

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LAKESWOOD, Colo., April 3, 2010 – The Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region and Bureau of Land Management Colorado (BLM) are seeking nominations to fill seven positions on the Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Council (Recreation RAC). The Council provides the agencies with recommendations on recreation fee matters for Forest Service and BLM lands in Colorado.

Positions expiring are 1) winter motorized, 2) summer motorized, 3) summer non-motorized, 4) non-motorized outfitter guides, 5) local environmental groups, 6) Colorado state tourism official, and 7) Indian tribes. Current members in these positions are eligible to re-apply.

The creation of the Recreation RAC is a requirement of the 2004 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), which helps the agencies deliver high-quality recreation services and facilities for public land visitors.

“Many recreation opportunities on our forests are free of charge,” said Regional Forester Rick Cables. “The Forest Service charges modest fees for sites where amenities are provided to enhance the quality of the recreation experience.” Examples of amenities include items such as picnic tables, trash collection, restroom facilities, potable water, boat ramps, and interpretive exhibits.

“The Recreation RAC, helps the BLM and Forest Service implement the provisions of the Recreation Enhancement Act with the help of those who enjoy recreation activities on Federal lands,” said Helen Hankins, State Director, BLM Colorado. “Recreation RACs play a vital role in helping us to achieve public satisfaction and participation.”

All Recreation RAC meetings will be open to the public. An opportunity to comment on each fee proposal is planned during each meeting. Council members will be recommended to the Regional Forester for appointment based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Does the person represent an interest group and how are they qualified to represent that group?
- Why the person wants to serve on the committee and what can they contribute?
- What is the person's past experience in working successfully as part of a collaborative group?

People selected for positions will serve three-year terms and can apply to serve a subsequent three-year term.

Additional information about recreation fees and REA is available at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/about-rec-fees.shtml>.

Persons interested in serving on the Recreation RAC may review the application criteria and obtain a nomination packet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rrac-application.shtml> or by contacting Pamela Devore at 303-275-5043 or pdevore@fs.fed.us. Letters of recommendation are welcome, but not required. Submit packet to **Pamela Devore, U.S. Forest Service, Recreation Fee Manager, 740 Simms Street, Golden, CO 80401**. Nominations for these positions will be accepted through June 15, 2010.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The following sidebar information provides additional selection criteria.

Members must represent certain interests as described in the December 2004 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). These interests are:

- Five people will represent recreation users who participate in activities such as summer and winter motorized and non-motorized recreation, and hunting and fishing;
- Three people who represent, as appropriate, the following recreation interest groups: motorized and non-motorized outfitting and guiding as well as environmental groups; and
- One person each to represent:
 - State tourism
 - Indian tribes
 - Local government