

News Release



USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region



USDI Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington

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Applicants Sought for Recreation Resource Advisory Committee Members

PORTLAND, Date 2006 – The Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are seeking nominations to fill 11 positions on a Recreation Resource Advisory Council (Recreation RAC). The Council will provide the agencies with recommendations on recreation fee matters for federal lands in Oregon and Washington.

The creation of the Recreation RAC is part of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) which helps the agencies deliver high quality recreation services and facilities for the American public.

REA, which became law in December 2004, permits the Department of the Interior's National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service to continue investing in America's recreation future by charging modest fees at campgrounds, rental cabins, and other high-impact recreation areas of federal lands.

However, many outdoor recreation opportunities on national forests continue to be free of charge including general access, traveling through areas where no facilities or services are used, access to overlooks or scenic pullouts, and solely for parking, and picnicking along roads or trails.

“Nearly ~~xxx~~ percent of the recreation opportunities on our forests are free of charge,” said Regional Forester Linda Goodman. “Modest fees are charged for sites where amenities are provided to enhance the quality of the recreation experience.” Examples include items such as picnic tables, restroom facilities, boat ramps, and interpretive exhibits.

The new Recreation RAC, will help the two agencies implement the provisions of REA in coordination with those who enjoy recreation activities on Federal lands. Agency managers recognize that these Recreation RACs as well as other public participation, notification, and communication efforts play a vital role in achieving the greatest degree of public satisfaction possible.

All Recreation RAC meetings are open to the public and an open public forum is part of each meeting.

Council members will be recommended to the Regional Forester for appointment based on the following evaluation criteria:

- What interest groups they represent and how they are qualified to represent that group.
- Why they want to serve on the committee and what they can contribute.
- Their past experience in working successfully as part of a collaborative group

People selected for positions will initially serve two or three-year terms and can apply to serve a subsequent three-year term.

Additional information about recreation fees and REA is available at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/about-rec-fees.shtml>. *(Also give BLM site if one is available)*

Persons interested in serving on the Recreation RAC may review the application criteria and obtain an nomination packet at www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rrac or by contacting Shandra Terry. Letters of recommendation are welcome, but not required. Submit packet to *Shandra Terry, U.S. Forest Service, Public and Legislative Affairs, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208*. Nominations for these positions will be accepted through *(give date)*.

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Note to editors: the following sidebar information provides additional selection criteria.

Potential nominees must represent certain interests as described in the December 2004 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). These interests are:

- Five people will represent recreation users who participate in activities such as summer and winter motorized and non-motorized recreation, and hunting and fishing;
- Three people who represent, as appropriate, the following recreation interest groups: motorized and non-motorized outfitting and guiding as well as environmental groups; and
- Three people who represent:
 - State tourism
 - Indian tribes
 - Local government.