



***NEWS  
RELEASE***



United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Salmon - Challis National  
Forest  
1206 South Challis  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

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### **Central Idaho RAC Calls for Project Proposals**

The Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is seeking proposals for resource projects that would enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality on the Salmon-Challis National Forest and other near-by lands in Custer, Lemhi, and Butte counties. According to RAC Chairman Bob Cope the RAC committee will have about \$1,000,000 to spend on projects this year, made available to Butte, Custer and Lemhi Counties through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2008. The RAC will also be funded for an additional three years with slightly declining amounts each year.

The RAC works closely with the Forest Service to recommend projects that will benefit Forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds and other resources; maintain roads, trails and other infrastructure; or control noxious weeds. Most of the projects the RAC has approved in the past have been proposed by the Forest Service. However, RAC members and the public can also make proposals.

RAC projects must be located on National Forest System Lands in Custer, Lemhi or Butte counties or on other nearby lands if the project will benefit the resources on the National Forests. Projects can be completed by Forest Service personnel, through partnership agreements or by open-bid contracting with individuals and corporations.

RAC Project Preview forms and instructions are available at all Forest Service offices in Custer and Lemhi counties or on the Salmon-Challis National Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc)

Fifteen RAC members representing various interests include: Bob Cope, Gary Power, Hadley Roberts, Dick Hauff, Adrienne Trapani, Jerry Hamilton, and Doug Westfall, from Lemhi County; Earl Skeen, Bert Doughty, Troy Ziegler, Bart Wojceichowski, and Dan Mulick, Custer County; and Mark Stauffer, Butte County. Norma Kossler and Richard Smith both from Salmon are replacement members. Replacement members are non-voting members who could be asked to take the place of a committee member who is

unable to fulfill that role. There is an opening for a third replacement member and the Forest Service is seeking nominations. Prospective members must undergo a background clearance to serve on the RAC.

The RAC will begin reviewing projects for possible funding during their next meeting, February 24, 1 p.m., in Challis. The public is welcome to attend the RAC meetings. For more information on the committee or to learn more about becoming a replacement member contact the RAC coordinator, Kent Fuellenbach at 208-756-5145.