

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/>

## Umatilla National Forest

Visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/>

---

1550 Dewey, Baker City, Oregon 97814

News Contact: Judy Wing, 541-523-1246 or Kurt Wiedenmann, 541-962-8582.

**March 9, 2010**

### **Proposals for Watershed Restoration Projects due April 23, 2010**

**Baker City, OR.** The public is invited to submit applications for Title II projects funded through the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.” The projects are designed to improve National Forest lands within the boundaries of the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. Project proposals need to be coordinated with local Forest personnel and submitted to county commissioners by April 23, 2010 to compete for funding.

By law, Title II projects must benefit National Forest lands and their resources. The projects are to enhance forest ecosystems, restore and improve land health and water quality, or improve the maintenance of existing facilities within the forests. Because this law is set to expire, projects selected for funding must be able to be completed no later than September of 2012.

“Although many projects funded in fiscal year 2009 and 2010 were developed by local Forest Service ranger districts, project applications may also be proposed by other agencies, local governments, organizations, or individuals in coordination with their local Forest Service partners,” said Kurt Wiedenmann, La Grande District Ranger and designated federal official for the Northeast Oregon Forest Resource Advisory Committee.

The Northeast Oregon Forest Resource Advisory Committee reviews the project proposals and recommends to Forest Supervisors which of them should be funded. In the ten years since the special funding became available over \$18 million has been allocated to projects in nine Northeastern Oregon counties.

Projects selected varied widely, from culvert replacement to facilitate fish passage, to noxious weed control, roadside brush cutting, aspen and riparian restoration, hazardous fuels reduction, forest road resurfacing, and thinning contracts.

“Enacted by Congress in 2000 and reauthorized in 2008, this law has provided a secure level of funding for schools, roads maintenance, and watershed restoration projects over the last ten years,” Wiedenmann stated.

Project submission forms are available at each National Forest office, or on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/RAC/> For more information contact Arlene Blumton, 541-962-8522, or email [ablumton@fs.fed.us](mailto:ablumton@fs.fed.us).

-END -