

The Recorder

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USFS needs advisory committee members

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BY MIKE BOLLINGER • STAFF WRITER

HOT SPRINGS — The U.S. Forest Service needs people to serve on the Virginia Resource Advisory Committee for the George Washington and Jefferson national forests.

Committee members review and recommend projects that benefit national forest resources for funding through Title II of the Secure Rural Schools Community and Self Determination Act.

According to an email distributed Monday by district ranger Theresa Tanner of the George Washington and Jefferson forests, \$760,358 has been recommended for projects that improve the existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems and restore and improve land health and water quality.

“I am happy to answer any questions folks may have about applying to serve on the RAC. Title II funds help fund competitive proposals to improve access to forest recreation opportunities, improve watershed health, etc.,” Tanner said. “I’d love to see local business owners, non-profit leads, natural resource/sciences educators and others aware of this opportunity to serve our communities. RAC members serve four years, and (in my experience) it is a reasonable and discrete recurring time commitment.”

The George Washington and Jefferson national forests are recruiting to fill 15 vacancies on the RAC, five in each of five categories.

- Category A will include members who represent energy and mineral development, the commercial timber industry, organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups, developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users or commercial recreation and those who have federal grazing or other land permits or represent non-industrial forest landowners.

- Category B will include members who represent nationally recognized environmental organizations, regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreational activities, archaeological and historical interests, nationally or regionally recognized wild horse groups, wildlife or hunting organizations or watershed associations.

- Category C will include members who hold state elected office, hold county or local elected office, represent Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the council is organized, are school officials or teachers with knowledge in natural resource management or the natural sciences or represent the public and/or are employed by a state agency responsible for the management of natural resources including land or water.

Applications and related information are posted at fs.usda.gov under Working with Us, then under committees. Application materials and additional questions should be directed to the committee coordinator, Rebecca Robbins, at Rebecca.robbins@usda.gov.

To contact Tanner locally, email her at theresa.tanner@usda.gov.