



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

March 1, 2016

News Release

Contact: Mike Stearly – Malheur NF – (541) 575-3144
Joani Bosworth – Umatilla NF – (541) 278-3722
Katy Gray – Wallowa-Whitman NF – (541) 523-1246

Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee Update: Call for Year Two Proposals

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 2015, the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, and Malheur National Forests are soliciting year two project proposals to be funded under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools Act.

Year two proposals are now being accepted through **April 1, 2016**. Nonprofit organizations, local governments, and others are encouraged 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.

“Title II projects benefit our rural communities, provide employment opportunities for our youth and restore our national forests,” said Jeff Tomac, the Title II Designated Federal Official and Whitman District Ranger.



NEWS RELEASE

(continued)

Year one proposals were previously submitted to the three National Forests and have been reviewed by National Forest staff and the appropriate County Commissioners or Courts. Year one projects now await recommendation for approval from the Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee (NEOFRAC).

The NEOFRAC is a balanced and diverse group of stakeholders representing local communities, industry, recreational interests, environmental groups, elected officials and more. “Several NEOFRAC memberships expired during the reauthorization stage and we’ve been recruiting for new members from our local areas. Our recruitment process is nearly complete and we anticipate approval by the Secretary of Agriculture this spring,” said Tomac.

Year one and two project proposals will be reviewed together by the NEOFRAC when they meet this summer. Following their review the committee will provide the three Forest Supervisors a list of Title II projects recommended for funding. Year one projects will be funded through allocations received in fiscal year 2015. Year two project proposals will be funded through allocations received in fiscal year 2016.

Project proposals for Year Two funding are due electronically by April 1, 2016. Application forms, instructions, and submission guidelines can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/main/wallowa-whitman/workingtogether/advisorycommittees. New Title II projects must be initiated by September 30, 2017 and all Title II funds must be obligated by September 30, 2018.

Please submit your applications to one of the National Forests nearest you or contact these individuals with questions:

- Susan Garner, scgarner@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

-USDA FS-