



News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Supervisor's Office
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Contacts: Ed Monnig, 775-355-5304
Michael Hampton, 775-355-5314

For Immediate Release on March 24, 2009 - Stop Date is May 1, 2009

Forest Seeks Citizen Participation for Resource Advisory Committees in Rural Nevada

Sparks, Nevada...The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest seeks citizens to participate on four new Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) being established for the following Nevada counties: Lyon and Mineral, Elko, Humboldt, and Nye and White Pine.

Resource Advisory Committees work in a collaborative nature to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service that are consistent with Title II of the reauthorized Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 as amended. (To learn more about Secure Rural Schools, go to the Forest's website, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/>. Go to the far-right column, and look for the heading labeled "Secure Rural Schools").

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; and, restore and improve land health and water quality. Title II funds may be used for projects that enjoy broad based support and have objectives such as:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration;
- Soil productivity improvement;
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health;
- Watershed restoration and maintenance;
- Restoration, improvement and maintenance of wildlife or fish habitat;
- Control of noxious weeds and invasive species; and,
- Re-establishment of native species.

-MORE-

Each of Nevada's four Committees will consist of 15 members and alternates appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Committee members shall be representative of the interests of the following three categories:

Category A

- Organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups
- Developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
- Energy and mineral development interests; or commercial or recreational fishing interests
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal grazing or other land use permittee or represent nonindustrial private forest land owners, within the area for which the RAC is organized

Category B

- Nationally recognized environmental organizations
- Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
- Dispersed recreational activities
- Archaeological and historical interests
- Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations

Category C

- State elected official or their designee
- County or local elected official
- American Indian tribes within or adjacent to committee area
- School officials or teachers
- Represent the affected public at large.

- Committee members serve a four-year term and must reside within the State of Nevada.
- To the extent practicable, each of the three categories shall be composed of local representatives.
- To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.
- Resource Advisory Committees will meet as often as is necessary to complete their business.
- Members of the Committee serve without compensation though can be reimbursement for travel and per diem for attendance at RAC meetings.

Interested candidates should contact either Forest Supervisor, Ed Monnig, at 775-355-5304, or Forest Coordinator, Michael Hampton, at 775-355-5314, or the local District Ranger for further information on this release.

-END-