



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service  
Joint News Release for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and  
Siskiyou National Forests**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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***FOR MORE INFORMATION:***

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## **Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee Collecting Project Proposals**

**ROSEBURG, OREGON** – The Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is currently accepting proposals from the public for resource management projects. Proposals will be accepted until April 1, 2004.

This RAC operates under the provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. It is responsible for evaluating and recommending resource management projects eligible for about \$2.9 million of funding each year. Projects should focus on restoring land health and water quality in or near national forest lands while putting people to work in Lane, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath counties. Whether the project proposals come from the Forest Service or other groups, the RAC is very interested in seeing work done that results in healthier forests, healthier watersheds, and a healthier local economy.

This is the fourth year this RAC will evaluate project proposals. Last summer, RAC members reviewed 95 project proposals from the Forest Service, the public, watershed councils, and other agencies. Of those proposals, the RAC recommended 56 projects for funding by the County Payments legislation. In the next round of projects, they hope to pick up right where they left off, putting the local contracting workforce to the important task of restoring the nations' watersheds and forests.

The Rogue/Umpqua RAC will meet July 8 and 9 in Roseburg to recommend projects for the 2005 field season. The projects must receive final approval from the Jim Caplan, designated federal official for the Rogue/Umpqua RAC.

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The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 gives counties a payment in lieu of taxes on federal lands equal to the average of their three highest years' payment for Forest products between 1986 and 1999. The counties are required to spend between 15 and 20 percent of their payments on either Title II or Title II projects. The Forest Service oversees the Title II funds.

Project proposals follow a standard format, available from local Forest Service offices or on the Internet at [http://wwwnotes.fs.fed.us:81/r4/payments\\_to\\_states.nsf](http://wwwnotes.fs.fed.us:81/r4/payments_to_states.nsf). Project proposals should be submitted to Umpqua Forest Supervisor at the Umpqua National Forest headquarters, 2900 NW Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, OR 97470. Caplan can be reached by phone at (541) 580-0839 or email at [jcaplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:jcaplan@fs.fed.us).

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