



# News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Jarbidge & Ruby Mountains Ranger Districts  
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**For Immediate Release on May 8, 2009**

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**Stop Date is June 1, 2009**

## **Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest Seeks Participants for Resource Advisory Committee in Elko County**

**Elko, Nevada...**The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is looking for interested residents to participate on a new Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) being established for Elko County. This Committee will be one of four new committees being established in Nevada under the reauthorized Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 as amended. Potential candidates need to submit their interest forms by June 1; see contacts listed at the end of this release, or go to our website, [www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/rac/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/rac/index.shtml) to download the interest form.

According to Tom Montoya, Mountain City District Ranger, "We're looking for individuals with energy and commitment that are dedicated to benefiting their National Forest in Elko County." Montoya said he is striving for a Resource Advisory Committee that represents a diverse array of interests and shares a common goal of doing something good for the public and the resources.

Congress reauthorized the Act in 2008, which will provide funding to 41 states over a four-year period from 2008 through 2011. 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

Under the payment schedule adopted by Elko County in Resolution No. 39-2008, a portion of the annual funds received as Title II Funds must be allocated to projects on federal lands. Distribution of this portion of funds would be overseen by the Resource Advisory Committee. Committee members will work in a collaborative nature to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service on how to spend these funds in a manner consistent with Title II of the reauthorized Secure Rural Schools Act.

Funds may be used for projects on Federal Lands that enjoy broad based support and have objectives such as:

- Road and trail improvement;
- 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.

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The Elko County RAC 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.

RAC 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. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, shall be followed in all membership appointments to the committee. 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 duties. Members of the Committee serve without compensation though they can be reimbursed for travel and per diem for attendance at RAC meetings.

Interested parties should contact Doug Clarke, Elko County RAC Coordinator, at 775-738-5171, Tom Montoya, Mountain City District Ranger, at 775-738-5171, or Gar Abbas, Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge District Ranger, at 775-752-3357, for further information on this release.

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