



**U.S. Forest Service
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
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Members needed for Forest Service Advisory Committee Applications due October 15, 2016

Springerville, AZ; August 29, 2016 — The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are now recruiting Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members. RAC nominees will be forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture who appoints members to a four-year term following background checks. The RAC will convene, propose and review project proposals, and make recommendations to the Designated Federal Official (DFO) on how funds should be spent. The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests is seeking to fill positions on the Eastern Arizona Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) under provisions of Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act reauthorized as part of Senate Bill 2164 Extension of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Program. **Applications are due to the RAC Coordinator by October 15, 2016.**

The legislation requires the Forest Service, working with the counties, to establish a RAC made up of a diverse 15-member group of citizens with a formal charter. Members of a RAC must reside within the state in which the committee has jurisdiction and, to the extent possible, ensure local representation in each category. RAC members serve without pay but may elect to be reimbursed for travel expenses.

The five Arizona counties participating in the Eastern Arizona RAC are Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee and Navajo. This year these counties elected to receive over \$800,000 in Title II funds for RAC grant and project recommendations to be used on a variety of projects on or benefitting the Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests. For the upcoming year, the counties have elected to receive just over \$770,000.

Those interested in serving on the Eastern Arizona RAC to advise the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are encouraged to make direct contact with:

Marta Call, RAC Coordinator, (928.333.6280), martaicall@fs.fed.us

The following summarizes the interests to be represented on each RAC within three categories:

Category A, five persons who represent:

1. organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups;
2. developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
3. energy and mineral development interests; or commercial or recreational fishing interests;
4. commercial timber industry;

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5. hold Federal grazing or other land use permits, or represent nonindustrial private forest land owners, within the area for which the committee is organized.

Category B, five persons who represent:

1. nationally recognized environmental organizations;
2. regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations;
3. dispersed recreational activities;
4. archaeological and historical interests;
5. nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations.

Category C, five persons who represent:

1. State elected office (or a designee);
2. county or local elected office;
3. American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized;
4. school officials or teachers;
5. represent the affected public at large.

The Secure Rural Schools Web site is www.fs.usda.gov/pts/; see *Title II Summary* for more details. The application form AD-755 that must be completed as part of a RAC nomination is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf> under Working Together/Advisory Committees.

Title II Funds may be used for road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration; soil productivity improvement; improvements in forest ecosystem health; watershed restoration and maintenance; restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat; control of noxious and exotic weeds; re-establishment of native species; road maintenance, decommissioning, or obliteration; and restoration of streams and watersheds.

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