



**Forest Service**

Allegheny National Forest  
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# News Release

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## **Allegheny National Forest Announces Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Members; Now Accepting Project Proposals**

**Warren, Pa.** (Oct. 13, 2016) - U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack recently appointed 12 local citizens to serve on the Allegheny National Forest’s Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The ANF is still seeking three other interested people from Forest County to complete the fifteen-member committee. The members are:

<b>Member:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Karen Atwood	Developed Outdoor Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle Users, or Commercial Recreation Activities
Craig Mayer	Energy and Mineral Development or Commercial or Recreational Fishing Groups
Joseph Scully	Organized Labor or Non-Timber Forest Product Harvester Groups
Susan Swanson	Commercial Timber Industry
Meredith Hill	Regionally or Locally Recognized Environmental Groups
Kirk Johnson	Regionally or Locally Recognized Environmental Groups
Julia McCray	Archaeology and History
Gwendolyn Pfaff-Wills	Nationally or Regionally Recognized Wild Horse and Burro Interest, Wildlife or Hunting Organizations, or Watershed Associations
James Hovey	Affected Public-At-Large
Elton Kline	Area School Official or Teacher
Cynthia Morrison	County or Local-Elected Office
Robert Snyder	County or Local-Elected Office

“I am pleased to have these members on the Resource Advisory Committee because their varied interests and areas of expertise will provide sound recommendations on the development and implementation of special projects on federal lands,” said Forest Supervisor Sherry Tune.

The Allegheny National Forest has approximately \$180,000 of Secure Rural Schools Act Title II funds and is soliciting new proposals to fund projects in Forest County. The projects should benefit fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds and other resources; or maintain roads, trails, and other existing infrastructure; obliterate unneeded roads; or control noxious weeds. The projects can either be located on National Forest System lands in Forest County or on other nearby lands if the project enhances the resources on the ANF.

Completed project applications must be received by November 15, 2016. The RAC will review projects for possible funding late 2016. The public is welcome to attend the RAC meeting. "We look forward to working with the RAC to identify and implement projects that will provide long-term benefits to the local communities as well as to public resources," said District Ranger Rich Hatfield, who is the RAC Designated Federal Official.

Hatfield noted that projects can be completed by Forest Service personnel, through partnership agreements or by open-bid contracting with individuals and corporations. He also said that groups that submitted proposals in May and June 2016, do not need to re-submit their proposals. "This second round of project solicitation is intended to augment the project proposals that were already received," Hatfield said.

Project proposal forms and general information can be found on the ANF's website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/allegheny/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>

For additional information about project proposals or to be considered for a member of the RAC, please contact Rich Hatfield at [rhatfield@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhatfield@fs.fed.us) or 814.363.6098.

Additional information about the Secure Rural Schools Act Title II funds and Resource Advisory Committees may be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/specialprojects/racs>

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The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region includes 20 states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/R9>.

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us).

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