



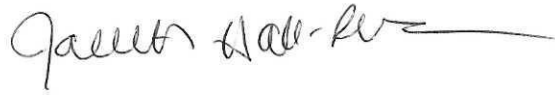
United States
Department of
Agriculture

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DATE: July 22, 2022

TO: Austin Mudd
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Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Levi Harrell
Departmental Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer

FROM: Jaelith Hall-Rivera 
Deputy Chief
State and Private Forestry
Forest Service

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval for a New Information Collection
Request (ICR)-- Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program

The Secretary of Agriculture is expected to announce the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program at the Western Governors' Association meeting on July 26th.

USDA Forest Service, in cooperation with the States, is delivering the CWDG Program as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Title VIII of IIJA outlines the CWDG Program. The Agency is tasked with designing and implementing this Program that will award grants to at-risk communities, including Indian Tribes. According to 2 CFR Part 200 and Forest Service Handbook 1590.11, Chapter 20, there is certain narrative and budget information required for the Agency to determine if the project meets the legislative requirements and if the costs are reasonable, allocable, allowable, and necessary for the project.

Emergency approval for a new ICR is required so that the CWDG Project Narrative Form can be used by grant applicants to provide information that will determine which grants are awarded for the first round of funding.

The Agency cannot reasonably comply with the routine clearance procedures due to the time restraints surrounding the Secretary of Agriculture's public announcement. This is critical to the Agency's mission to prepare at-risk communities to be more adaptive to wildfire. The end result of this will help prevent additional loss of life and property. Upon approval of this emergency collection, the Notices of Funding Opportunity will be posted in Grants.gov and eligible entities will be able to apply for the first round of funding that the Secretary will announce.