

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Plumas National Forest



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Members Sought for Forest Service Advisory Committee in Butte County

Quincy, January 22, 2009 – Officials of the Plumas National Forest are doing outreach to fill the ranks of a new federal advisory committee in Butte County. “I am very pleased the Butte County Supervisors elected to have a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) as allowed under the provisions of the reauthorized Secure Rural Schools legislation, said Alice Carlton, Forest Supervisor. “RACs are a well regarded mechanism for interested local community members to collaborate with me and other federal land managers in recommending projects funded by this legislation.”

RACs were established as a provision of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Secure Rural Schools or SRS).

By law, the 4-year term, fifteen-member committee is composed of a wide representation of National Forest interests organized into 3 categories. An additional person is also appointed for each category (3 total positions) as a replacement should a committee member leave for any reason from that category. A replacement may represent any interest in the category but does not act as a member until a permanent vacancy occurs.

Category A	Category B	Category C
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nationally recognized environmental organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">State elected official or their designee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">County or local elected official
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Energy and mineral development interests; or commercial or recreational fishing interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dispersed recreational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">American Indian tribes within or adjacent to committee area
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial timber industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Archaeological and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School officials or

	interests	teachers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal grazing or other land use permittee or represent nonindustrial private forest land owners, within the area for which the RAC is organized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Represent the affected public at large.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 or Public Law 110-343 replaced an arrangement that gave counties 25% of Forest Service receipts from logging, grazing, recreation and other activities on national forest lands.

In the first of the four year life span of the legislation, Butte County will receive about \$666,052 (Title I monies) which will be spent on Butte County schools and roads.

Additionally, using the fiscal decision making process prescribed by the legislation, the Butte County Board of Supervisors has directed about \$108,233 (Title II monies), for projects to be recommended by the RAC to the Forest Service for the benefit of local trails, roads, forest health, watershed, and fish and wildlife habitat on federally managed lands in Butte County or on private land if the project benefits federal resources. According to Forest Supervisor Carlton, RAC funds are typically leveraged to produce an equal amount of matching funds or in-kind contributions. Generally, Title II monies and processes are federally managed.

Also, another \$58,280 (Title III monies), the maximum allowed by the legislation, will be available for a more narrow array of natural resource related projects; a process managed entirely by the Butte County Board of Supervisors.

Recommended Title II or “RAC” projects must have broad community based support with objectives that may include, but are not limited to: 1) road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration; soil productivity improvements; improvements in forest ecosystem health; watershed restoration and maintenance; restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat; control of noxious and exotic weeds; hazardous fuels reduction; and reintroduction of native species. Projects must be on public land but can occur on private land if it can be demonstrated that there is a benefit to public land resources.

Once appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture later this spring, the Butte County RAC will solicit projects for both current and next year’s implementation.

If you would like to get more information about the Secure Rural Schools legislation, including Titles I, II and III, please visit the SRS website at www.fs.fed.us/srs.

If you are interested in applying for Butte County RAC membership, an interest form is available on the Plumas National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas>. Applicants must complete a cover letter and the short interest form initially and finally, a background screening by the FBI. Questions regarding the website information may be directed to Lee Anne Schramel Taylor, PNF Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, at (530) 283-7850. Several short information sessions for potential applicants are being scheduled for early February. Please check the PNF website for meeting information.

Interest forms are due no later than February 20, 2009. All information necessary for response is included on the interest form.

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