



NEWS

From the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

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Resource Advisory Committees Meet to Recommend Projects

VANCOUVER, WA –Two Gifford Pinchot National Forest [Resource Advisory Committees](#) (RACs) will meet in April to review 2009 and 2010 Title II projects, committee structure, and budgets under the county payments law.

Since the inception of the Title II program, more than \$11.5 million has been approved for projects benefiting the National Forest and the local economy using county payment funds.

The North Gifford Pinchot National Forest RAC will meet on Tuesday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the [Salkum Timberland Library](#), 2480 U.S. Highway 12, Salkum, Wash. The North RAC will consider 15 proposed Title II projects. Total price tag for the proposals is approximately \$1.9 million.

The South Gifford Pinchot National Forest RAC will meet on Monday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the [Columbia Gorge Riverside Lodge](#), 200 SW Cascade Avenue, Stevenson, Wash. The South RAC will consider 58 proposed Title II projects. Total price tag for the proposals is approximately \$5.0 million.

The committees are required under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to review proposals for funding projects on the Forest or projects that benefit resources on National Forest lands. Each RAC has 15 members of various backgrounds.

All Gifford Pinchot National Forest Resource Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. An "Open Forum" session will be held at both meetings. Interested citizens may attend the "open forum" section, which provides an opportunity for the public to bring issues, concerns, and discussion topics to the Advisory Committee. Open forums for both meeting will be at 9:10 a.m.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 set a payment to counties based on the average of their three highest years' payments for Forest products between 1986 and 1999. The Act, was reauthorized in the fall of 2008, and extended until 2011.

"The key purpose of the RACs is to improve the health of watersheds and ecosystems, and support local economies," said Janine Clayton, Forest Supervisor. "Many excellent projects have been selected which has in turn strengthen our relationships with our communities," she said.

Since its inception many RAC projects have been completed with benefit to Forest users. Some of these projects include: enhancing wildlife forage, removal of hazardous trees along Forest roads, replacement of culverts improving fish passages, maintaining Forest roads and trails including work on areas damaged in recent winter storms, rehabilitation work on the Pacific Crest and Lava Canyon trails, fish habitat restoration, improving Huckleberry habitat, and removal of noxious weeds.

The counties can elect to spend between 15 and 20 percent of their payments on projects benefiting the National Forest lands. Title II projects require approval by the Forest Supervisor after being recommended by a RAC.

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