



THE DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST RAC AT-A-GLANCE

Why should I care about the Dixie National Forest RAC?

If you ever visit the National Forest to hike, bike, camp, ride an ATV, ski, or hunt, the RAC provides an opportunity for you to have a greater say in the future management of the forest resources that you enjoy. RAC projects will be driven by public (that's you) proponents.

What is the Resource Advisory Committee or RAC?

The RAC is a diverse and balanced group of citizens that have been appointed to serve by the Secretary of Agriculture. They are *responsible for recommending projects* to the Forest Service to utilize money that is allocated to the Dixie National Forest under the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act. See the website for a RAC membership list.

How much project money is available?

By February 2012, there will be around *\$1.4 million* in Title II funds available for RAC projects on the Dixie National Forest. Currently, there is about \$700,000 available.

Who is eligible to submit a project proposal?

Anyone can submit a project proposal. The most successful proposals will likely be the result of consultation with local Forest Service personnel and RAC members.

Why types of projects are eligible for funding?

The Dixie National Forest RAC has expressed interest in seeing a variety of watershed restoration and enhancement, road maintenance, and fish and wildlife habitat and restoration proposals.

More broadly under stipulations within the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act, RACs can recommend a wide variety of projects for funding including projects to:

- Improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems

- Restore and improve health of the land and water quality
- Protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- Maintain or obliterate road, trails, and other infrastructure
- Improve soil productivity
- Improve forest ecosystem health
- Restore and maintain watersheds
- Restore, maintain, and improve fish and wildlife habitat
- Control noxious and exotic weeds
- Re-establishment of native species

Projects that have an education or stewardship component are encouraged to apply. Due to tight timelines for funding, *projects requiring the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not likely be considered for funding.*

When, where, and how often does the RAC meet? Can I attend?

RAC meetings are *open to the public*. The Dixie National Forest RAC is scheduled to meet on *December 7, 2010 at the Garfield County Courthouse* in Panguitch. They will also meet on *January 6, 2011 at the Santa Clara Town Hall* in Santa Clara.

Where can the public learn more about the RAC?

For basic information about the Secure Rural Schools Act and RACs, you can visit www.fs.fed.us/srs/. For information specific to the Dixie National Forest RAC, you can visit www.fs.usda.gov/dixie. Questions about the RAC and project proposal process can be directed to Gretchen Merrill or Kenton Call (435) 865-3700 at the Dixie National Forest.

What if I have an idea and need help filling out an application?

Successful project proposals will be supported by RAC members, Forest Service staff, and the local public. Community workshops are being provided on *October 7 at Bryce Canyon National Park (Administrative Offices)* and *October 13 at the Dixie National Forest in Cedar City from 3-7 p.m.* to help potential project proponents develop their ideas and fill out the seven-page application forms. Additionally, *potential proponents are encouraged to contact their local district ranger* (in St. George, Cedar City, Panguitch, or Escalante) for project advice.

When are project applications due?

First round project *applications are due by November 30, 2010*. They must be received by Gretchen Merrill at the Dixie National Forest, 1789 North Cobble Creek, Cedar City, Utah 84721, gmerrill@fs.fed.us (please include RAC Project Proposal in subject line) by close of business on November 30, 2010. The RAC has decided that there will be two funding cycles and a *second round proposal deadline has been set for April 30, 2011*.

Are there other Secure Rural Schools RACs in Utah?

There are five Secure Rural Schools RACs in Utah: Ashley National Forest RAC, Dixie National Forest RAC, Fishlake National Forest RAC, Manti-La Sal National Forest RAC, and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest RAC. Information about these RACs is available on each of the forest's webpages.