

News From The
**White Mountain
National Forest**

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Forest Service Seeks Volunteers for Resource Advisory Committee

Laconia, NH –The White Mountain National Forest is seeking volunteers to serve on a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) being formed for Oxford County, Maine. The RAC will be a mechanism for local community collaboration with Forest managers in recommending projects on federal lands, or projects on adjacent lands that will also benefit resources on federal lands. This Committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the Forest Service on Title II projects funded with Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act payments.

Committee members must be residents of Maine.

Selected applicants must pass a background check.

Appointments are for 4 years (or less if Title II funds are exhausted).

This is not a paid position; however, members may be reimbursed for travel expenses to meetings.

The Committee will be comprised of 15 members representing a broad spectrum of interests.

Under the 2008 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, counties which are located within the boundary of the White Mountain National Forest are eligible for certain federal funds. As part of the funding process Oxford County chose to receive funds under Title II of the Act. In order for these funds to be disbursed a RAC must be formed to provide advice on the use of the funds.

The 2008 Act specifies the membership of the RAC. Nominations for the required 15 members are being sought to fill three categories. In Category I five persons are being sought representing the following interests: (a) organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups; (b) developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities; (c) energy and mineral development, or commercial or recreation fishing interests; (d) commercial timber industry; or (e) holders of Federal grazing permits or other land use permits or who represent non-industrial private forest land owners.

To fill out the ranks of Category II five persons are sought who represent (a) nationally recognized environmental organizations; (b) regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations; (c) dispersed recreational activities; (d) archaeological and historical interests; or (e) nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed organizations.

In Category III five persons are sought who (a) hold State or elected office or their designee; (b) hold County or local elected office; (c) represent American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized; (d) are school officials or teachers; or (e) represent the affect public-at-large. All members must be residents of Maine, but not necessarily from within the geographical boundary of the White Mountain National Forest.

Efforts are being made to fill as many of these specific positions within each category for the 15 person committee. Selected applicants serve a four year term (until the end of the current Act.) This is not a paid position. Once formed the RAC members will determine their meeting schedule and operating procedures under the general guidelines for such RACs.

Applications for the RAC are available on the web at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain/rural_schools/ or you may pick one up at the Androscoggin or Saco Ranger District offices during regular business hours. Application due by **September 30, 2009**.

For more information about the Secure Rural Schools and County Self-Determination Act and the role of Resource Advisory Committees under the Act visit www.fs.fed.us/srs. For questions about the RAC being formed for the White Mountain National Forest please contact District Ranger Katie Stuart, Androscoggin Ranger District, 300 Glen Road, Gorham NH 603-466-2713 <kstuart@fs.fed.us> or District Ranger Terry Miller 603-447-2166 <twmiller@fs.fed.us>.

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