



DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THOMAS J. VILSACK, SECRETARY

THROUGH:  Harris D. Sherman  
Under Secretary, NRE

APR 19 2010

FROM:  Thomas L. Tidwell  
Chief

APR 12 2010

SUBJECT: Appointment of Members to the Northern New Mexico Resource  
Advisory Committee; a Resource Advisory Committee of the  
Southwestern Region

**ISSUE:**

Members need to be appointed to the Northern New Mexico Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), located in the Southwestern Region. The Northern New Mexico RAC carries out the requirements of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, as amended by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, and Tax Extenders and Alternate Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. No. 106-393) (Act), as amended by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, and Tax Extenders and Alternate Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-343), enables the Secretary of Agriculture to restore eligible resource advisory committees for the Forest Service, established before September 29, 2006. The law offers counties the option to continue receiving payments under the 25 Percent Fund Act of 1908 or to receive their share of the average of the three highest 25 percent payments made to their State during the period of fiscal year 1986 through fiscal year 1999. Counties electing to receive the average of the high-three payment, referred to as the "full-payment amount," and receiving a payment of \$100,000 or more, may reserve a portion of their distribution for national forest Title II projects. Projects proposed under Title II must be reviewed and recommended to the Secretary by a resource advisory committee, established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

Composition and Term of Membership: The RAC is made up of 15 members. Committee members shall represent the community interests in the following three broad categories listed in section 205(d)(2) of the Act: Category A--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, or commercial or recreational fishing interests; 4) commercial timber industry; and 5) grazing permits or other land use permits or represent non-industrial private forest land owners, within the area for which the committee is organized; Category B--1) nationally recognized environmental organizations; 2) regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations; 3) dispersed recreational activities; 4) archaeological and historical interests; and 5) national or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations; Category C--1) State-elected officials or their designee; 2) county or local elected officials; 3) American Indian tribes within, or adjacent to, the area for which the committee is organized; 4) school officials or teachers; and 5) the affected public-at-large. In addition, the charter requires that one representative be appointed for each of the three broad categories to serve as a replacement should a vacancy occur. The term of office for each member is 4 years.

Selection of Member: The Forest Service used a variety of methods to solicit nominees for the Northern New Mexico RAC. Outreach consisted of news releases to newspapers, radio and television stations and on appropriate websites. Solicitations were made at public meetings and workshops, and by individual contacts via e-mail and telephone among networks of tribal officials, county officials, interest groups, forest users and other stakeholders. Nominees are recommended based on the following criteria: qualification to represent a specific interest, geographic representation or a broad set of interests across the RAC area, gender, cultural diversity, persons with disability, community-sponsored support, ability to create consensus, dedication to serving the community, and involvement in current natural resource issues in the Southwestern Region.

The Southwestern Regional Forester, who holds administrative responsibility for the Southwestern Region recommends the nominees listed on the enclosed member selection form. This recommendation has been developed in consultation with the appropriate Forest Supervisor, elected county officials, and the chairperson of the RAC.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The agency carefully reviewed the nominees for the appointments on the Northern New Mexico RAC and has indicated their recommendation on the enclosed member selection form. We recommend that you appoint the nominees whose names are highlighted on the enclosed member selection form as members of the Northern New Mexico RAC.

Enclosures



# Northern New Mexico Resource Advisory Committee Member Selection Form

## RAC member appointment requirements

- 15 members on the committee
- Three categories specified in the Act (A, B, C)
- At least three and no more than five members must be selected from each category or the committee will not have a quorum
- Each category includes subcategories representing related yet distinct interest groups
- No legal requirement to have all subcategories represented
- Selection of more than one candidate from the same subcategory is permitted as long as the above rules are met
- Replacements are not specified in the legislation but are established as a means to quickly fill a vacancy that renders a committee inactive (see above bullet on quorums)
- ‘Interest not represented’ means no incumbent committee member represents the subcategory and no nomination is offered at this time

Please select the recommended candidates to represent the community interest groups identified below. Recommended candidates are in **boldface**.

## *CATEGORY A*

### Organized Labor or Non-Timber Forest Product Harvester

**Glen M. Allen**

### Developed Outdoor Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle Users, or Commercial Recreation Activities

**Mark R. Werkmeister**

### Energy and Mineral Development, or Commercial or Recreational Fishing Group

**Floyd D. Gomez**

### Commercial Timber Industry

**Orlando Romero**

Federal Grazing Permit or Other Land Use Permit Holders, or Representative of  
Non-Industrial Private Forest Land Owners, Within the Area...

✓ **Donald Martinez, Jr.**

Replacement – Category A

✓ **Ernesto Valdez**

***CATEGORY B***

Nationally Recognized Environmental Organizations

✓ **Larry N. Winn**

Regionally or Locally Recognized Environmental Organizations

✓ **Michael A. Bain**

Dispersed Recreational Activities

✓ **Michelle B. Briscoe**

Archaeological and Historical Interest

✓ **Lloyd F. Felipe**

Nationally or Regionally Recognized Wild Horse and Burro Interest, Wildlife or Hunting  
Organizations, or Watershed Associations

✓ **Felipe D. Martinez**

Replacement – Category B

✓ **Glenna Dean**

***CATEGORY C***

Hold State-Elected Office

✓ **James D. Norwick**

Hold County or Local-Elected Office

         **Venessa I. Chavez**

American Indian Tribes Within or Adjacent to the Area for which the Committee is Organized

         **James Lujan**

Area School Officials or Teachers

         **John T. Harrington**

Affected Public-At-Large

         **Ron R. Ortega**

Replacement – Category C

         **Sandra J. Claypool**

I hereby appoint the selected candidates.

  
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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

          
Date 4/23/10