



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Flathead National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Has Vacancy

The Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) authorized by the United States Secretary of Agriculture has an opening for a replacement member representing a nationally, regionally or locally recognized environmental organization or archaeological and historical interests. Applications must be submitted to the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office by May 6, 2005. Applications are available from the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office and at www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/.

The Resource Advisory Committee consists of 15 members, each appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture for a three-year term. Members serve without compensation. Of the 15 members, five members represent each of three categories established by Congress to provide balanced and broad representation. There are also three alternate or replacement members for each category. The categories include:

Category A- organized labor, developed recreation, off-highway vehicle use or commercial recreation, energy and mineral development, commercial timber, and Federal grazing permits or other land-use permits

Category B- nationally, regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreation, archaeology and history, and nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro interests

Category C- State, county or local elected officials, American Indian Tribes, school officials or teachers and the public-at-large

The Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee was chartered in 2001 by the US Department of Agriculture under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is authorized under Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, Public Law 106-393.

The committee reviews and recommends projects for funding that will benefit local resources within Flathead County. Public Law 106-393 replaced an arrangement that gave counties 25% of the Forest Service receipts from logging, grazing, recreation and other activities on National Forest Lands. The law provides rural counties a predictable level of funding for local schools, roads and natural resource projects.

For more information about the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and the Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee, visit the Flathead National Forest's website at www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/ or contact Denise Germann, public affairs officer with the Flathead National Forest at 758-5252.

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