

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

Office of the Secretary

Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent; establishment of Advisory Board.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture is proposing to establish the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board to obtain advice and recommendations on a broad range of forest issues such as forest plan revisions or amendments, travel management, forest monitoring and evaluation, and site-specific projects having forestwide implications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Geraldine Bower, Planning Specialist, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Forest Service, (202) 205-1022.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Black Hills National Forest, proposes to establish a Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board. The Board will provide advice and recommendations on a broad range of forest planning issues. The Board membership will consist of individuals representing commodity interests, amenity interests, and state and local government.

The establishment of this Board has been determined to be in the public interest in connection with the duties and responsibilities of the Black Hills National Forest. National forest management requires improved coordination among the interests and governmental entities responsible for land management decisions and the public that the agency serves. The Board will consist of 15 members that shall be representative of the following interests (this membership closely follows the membership outlined by the Secure

Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act for Resource Advisory Committees (16 U.S.C. 500, *et seq.*):

1. Economic development interest
2. Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation
3. Energy and mineral development interests
4. Commercial timber industry
5. Permittee (grazing or other land use within the Black Hills area)
6. Nationally recognized environmental organizations
7. Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
8. Dispersed recreational activities
9. Archeological or historical interests
10. Nationally or regionally recognized sportsmen's groups, such as anglers or hunters
11. South Dakota elected office
12. Wyoming elected office
13. County or local elected official in South Dakota or Wyoming
14. Tribal government elected or appointed official
15. State natural resource agency official from South Dakota or Wyoming

The chairing responsibility of the Board will be determined by the membership of the Board. The Forest Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest will serve as the designated federal official under sections 10(e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

The Black Hills National Forest will provide further notices, as needed, of additional actions that will be taken to complete the formation of the Board.

Equal opportunity practices are followed in all appointments to advisory committees. To ensure that the recommendations of the Board have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Black Hills National Forest, membership will include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Dated: November 25, 2002.

Lou Gallegos,

Assistant Secretary, Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-1429 Filed 1-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (7 CFR 1703, subpart B).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 24, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Wing, Specialty Lenders Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3225, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone (202) 720-9558.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

OMB Number: 0572-0012.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2003.

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

Abstract: RBS is part of the Rural Development mission area of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. RBS administers the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, which provides zero interest loans and grants to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrowers for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects. The loans and grants under the REDLG program may be provided to approximately 1,700 electric and telephone utilities across the country that have borrowed funds from RUS. Under this program, the RUS borrowers may receive the loan funds and pass them on to businesses or other organizations. The RUS borrower is responsible for the loan even if it does not receive payments from the ultimate recipient. Grants may be provided to