



## News Release

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

May 1, 2009

### Forest Service seeks nominations for two Resource Advisory Committees

MONTE VISTA – The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) is seeking nominations for the Upper Rio Grande and Saguache County Resource Advisory Committees (RACs). Membership interest forms must be received by June 1, 2009.

The RACs represent a wide range of interests and supports the RGNF and counties in reviewing and evaluating projects that are submitted under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools Act. The committees recommend projects to be funded and are responsible for coordinating with land management agencies and county officials. Upper Rio Grande RAC projects will be located in Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, and Saguache County RAC projects will occur in Saguache County.

RAC members serve a four-year term and will begin upon appointment by the Secretary of Agriculture. Committee members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses. Members must be Colorado residents, preferably living in one of the counties served by the RAC. Meetings are held at least once and up to four times a year.

Each RAC consists of 15 members, split equally between three categories.

**Category One:** Organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups; developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle, commercial recreation; energy and mineral development; commercial or recreational fishing; commercial timber industry; federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area.

**Category Two:** Nationally recognized environmental organizations; regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations; dispersed recreation; archaeological and historical interests; nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations.

**Category Three:** State-elected office holders; county or local elected officials; American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas; school officials or teachers; citizens representing the affected public at large.

There may also be a non-voting replacement member in each category. Applicants may apply in more than one category. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will make the appointments to the RACs based on the applications received, striving to appoint members who have demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with others of different viewpoints.

Citizens interested in applying for RAC membership are encouraged to complete a membership interest form, which can be obtained from any San Luis Valley Public Lands Center office or downloaded at [www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/).

For more information, contact Mike Blakeman at 719-852-6212.

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