Title II RAC Project Submittal information:

General guidelines and information about what kinds/types of projects will be considered under Title II funding for Secure Rural Schools by the Resource Advisory Committee can be found on the following website: http://www.fs.fed.us/srs/docs/2008-title-II.pdf Persons who are considering submitting a proposal should ***review the information on this website***.

Generally: Title II funds may be used for the for protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resource objectives consistent with the Secure Rural Schools Act on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit the resources on Federal land. The purposes of the Secure Rural Schools Act include making additional investments in, and creating employment opportunities through projects that:

- improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure;
- implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems; and
- restore and improve land health and water quality;

The funds may be used for projects that enjoy broad based support and have objectives that may include--

- road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration;
- soil productivity improvement;
- improvements in forest ecosystem health;
- watershed restoration and maintenance;
- the restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat;
- the control of noxious and exotic weeds; and
- the re-establishment of native species.

At least 50 percent of all Title II funds must be used for projects that are primarily dedicated to:

- Road maintenance, decommissioning, or obliteration; or
- Restoration of streams and watersheds.

One of the key concepts for SRS funding and RAC proposals involves collaboration and coordination in developing and implementing proposals. The RAC works closely with the Forest Service representatives to recommend projects that will benefit forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds and other resources; maintain roads, trails, and other infrastructure; and/or control noxious weeds. ***Projects should be developed in coordination with the local Forest Service District Ranger and County representatives to ensure that the proposals are implementable and appropriate on national forest lands and landscapes.***

- RAC projects must be located on National Forest System Lands in Delta, Garfield, Gunnison, Mesa and Montrose Counties or on other nearby lands if the project will benefit the resources on the National Forests.
- Projects can be completed by Forest Service personnel, through partnership agreements or by open-bid contracting with individuals and corporations.

- Federal procurement and contracting regulations are required.

RAC Project forms and news release instructions are available at all Forest Service offices in Gunnison, Norwood, Montrose, Delta, Paonia, Grand Junction, Rifle and Glenwood Springs or on the GMUG National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug.

Some of the criteria that the RAC is considering to evaluate proposals include:

- How well the project meets Title II requirements;
- Incorporation of partnerships and financing leveraging;
- County and Forest Service support and collaboration in the proposal;
- Accomplishments on the land to benefit wildlife, forest health, erosion control, control of noxious weeds, stream and watershed health;
- Ability to implement effectively;
- Cost effectiveness, and
- Complete information and descriptions with cost estimates and ready-to-implement proposals.

Project proposals are *due by close of business February 28, 2011*. Project proposals need to be *fully complete and submitted to*: Attn: Lee Ann Loupe, RAC Coordinator, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, CO 81416.