



**U.S. Forest Service
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
30 S Chiricahua Drive
Springerville, AZ 85938**

Web: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf

Twitter: @A_SNFs

www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnf

News Release

**Media Contact: Marta Call
928-333-6280
martaicall@fs.fed.us**



Eastern Arizona Resource Advisory Council now accepting Grant Proposals

Springerville, AZ, September 21, 2015—For Immediate Release. The Eastern Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) is now accepting proposals for review and possible funding. The funding is available through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, which has been reauthorized by Congress.

The primary location for projects is on federal lands on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (all districts), and the Coronado National Forest (Safford Ranger District), and the Tonto National Forest (Globe, Pleasant Valley, Tonto Basin, or Payson districts). However, projects can be on non-federal lands within Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Navajo counties where projects would benefit the National Forests. The Act authorizes grants to federal agencies, State and local governments, private and non-profit entities for projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructures such as roads, trails, recreation facilities, or projects that improve forest health and restore and improve land health and water quality.

The following types of projects are eligible:

- Road, trail access, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration
- Soil health and productivity improvement
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health and productivity
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds
- Encourage sustainable recreation opportunities
- Re-establishment of native species
- Other (i.e., fire prevention, integrated pest management, etc.)

Each project will be evaluated on how cost-effective it is and to what extent partners are involved, how the project improves the quality of human life including any employment opportunities, and how many benefits accrue to ecosystem health. Selected projects will generally be less than \$75,000 though worthy proposals may be considered at higher funding levels.

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Project proposals will be reviewed at the 2016 RAC meeting (exact date and location to be determined). Projects recommended and approved by the Forest Supervisor will be funded in summer 2016, after completion of any needed agreements or other obligating instruments. Successful applicants must ensure that the required legal paperwork is completed and signed before they begin their project.

Potential applicants for Title II funding should discuss their proposal with, and must have a letter of support from, the affected District ranger before submitting an application. The Act allows Title II funds to be used for some of the costs of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and/or for on-the-ground project implementation. All project proposals for on-the-ground project work need to be covered by any required NEPA and associated analyses at the time of the proposal. **The deadline for submission of proposals is December 1, 2015 and all proposals must be received or be postmarked by this date.**

The electronic RAC Proposal Form and guidance for applicants is available at the following web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/asnf/workingtogether/advisorycommittees> or by contacting Marta Call at 928.333.6280 or via email martaicall@fs.fed.us.

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