ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: **Rural America at a Glance, 2023 Edition**

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB)   EIB

[X]   Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA   [ ]   Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: The rural population is growing again, with growth rates of half a percent per year from 2020 to 2022. This growth resulted from domestic migration from metro to nonmetro areas during the COVID-19 pandemic years, overcoming declines in the natural rate of population growth. Over the fifteen years from 2007 to 2021, rural poverty declined in 86 percent of all nonmetro counties. Further, in 2021, 9.7 percent fewer nonmetro counties experienced persistent poverty over time compared to a decade earlier. More than half of extremely low-income nonmetro renter households experienced housing insecurity. This issue was particularly acute for American Indian or Alaska Native or Hispanic households. The report also finds that rural employment and employment annual growth rates nearly returned to those seen in the years prior to the pandemic. Finally, focusing on an emerging employment area of interest, one percent of nonmetropolitan workers hold clean energy jobs.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ]   Panel Review   [X]   Individual Reviewers

[ ]   Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.):   Start: 08/15/2023   Completed: 08/30/2023

Number of Reviewers: [ ]   3 or fewer   [X]   4 to 10   [ ]   More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X]   Agency   [ ]   Designated Outside Organization

Opportunities for Public Comment?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No

    If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
    How:
    When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No