

NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument



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Officer
For Immediate Release

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Resource Advisory Council to Accept Project Proposals

Kernville, CA: The Kern and Tulare Counties Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is seeking a new round of applications for projects that would enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality on the Sequoia National Forest and other nearby lands in Tulare and Kern counties.

The RAC committee will have nearly \$70,000 to spend on projects in Tulare and Kern Counties this year, made available through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Proposals will be accepted in hard copy, by email, or in person, with this round due September 6, 2012. Proposal application forms and instructions are available on the Sequoia National Forest Website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia under “Kern and Tulare Counties RAC”.

The RAC works closely with the Forest Service to recommend projects that will benefit forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds and other resources; maintain roads, trails, and other infrastructure; or control noxious weeds.

The RAC has, from 2008-2011, funded seventeen projects in Kern and Tulare Counties, totaling nearly \$400,000. Projects funded include: trail maintenance in the Camp Nelson, Golden Trout Wilderness, Pacific Crest Trail, Long Meadow, Forks of the Kern, Trail of 100 Giants and Domeland Wilderness areas; Riverside Park improvements; Buck Rock Fire lookout restoration; and Alta Sierra and Johnsondale fuels reductions projects. Partnerships have included the Tule River Tribe, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council, Buck Rock Foundation, Backcountry Horsemen, Kern County Fire, and Kern Valley River Association.

Completed proposal forms can be sent hard copy to Penelope Shibley, RAC Coordinator, 105 Whitney Road, Kernville CA 93238, or by email to pshibley@fs.fed.us no later than September 6, 2012. Project proposals can also be brought in person to RAC committee meetings to be held from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on August 23, 2012 at the Sequoia National Forest Supervisor’s Office, 1839 South Newcomb, Porterville, CA 93257, and September 13, 2012 at the County of Kern Administrative Office, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield CA 93301. If you plan to present your proposal in person at either of these meetings please notify Penelope Shibley a week in advance by calling 760-376-3781 ext 650. Presentations will be limited to 10 minutes per proposal. The public is welcome to attend RAC meetings and observe the proceedings. For more information on the Committee or to learn more about proposing projects please contact the Designated Federal Official, Ranger Rick Larson at 760-376-3781 ext. 610.

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