



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest**
541-575-3000

www.fs.usda.gov/malheur

Umatilla National Forest
541-278-3716

www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
541-523-6391

www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman

News Release

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Public Invited to Propose Forest Projects Under County Payments Program – Proposals due November 16

John Day, OR, Pendleton, OR & Baker City, OR: In response to the two-year reauthorization by Congress of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act in April; the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests are soliciting project proposals to be funded under Title II of the act.

The federal legislation encourages individuals, non-profit organizations, local governments, and others to propose projects that restore watersheds, decommission or maintain roads, control noxious weeds, or otherwise improve the condition of the Forest. Proposed projects do not need to be implemented on Forest Service lands, but must show a benefit to national forest resources.

Project proposals for FY2016 funding are due electronically by November 16, 2015. Application forms, instructions, and submission guidelines can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/main/wallowa-whitman/workingtogether/advisorycommittees. Another round of applications for project proposals will be reviewed in 2017.

“The reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools is excellent news for the Oregon counties and numerous communities that partner with the National Forests” said Jeff Tomac, Designated Federal Official and Whitman District Ranger.

Eligible project proposals submitted to the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests will be reviewed by the Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee, a balanced and diverse group of stakeholders representing local communities, industry, recreational interests, environmental groups, elected officials, and more. Following their review in January the committee will provide Forest Supervisors with a list of projects recommended for funding.

“The resource advisory committee is an important part of the process to fund projects under the Secure Rural Schools Act. We recruit continuously for energetic and interested people that represent the diversity of our state and community” said Tomac.

Please submit your applications to one of the National Forests nearest you:

Susan Garner, sgarner@fs.fed.us , 541.575.3039, Malheur National Forest
Ian Reid, ireid@fs.fed.us , 541.427.5316, Umatilla National Forest
Arlene Blumton, ablumton@fs.fed.us , 541.962.8522, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



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