

Siuslaw National Forest begins fall prescribed burns to help restore land

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Cooler, damp weather is allowing firefighters on the Siuslaw National Forest to begin burning debris and piles of limbs that have accumulated throughout the year from timber sales and land management activities.

Fall also is the time when the agency burns tracts of land that benefit from periodic fire activity, such as on the Oregon Dunes where fire temporarily reduces invasive European beach grass and promotes better sand movement.

“Prescribed fires can serve a restorative function or contribute to land resiliency by removing unnatural accumulation of materials that can fuel catastrophic fires under less than favorable conditions,” said Dan Eddy, deputy fire management officer for the Siuslaw National Forest.

While firefighters attempt to time prescribed burning with weather conditions that minimize smoke effects in communities, citizens still should be aware of

potentially seeing or encountering smoke adjacent to burning areas.

If citizens are unsure whether smoke or a fire is from a prescribed burn, they can contact their local fire department or the Coastal Valley Interagency Communication Center at 541-750-7024 for more information.

When feasible, the timing and location of prescribed burns will be posted on the Discover Siuslaw National Forest

Facebook page and the SiuslawNF Twitter handle.

The Siuslaw National Forest manages more than 630,000 acres of temperate rainforests along the Oregon Coast Range, from Tillamook to the end of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area in Coos Bay.

Additional information is available online at fs.usda.gov/siuslaw, twitter.com/SiuslawNF and facebook.com/DiscoverSiuslawNF

Most Often Requested Numbers

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – 800-922-1399

Salem Area Office – 503-390-9494

Salem Finance Office – 888-870-9051

Portland Area Office – 503-238-1512

Eugene Area Office – 541-484-4234

Contract Health Services (CHS) – 800-628-5720

Siletz Community Health Clinic – 800-648-0449

Siletz Behavioral Health – 800-600-5599

Chinook Winds Casino Resort – 888-244-6665

Chemawa Health Clinic – 800-452-7823

Bureau of Indian Affairs – 800-323-8517

Website – ctsi.nsn.us

SBA grants support American Indian, Native Hawaiian small businesses

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently announced the awardees of \$700,000 in grant funding for projects promoting the development, success and long-term survival of American Indian firms eligible for assistance under the SBA’s 7(j) Management and Technical Assistance Program.

Funding is provided by SBA’s Office of Native American Affairs.

The SBA’s 7(j) Program helps provide specialized management and technical assistance to underserved markets and small business owners who are socially and economically disadvantaged. It emphasizes entrepreneurial education, counseling and training resources to help these firms succeed in federal, state and local government markets for goods and services, and also as subcontractors to government prime contractors.

Functional areas of assistance frequently include, but are not limited to, strategic and operational planning and management; marketing, business development, and identification and capture of opportunities; accounting, bookkeeping and financial analysis; contract management and compliance; information technology and systems development; and industry-specific requirements.

The SBA issued \$100,000 grants to provide funding opportunities for American Indian microenterprise business services. The grants will help these service providers make unique management and technical assistance programs available to American Indian small businesses that are eligible for services under the 7(j) program.

The SBA grant program announcement sought innovative proposals to provide specialized training, executive education and tools to promote business development of American Indian small businesses. This funding will help address some of the challenges American Indian firms and other 7(j)-eligible firms face, including teaming with other businesses; mastering the process of federal contracting; and reversing declines and re-energizing small businesses.

The selected awardees have demonstrated substantive experience dealing

with issues relating to American Indian small businesses and have demonstrated that they have the capacity to provide a variety of management and technical assistance services to microenterprise small businesses.

The funds will not be used by the awardees themselves as a source of funding to grow or otherwise expand their individual enterprises.

The awardees include:

Oregon Native American Business and Entrepreneurial Network (ONABEN); Portland, Ore., and Tulsa, Okla.: ONABEN’s Bridge to Success – Peer Mentoring & Entrepreneurial Exchange Program will focus on building American Indian microenterprise capacity in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

Targeted Native entrepreneurs will work together to grow in business, explore the importance of social entrepreneurship to build a stronger Native economy and overcome the challenges of small business through peer coaching/mentoring and entrepreneurial exchanges.

Indian Dispute Resolution Services Inc. (IDRS Inc.); Plymouth, Calif.: IDRS Inc. will use grant funds from the SBA’s Native American Microenterprise Business Services program to provide training and technical assistance to Tribal members in California, Nevada and Oregon.

Training workshops will include business plan development, accounting and Quickbooks training, financial planning, negotiation and computer literacy.

IDRS also has special initiatives to provide technical assistance to Native artists to help them better market their artwork and provide art as a sustainable business model; assist Tribes in setting up self-help groups for entrepreneurs; and provide distance-learning models for Native entrepreneurs who cannot attend training.

IDRS will also use SBA funds to strengthen Native entrepreneur data collection and reach new Tribes and Tribal entrepreneurs.

Hi’ilei Aloha LLC; Honolulu, Hawaii: Hi’ilei Aloha LLC is a nonprofit subsidiary of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It provides capacity building services, including training and technical assistance, to Native Hawaiian businesses and nonprofit organizations.

SBA funding will be used to hold entrepreneurship classes for Native businesses and provide assistance with branding, marketing and website design.

The Cherokee Nation; Tahlequah, Okla.: The Cherokee Nation Small Business Assistance Center will use the Native American Microenterprise Business Services award to expand its existing training programs with the following: executive coaching for businesses in sales, marketing and product management; financial management coaching to enhance financial systems and identify necessary controls to reduce tax burdens; human resource coaching to best manage staff productivity and reduce liability exposure; contract coaching to learn the ins and outs of government contracting; legal coaching to answer questions about product development; and patents.

The award also will be used to train and license SBAC staff in the Growth-wheel program. This program provides a 360-degree perspective on a business, resulting in a holistic coaching plan while highlighting areas of focus needed to maximize stabilization and growth.

Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. (REI Oklahoma); Durant, Okla.: Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc., through the Microenterprise Business program, will provide technical assistance to 7(j) firms to create, develop and expand their small businesses with customized on-site and off-site trainings and webinar sessions.

REI Oklahoma will work with American Indian Tribes to deliver a 14-course training module to Tribal members and businesses. The courses will include how to start a business, understanding taxes, marketing, human resources, government contracting, financial management and other topics made readily available to clients throughout the state of Oklahoma.

The Native American Development Corporation (NADC); North Billings, Mont.: NADC will provide pre- and post-technical assistance to Native-owned small businesses in preparation for success in government contracting through the SBA’s 8(a) procurement program and other federal and state programs.

NADC also will promote business relationships with private sector companies through matchmaking activities associated with NADC conferences and workshops to enhance their ability to attract more commercial contracting opportunities.

Strategic training will be provided throughout the pre- and post- nine-year 8(a) program participation utilizing NADC distance learning technology, such as webinars and curriculum developed and provided through NADC satellite centers and Tribal colleges.

Collaborations with other NADC programs, such as the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Community Development Financial Institution and Department of Transportation, will be essential to support the success of the Native businesses.

Central Plains Foundation Inc. (GROW Nebraska); Holbrook, Neb.: GROW Nebraska will work with partners Lakota Hope and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) Extension to capitalize on the talents and interests of entrepreneurs on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and in the Whiteclay, Neb., area to create a group of entrepreneurs who work together and support each other as they build scalable small businesses that will generate a livable income for the business owner and his/her family, create jobs and have a positive impact on reservation residents.

With this grant, GROW Nebraska, Lakota Hope and UNL Extension will create an innovative, entrepreneur-focused program that builds and supports a powerful business strategy for each program participant.

To learn more about the SBA’s Office of Native American Affairs, visit sba.gov/naa.