

Cibola, Gila, and Lincoln National Forests

Forest Service News

PUBLIC INVITED TO PROPOSE FOREST PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

ALAMOGORDO, ALBUQUERQUE, and SILVER CITY, NM ...The Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is issuing a call for proposals for special projects on Federal lands (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/pts/>) under the 2012 Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Secure Rural Schools, or Act). Deadline for proposals is close of business August 10, 2012. The RAC will begin reviewing projects for possible funding recommendation during their meeting September 6, 2012.

The estimated funds (approximately \$628,000) are limited to Catron (\$293,387), Grant (\$82,610), Lincoln (\$38,700), Otero (\$66,627), Sierra (\$78,912), and Socorro (\$67,431) Counties. Projects must be located on, or benefit, the Cibola (Magdalena Ranger District), Gila, or Lincoln National Forests. Funding would be available no earlier than the February 2013. Proposals and Title II monies will be recommended by the RAC to the Designated Federal Official (DFO), Kelly Russell, based on each affected County's available Title II monies.

All applicants must contact the affected National Forest District Ranger (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r3/about-region/offices>) prior to submitting a proposal(s) for their input and to obtain the list of required elements for a complete proposal package. You can find the required items document at the Southern New Mexico RAC website https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure_rural_schools.nsf/RAC/Southern+New+Mexico?OpenDocument.

The Secure Rural Schools legislation encourages cooperative agreements with willing Federal agencies, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resource objectives consistent with the purposes of the Act that benefit resources on national forest system lands. The types of proposals eligible for funding may include:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration;
- Soil productivity improvement;
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health;
- Watershed restoration and maintenance;
- The restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat;
- The control of noxious and exotic weeds; and
- The re-establishment of native species.

There will be two sessions made available to the public to assist in filling out project submission forms. The first session will be held July 30 at the Lincoln National Forest Supervisors Office, 3463 Las Palomas Road, Alamogordo, NM 88310; and second session on July 31 at the Gila National Forest Supervisors Office, 3005 East Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061.

People should submit proposals one of two ways: 1) On-line at https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure_rural_schools.nsf and then connect to the Southern New Mexico RAC (click on 'Propose a Title II Project' and select the link to the on-line form at the bottom of the text); or 2) Download the Rich Text Format document at the website as cited in #1, fill it out, and mail it directly to the RAC Coordinator at pturpin@fs.fed.us and attach it to an email.

Proposals sent hardcopy are to be mailed to Patti Turpin/RAC Coordinator at the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office, 3463 Las Palomas Rd, Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310 after input has been received from the affected District Ranger and include the items required by the RAC.

The public is welcome to attend all RAC meetings which are announced through the Federal Register and news releases in the local newspapers of record. For more information on the RAC or to learn more about proposing projects please contact RAC DFO, Kelly Russell, at 575-388-8304 or RAC Coordinator, Patti Turpin at 575-434-7230.

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