consideration.

DATES: The meeting will be from 8 a.m. to noon on:

- January 7, 2004
- February 4, 2004
- March 3, 2004
- April 7, 2004
- May 5, 2004
- June 2, 2004
- July 7, 2004
- August 4, 2004
- September 1, 2004
- October 6, 2004
- November 3, 2004
- December 1, 2004

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at USDA Service Center, 3644 Avtech Parkway.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin McIver, coordinator, USDA Forest Service, (530) 226-2595 or (530) 226-2500. E-mail: kmciver@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and committee members. However, time may be provided for public input, giving individuals the opportunity to address the committee.

Dated: December 8, 2003.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-31274 Filed 12-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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 January 6, 2004, in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of title II projects under Pub. L. 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 January 6, 2004, 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will hear the status of Title II projects funded over the last two years. 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: December 12, 2003.

William D. Metz,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-31275 Filed 12-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revision of Timber Sale Contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is proposing to revise its timber sale contracts, Form FS-2400-6 for scaled sale procedures and Form FS-2400-6T

for tree measurement timber sale procedures. These proposed revisions will be the first substantive changes in the standard timber sale contract provisions in over 30 years. Contract provisions to implement laws and policies, formerly included as special provisions, are proposed to be consolidated into the standard provisions. A side-by-side comparison of the proposed revised contracts and the existing contracts is available as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Comments received will be considered when the Forest Service prepares the final timber sale contracts.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments by mail to the Director of Forest and Rangeland Management, MAIL STOP 1105, Forest Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1105; via e-mail to timbercontracts@fs.fed.us; or via facsimile to (202) 205-1045. These proposed timber sale contract forms are available for public review on the Forest Service World Wide Web/Internet site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/infocenter/newcontracts/index.shtml>. Alternatively, the contracts can be reviewed in the office of the Director of Forest and Rangeland Management, Third Floor, Northwest Wing, Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will become a matter of public record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the same address where copies of the contracts can be reviewed. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-0893 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rex Baumbach, Forest and Rangeland Management Staff, (202) 205-0855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T are used by the Forest Service for the sale of all large, complex timber sales. Timber sale contract Form FS-2400-6 is used when timber is measured for payment after it is harvested, and timber sale contract Form FS-2400-6T is used when the basis for payment is measurement prior to sale. These contracts were originally brought into use in July 1970 and January 1972, respectively, and were the result of extended discussions between the Federal Timber Purchasers Committee and the Forest Service. After

2 years, these contracts were revised in September 1973 and October 1973, respectively, to incorporate modifications based upon experience gained and policy changes since their inception.

From 1973 until July 2001, the requirements of new legislation and Forest Service policy were implemented in the contracts by issuing special provisions that replaced or added to the standard contract provisions. In July 2001, new versions of timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T were issued. The July 2001 versions incorporated the special provisions that had been brought into use since 1973, but did not make any other changes that affect the rights and obligations of the Forest Service and timber sale purchasers.

Proposed Contract Revisions

The Forest Service is proposing to revise timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T to:

1. Clarify the remedies available when contracts are suspended, modified, or terminated for environmental reasons.
2. Incorporate special provisions that are applicable to all timber sales into the standard contract provisions.
3. Correct inconsistencies and clarify ambiguous language that has accumulated by the addition of 30 years of special provisions to the timber sale contracts.
4. Make organizational and editorial changes intended to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary provisions.
5. Decrease the need in the existing contracts to make certain standard provisions inapplicable by replacing those provisions with the appropriate former special provisions.
6. Provide for liquidated damages when the Forest Service unilaterally terminates or partially terminates a timber sale contract.
7. Provide for a rate redetermination after a specified time when the Forest Service orders the delay or interruption of operations for specific reasons.

A side-by-side comparison of the specific differences between the existing contracts and the proposed revised contracts is available electronically and in paper copy as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Comments received will be considered when the Forest Service prepares the final timber sale contracts. When the timber sale contracts are finalized, a subsequent notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Tom L. Thompson,
Acting Chief.

[FR Doc. 03-31315 Filed 12-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 17, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane M. Berger, Loan Specialist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3225, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone: (202) 720-2383.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Business Opportunity Grants.

OMB Number: 0570-0024.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The objective of the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural areas. This purpose is achieved through grants made by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to public and private non-profit organizations and cooperatives to pay costs of economic development planning and technical assistance for rural businesses. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the grant applicants and recipients. The information requested is necessary for RBS to be able to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent program decisions, and effectively monitor the grantees' activities to ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. Objectives include gathering information to identify the applicant, describe the applicant's