

# Forest Service News

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## **Citizens Sought for Deschutes/Ochoco National Forest Resource Advisory Committee**

The Forest Service is seeking people from communities throughout Central Oregon and locally elected officials or special interest group representatives as nominees for the Central Oregon Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Application forms must be received at the Ochoco National Forest office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The RAC represents a wide range of interests. The committee's duties include reviewing proposed land management projects on or adjacent to the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. The committee recommends which projects to fund and is responsible for coordinating with land management agencies and county officials. Projects are located in Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Wheeler, Grant, and Northern Klamath counties.

The four-year term would begin upon appointment by the Secretary of Agriculture. Committee members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses. Members must be Oregon residents, preferably living in one of the ten counties served by the RAC. Meetings are held at least once and up to four times during the year within one of the ten counties listed.

Each RAC consists of 15 members, split equally between the following three categories. There may also be a non-voting replacement member in each category. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will make the appointments to the RAC based on the applications received, striving to appoint members who have demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with others of different viewpoints.

### Category One:

- Organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups
- Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle, commercial recreation
- Energy and mineral development
- Commercial or recreational fishing
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area

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Category Two:

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

Category Three:

- State-elected office holders
- County or local elected officials
- American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas
- School officials or teachers
- Citizens representing the affected public at large

At this time the Forest Service is recruiting for two members in Category One, one member in Category Two, and four members in Category Three.

Jeff Walter, the Forest Service official currently responsible for the Central Oregon Forests RAC, is enthusiastic about the work of the committee. “The Central Oregon RAC has been a very productive committee and has had a positive influence on local communities. The RAC’s input, which includes advice and prioritization, has led to employment opportunities for local youth and the accomplishment of numerous resource projects on public lands,” said Walter.

In recent years, the Central Oregon Forests RAC decided which projects to recommend for funding with the approximate \$1 million in Title II dollars available annually. Funding for this and future years has not yet been determined.

Citizens interested in applying for RAC membership are encouraged to retrieve an application form (AD 755) on-line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/partnership/index.shtml> or from any Forest Service office.

Applications must be received at the Ochoco National Forest, ATTN: Laurel Skelton, RAC Coordinator, 3160 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Prineville, OR, 97754 no later than 4:30 p.m. November 21st. They must contain original signatures.

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