

NEWS RELEASE



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GRANTS AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE WATERSHEDS, FOREST HEALTH

Springerville, AZ.... Grant applications are being accepted now by the Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee for projects that can be funded under the authority of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act of 2000.

Although the primary location for projects is intended to be on federal lands on the Tonto (ie Globe, Pleasant Valley, or Payson districts) or the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (all districts), projects can be on non-federal lands where projects would benefit resources on federal land. The Act authorizes grants to federal agencies, State and local governments, private and non-profit entities for projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure such as roads, trails, recreation facilities or projects that improve forest health and restore and improve land health and water quality.

The following types of projects are eligible:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration
- Soil productivity improvement
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health
- Watershed and stream restoration and maintenance
- Restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife habitat
- Control of noxious weeds
- Wildland fire prevention and protection

Each project proposal will be evaluated on how cost-effective it is and to what extent partners are involved, its educational value, how the project improves the quality of human life including any employment opportunities, and how many benefits accrue to ecosystem health. Projects will generally be less than \$100,000. Electronic grant applications are available upon request at www.rdyson@fs.fed.us.

Inquiries may be made by calling Bob Dyson at the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Supervisor's Office at 928-333-4301. Deadline for submission of applications is July 30, 2004. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposal with the closest District Ranger before submitting an application. All requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act must be met before an application can be approved.

The next meeting of the Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee is on August 27, 2004, in Globe, Arizona.

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