



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest

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News Release

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Allegheny National Forest Accepting Secure Rural School Title II Project Proposals

Warren, Pa. (April 12, 2016) – The Allegheny National Forest is seeking proposals to fund projects in Forest County. “We are looking for projects designed to improve Forest Service-managed lands and the rural economies of local counties,” said Forest Supervisor Sherry Tune. “Projects should benefit fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds and other resources; or maintain roads, trails, and other existing infrastructure; obliterate unneeded roads; or control noxious weeds,” she added.

The ANF has approximately \$180,000 of Title II funds from the Secure Rural Schools Act. To qualify for funding, projects must be located on National Forest System lands in Forest County or on other nearby lands if the project will benefit the resources on the ANF.

Completed project applications must be received by June 8, 2016. The Allegheny Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will work closely with the Forest Service to review and recommend project proposals. “We look forward to working with the RAC to identify and implement projects that will provide long term benefits to the local communities as well as to public resources,” said Rich Hatfield, District Ranger, who is the RAC Designated Federal Official. “Projects can be completed by Forest Service personnel, through partnership agreements or by open-bid contracting with individuals and corporations,” said Hatfield. Hatfield also said that project proposals not approved previously may be resubmitted for consideration.

Project proposal forms and general information can be found on the ANF’s website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/allegheny/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>

The RAC will review projects for possible funding during a meeting in summer 2016. The public is welcome to attend the RAC meetings.

For additional information, please contact Rich Hatfield at rhatfield@fs.fed.us or 814.363.6098.

Additional information about the Secure Rural Schools Act Title II funds and Resource Advisory Committees may be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/specialprojects/racs>

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region has 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie located throughout 20 Midwestern and Eastern states. We're spread from Maine to Minnesota and from Maryland to Missouri. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/R9.

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The public lands that the Forest Service manages, contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S. and includes 100 million acres that are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/.

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