
Gallatin National Forest & Gallatin County News Release

For Immediate Release
Date: January 30, 2009

Contact: Marna Daley, 406-587-6703

Members Needed for Gallatin County Resource Advisory Committee

Bozeman, MT... The Gallatin National Forest and Gallatin County are seeking candidates for a Gallatin County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Membership is open to Montana residents.

Because this is a newly established RAC under the Secure Rural School (SRS) and Community Self Determination Act of 2000, 15 RAC members and alternates are needed. The purposes of the Secure Rural Schools Act include making investments and creating employment opportunities by prioritizing and implementing projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement forest stewardship objectives, and restore and improve land health and water quality.

Members of a RAC will review projects proposed under SRS Title II by participating counties, propose projects and funding, and coordinate with the Forest Service in recommending Title II projects. RAC members also provide opportunities for other interested parties to participate in developing Title II projects, monitor project implementation, and make recommendations for project adjustments or changes as needed.

Under the law, the 15 volunteer committee members are divided into three categories, and each member represents a particular set of interests. These categories could include representation from organized labor, developed recreation, off highway vehicle users, commercial recreation, energy or mineral development, commercial timber industry or non-timber forest product harvester groups, grazing permittees or holders of other land use permits, and commercial or recreational fishing interests. National environmental organizations, regional or local environmental organizations, wild horse and burro interests, wildlife or hunting organizations, watershed associations, archaeological or historical interests, and dispersed recreation representatives are also needed. Finally, representatives from state elected officers or their designees, county or local elected officers, American Indian tribes near the RAC area, school officials or teachers, and the affected public at large are needed. Committee members serve four-year terms.

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10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

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The Secure Rural Schools law gives states and counties payments for the next four years, tied to the amount of national forest land in the county and other factors. Counties designate a portion of the funds to projects reviewed by the RAC.

Any Montana resident interested in serving on the Gallatin County committee must complete an application form that will be used for a required background check. Applications are available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/>. Applications and further information is also available at Gallatin National Forest offices or the Gallatin County Commissioner's office or by calling (406) 587-6701 or (406) 582-3000. Printed, signed applications are due by March 6, 2009. Please mail applications to Gallatin National Forest, attn: Marna Daley, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771.

For more information, please visit www.fs.fed.us/srs/ .

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