



News Release

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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For Immediate Release

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Forest Service Seeks Volunteers for Resource Advisory Committees

Rhineland, WI –February 20, 2009: The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) is seeking volunteers to serve on the two Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) being formed for the Forest. One RAC will serve the Chequamegon land base (west side); the other the Nicolet land base (east side). Each volunteer may serve on only one committee.

“One of the CNNFs biggest assets is the number of people who have an interest in how their National Forest is managed. Becoming a RAC member is an excellent way to take an active role in that management.” says Forest Supervisor, Jeanne Higgins. The RACs will be mechanisms for local community collaboration with Forest Service managers in recommending projects on federal lands, or projects that will benefit resources on federal lands. Currently, seven counties receive federal funds through Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, and will be represented on the RACs. The west-side counties are Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Sawyer and Taylor. The east-side counties are Forest and Oconto.

The CNNF is seeking nominations/applicants to fill slots each for the east and west side committees. The 15 members needed would represent the following interests as described in the Secure Rural School Act and reauthorized by Congress in September 2008:

Category I – Five persons 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 recreational fishing interests;
- (d) Commercial timber industry; or
- (e) Hold Federal grazing permits or other land use permits or represent non-industrial private forest land owners.

Category II – Five persons 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 interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations.

Category III – Five persons who –

- (a) Hold State elected office or their designee;
- (b) Hold County or local elected official;
- (c) Represent American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized;
- (d) School officials or teachers; or
- (e) Represent the affected public-at-large.

Selected applicants serve a four-year term. This is not a paid position. Applications are available on the web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/> or at any CNNF office. The applications need to be returned no later than **April 10, 2009**. Chequamegon-Nicolet managers will review submitted applications and forward the top three candidates in each category to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture for final selection. Selected applicants are subject to a background investigation.

For more information please call or e-mail Deb Kidd at (715) 362-1343, dpkidd@fs.fed.us. For more general information about the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/srs/>

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