

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



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Citizens Sought for Resource Advisory Committee

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is accepting applications for vacancies in the Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). “While we plan to reappoint current members interested in another term, we expect there will be a several vacancies to fill,” stated Jerry Reese, Forest Supervisor for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. “We are looking for several qualified candidates who have an interest in National Forest management to fill these vacancies.”

The Eastern Idaho RAC was formed three years ago to implement provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000, commonly referred to as the Craig-Wyden legislation. That law is designed to stabilize payments received by counties for schools and roads. More than \$60,000 has been made available for projects on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and the RAC solicits, reviews and selects which projects will be funded.

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues from commodity receipts have been returned to the states in which national forests were located. The states then transferred these payments to counties. This law was replaced in 2000 by Congress. The current law stabilizes payments and will be in effect until 2006.

Individuals wishing to serve on an area RAC must reside in Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville, Bingham, Caribou, Bannock, Power, Oneida, Franklin, or Bear Lake County. They need to have an interest in the management of Forest Service lands and a desire to work collaboratively with a variety of interests.

The RAC consists of 15 local citizens and three alternates representing a wide array of perspectives and interests. Committee members serve a three-year term without monetary compensation. Their role is to recommend forest management projects to the Forest Service.

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The composition of each RAC will be balanced, with five members being selected from each of the following three categories: timber/grazing/recreational, environmental/historical/wildlife, and governments/educational/citizens.

Individuals interested in RAC vacancies can obtain an application form from any of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Offices, or on the website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/projects/rac/index.shtml>. The completed application should be returned to Joanna Bennett, Forest Service, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401. **Applications are due by July 31, 2004.** The information from applications will be used to conduct background checks, which is required by federal law prior to a RAC appointment.

Once the Forest Service receives applications, recommendations will be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture who will formally appoint members to the RAC.

For information about the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, please visit the website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/projects/rac/index.shtml>, or contact Joanna Bennett or Lynn Ballard at 208-524-7500.