

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Resource Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Yakima, Kittitas, and Chelan Counties Title II Projects

April 27, 2022 -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until all tasks are accomplished

Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) members in attendance:

- Group A: Travis Hornby, Al Murphy, Brandt Cappell
- Group B: Meghan Craig, Powys Gadd, Darcy Batura
- Group C: Keith Goehner, Bob Bugert, Amy Ramsey, Jeff Hardesty

Victoria Wilkins – meeting facilitator
 Robin DeMario – note taker
 Deb Kelly – behind the scenes Zoom coordinator
 Designated Federal Official – Kristin Bail

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| Welcome, Introductions and RAC business |
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- One-minute review of agenda
 - The project proposed by TREAD for Architecture & Engineering Designs on the North Fork and Cottonwood Campgrounds for Chelan County has been withdrawn.
 - Meghan Craig will be joining us at 10 a.m. so we will have to hold off on voting until she joins the meeting.
- Brief introductions of RAC members
- Discuss plans for the June 22 in-person RAC meeting—Kristin Bail.
 - The Forest Service is starting its resumption of normal operations, we will be going back to our offices on June 6; we will still have some telework but there will be more in-person communications. The headquarters office, which is undergoing remodeling, won't resume operations until mid-August due to supply chain issues of furniture and equipment.
 - In December, the terms of five current RAC members will be expiring (two positions are currently vacant). Would you please let folks know how important these positions are, and how they help make decisions on projects and work on the forest? Please share with friends and family members about the upcoming vacancies.
 - The funding amounts for each county are the anticipated amounts, they haven't been received on the forest yet, our national office is working on getting those monies to us.

Lists of proposed projects for RAC members to discuss:

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| YAKIMA COUNTY PROJECTS |
| 2022 Secure Rural Schools Title II Proposed Project List for Yakima County: |

| # | Project Name | Project Sponsor | Funds Requested |
|-------------------|---|--|------------------|
| 1 | #1 Rock Creek Road #1702 pavement repair project | Naches Ranger District (Bruce Bernard) | \$50,000 |
| 2 | #2 Naches District Noxious Weed Management | Naches Ranger District (Helen Lau) | \$38,000 |
| 3 | Tread Lightly! Info & Outreach Open Access Campaign | Tread Lightly (Anna Baklund) | \$22,539 |
| Total requested = | | | \$110,539 |

Potential FY 21 Title II funds available for Yakima County = **\$102,673**
 (a difference of \$7,866 between the total requested and the total available)
 The number before the project title is the District Ranger priority order for Forest Service projects.

KITITAS COUNTY PROJECTS

2022 Secure Rural Schools Title II Proposed Project List for Kittitas County:

| # | Project Name | Project Sponsor | Funds Requested |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Cle Elum/Roslyn/Teaway Cooperative Weed Mgmt. | Cle Elum Ranger District (Helen Lau) | \$30,000 |
| 2 | PNW4WDA Table Mtn Puncheon Restorations | Nichol Phillips (PNW4WDA) | \$16,640 |
| 3 | WSU Bioagent Control Project—Kittitas County | Dale Whaley (WSU) | \$9,912 |
| 4 | Conservation NW Rec & Aquatic Resilience in CERD | Jen Syrowitz (Conservation NW) | \$42,000 |
| 5 | Mtns to Sound Historic Structure Assessment Project | Nicky Pasi (Mtns to Sound Greenway) | \$24,000 |
| Total requested = | | | \$122,552 |

Potential FY 21 Title II funds available for Kittitas County = **\$111,870**
 (a difference of \$10,682 between the total requested and the total available)

CHELAN COUNTY PROJECTS

2022 Secure Rural Schools Title II Proposed Project List for Chelan County:

| # | Project Name | Project Sponsor | Funds Requested |
|-------------------|--|--|------------------|
| 1 | #1 Chelan RD Crupina Cooperative Management | Chelan Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | \$44,100 |
| 2 | #2 Chelan RD Rec Sites & Roads Invasive Plant Control | Chelan Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | \$32,029 |
| 3 | #1 Entiat RD Invasive Plant Control-CGs, THs, Roads | Entiat Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | \$32,029 |
| 4 | #1 Wenatchee River RD Invasive Plant Control Recreation Sites & Roads | Wenatchee River Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | \$45,359 |
| 5 | Chelan Co. Noxious Weed Board/FS Cooperative Common Crupina Project 2023 | Julie Sanderson (Chelan Co. Noxious Weed Board) | \$37,788 |
| 6 | East Fork Mission Creek Trail Re-Route | Erin McKay (Chelan County Natural Resources) | \$11,600 |
| 7 | WSU Bioagent Control Project—Chelan County | Dale Whaley (WSU) | \$9,912 |
| 8 | NYC Entiat RD Trail Reconstruction & Mtnce Project | Edison Velez III (NW Youth Corps) | \$38,992 |
| 9 | NYC Heather Lake Trail Erosion Control & Trail Mtnce | Edison Velez III (NW Youth Corps) | \$38,992 |
| Total requested = | | | \$290,801 |

Potential FY 21 Title II funds available for Chelan County = **\$107,693**
 (a difference of \$183,108 between the total requested and the total available)
 The number before the project title is the District Ranger priority order for Forest Service projects.

Yakima County Title II Project Proposals

Naches Ranger District review of 2021 projects that received Title II funding and 2022 project proposals:

Update on the 2021 Title II Funded Solar Powered Electric Sign Boards Project—Naches District Ranger Aaron Stockton

We are working through the process to purchase one sign board. Due to the cost, the purchase has to go through contracting.

Update on the 2021 Naches Ranger District Noxious Weed Management project—Helen Lau

Funds weren't delivered until winter. We set up an agreement with Yakima County Weed Control Board. The other half of the project, with the meadow restoration work, we are partnering with different hydrology education groups creating maps and field work this summer

Naches Ranger District 2022 Noxious Weed Management project—Helen Lau

For the 2022 Title II project we created some online field forms in ArcGIS Survey 123 as we have other entities doing fish work in the streams. We are working collectively together for watershed enhancement using historical photos and doing meadow survey preparation.

This year we are asking for a continuation of the project from last year. Venenata treatment areas are within the Schneider Springs Fire area, we will see how it turned out this spring

We are putting our energy into meadows. Part of that work is mapping noxious weeds and looking at areas with cross coordination, sensitive habitats, and where mudding is happening; we will do education to inform people. Naches District Noxious Weed Management addresses:

- Recreational opportunities and educational experiences.
- Wetlands act as natural water purifiers.
- Reduce downstream flood ecosystems.
- Upland wildlife for food and shelter.
- Wetlands are particularly vital to many migratory bird species.
- The high diversity of plants, animals and water features.
- Sightseeing, hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, bird watching, and photography.
- Ecological, cultural, and historic resources.

Question (Q): Venenata is an extremely aggressive species, what is the plan of attack against that weed?

Answer (A): It is a grass that we are all grappling with. Fire creates a negative feedback cycle. We are using herbicide, which kills all grasses, so we are doing studies to see which other herbicides work better. We are trying to do prevention, no disturbance; spraying, and then seeding with annual grass.

Q: Are you doing a two-cycle follow-up at the sites?

A: It's difficult to say, all of these require multiple years for adaptive management. Creating local stewards and education is a large piece of the puzzle.

Update on 2021 Lost Lake Road Surface Conversion project—Bruce Bernard

The contract was awarded and was fully funded. We will complete that work this summer.

Naches Ranger District 2022 Rock Creek Road #1702 Pavement Repair project—Bruce Bernard

This project is located 18 miles west of Naches, WA, on Highway 410. It involves the intersection of Highway 410 and Forest Service Road #1702.

Project goals and objectives:

- Patch, replace, and repair the 0.48 miles of degraded asphalt on Rock Creek Road.
- Improve user safety and facilitate user comfort on a public and multi-jurisdictional used access route.
- FS Road #1702 provides daily access for several Rock Creek residents. The degrading condition of the surface has been a recurring concern and complaint from the local community.
- The Forest Service has invested \$165,000 toward this project. The estimated repair cost is \$50,000 per 1/10th mile. The funds requested are to aid in accomplishing as much as possible.

The road is full of potholes. It provides access to private property, Department of Natural Resources managed lands, and is heavily used for hunting and for access to recreation areas.

We will do patching for the asphalt repairs. Forest Service funding of \$65,000 will go towards this work. Our Title II request is for \$50,000 per 1/10 mile for necessary patch work. Locally, we have received lots of letters of support asking for this road to be repaired.

Q: What is the road base there, will the patch work hold up? Is it a good solid base or just overlay?

A: We will maintain the existing base. During the patching we go into the subbase to reinforce it; existing slopes and crowning will be maintained. The existing issues won't be fixed with this patching. Maintenance has not been done on this road in recent history. What we are seeing now is the long-term lack of maintenance which encourages the continuation of erosion. With these patches the road will operate as it is supposed to.

Naches Tread Lightly! Info & User Outreach Respected Access Campaign—Danielle Fowler-McNiven, Anna Baklund, & Deb Kelly

Victoria Wilkins: We reached out to Tread Lightly! to ask them to help us with some education campaigns to address some of the motorized challenges we are seeing on the forest, especially from new forest users. Tread Lightly! has a great track record with messaging, and campaigns they have done have proven to be very successful.

Danielle McNiven: I'm the assistant director at Tread Lightly! and Anna Baklund is the Pacific Northwest Program Manager. Tread Lightly! was created by the USFS in 1985 to speak directly to motorized users about responsible motorized use in the forest. It received 501(c)(3) designation in 1990. The USFS remains one of our strongest supporters and partners. We have a scalable budget and the ability to remove items to suit the Resource Advisory Committee's priorities. We are matching with an in-kind match.

Q: In the project spreadsheet there is a cost for travel up to the forest, I'm curious what's the purpose of the trips to the forest? Also, are the signs generic or specific to the forest you are assisting?

A: Both. We can provide general Tread Lightly messaging and also very specific info unique to individual national forests. We work with the forests to provide info that is best for users in their areas. Travel is for Anna to get to and from the site to do the sign placement. Also, for some volunteer labor to get the signs in place (club members, volunteers, etc.)

Q: Someone from the national forest could post those generic signs which would save some cost there, but with the kiosks you'd need to place them.

A: We like to use partner and volunteer labor. This gives us a little leeway so we can figure out what we need.

Victoria Wilkins: Forest employees would be putting the signs out when they are out in the field doing their daily work.

Q: As you have a scalable budget, what are the things that you could drop off and still be effective?

A: We would have to determine what is the biggest need. We could do fewer panels or print fewer posters and use materials we have in our office. We could also reduce the number of educational materials. It just depends on what the most significant need is.

Comment: If this can educate new users then there won't be so many impacts.

Danielle McNiven: We hope this will kick off the campaign in the Pacific Northwest.

Public comments about Yakima County Projects: Jen Syrowitz from Conservation Northwest: She will connect Anna Baklund with one of her colleagues at Conservation NW. How coordinated are you with the Recreate Responsibly Coalition (RRC)?

Danielle McNiven: We coordinate with RRC, but we are not directly involved in their messaging. We have worked with RRC but only on the fringes.

Kittitas County Title II Projects

Cle Elum Ranger District review of 2021 projects that received Title II funding and 2022 project proposals:

2021 Title II Projects status updates—Lindsey Pruett

- **Dispersed area Litter, Dumping & Abandoned vehicle removal project**—We have had a partnership with Friends of Trails for over 20 years. This group helps remove trash from public lands. We can't keep up with the amount of trash and abandoned vehicles that are left on the forest. Between June and September last year, Friends of Trails helped us remove and dispose of 2.5 tons of debris and trash (including porta potties, tents, tables, jet ski, canopies, chairs, two metal safes, dog kennel, stoves, 30 tires, etc.). We will continue to pursue this in 2022.
- **Winter trail maintenance project**—We received Title II funds late in the year for this project and will use the money in early fall and winter to get set up for winter recreation.
- **Beverly Campground Toilet Replacement project**—We received funding to replace the toilets, this project was pushed back and we plan to install them by FY2023.

Q: Funding didn't come in in a timely manner, what is the issue with that?

A: There was a delay in getting funds allocated with job codes to the districts. Delays were outside our control. We are working on how we can make that happen more quickly in the future. Because we don't have the funds for this year's projects there will be some process delay for these projects. We are working on getting those job codes allocated.

Kristin Bail: We received late appropriations from Congress last year and also this year. We learn what is in our control and be prepared to act quickly when the funds do arrive on forest.

Comment: Work cannot begin until you are authorized to spend the money, externals need to know that.

Comment: It's disconcerting when we have volunteer groups ready to do the work and the money isn't available.

Cle Elum Ranger District Noxious Weed Management 2021 update & 2022 project proposal—Helen Lau

- Last spring, we were awarded funds to do cooperative weed management area around Cle Elum. We are working with partners, it's still ongoing, and we are continuing that work. We are bringing on local citizens to help and be stewards of areas and also do education.
- A large portion of this watershed is national forest land but the watershed just east is Teanaway. There are a variety of cities adjacent and a large portion of state land. We've mapped invasives documented on national forest lands but we know it does not stop here.
- In the Teanaway a new land allocation has formed the Teanaway Community Forest which adjoins now to the town of Roslyn and Cle Elum.
- This type of organization is even more important managing the landscape in a coordinated method. Some of the work involves working with partners, educational programs, as well as helping be a local resource for other agencies lacking botanists.
- The connectivity of recreation over a variety of land ownerships and uses begs the need for more coordination.
- One really effective way to manage invasives is not only using integrated weed management, such as chemical/manual/biological methods of removal and education, but also forming a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). One example is how we work with Washington State University which is an important distinction. They specifically work in the field of biological control and are our partners. We need each other yet one method is not the only solution. In addition, understanding our local constituents and who is doing what or not doing what with invasive plant control is also equally as important. One very successful model has been the development of a CWMA for the Upper Yakima. Each is important to be at the table because we all have different land management objectives or different uses but working together for a collective management which is important and a more efficient and effective way to manage the land. These groups can more effectively coordinate

work on the ground, treat a common priority, and share skills and funds. This has been very successful in managing invasives in the upper Yakima.

Q: What about rehabilitation of the vacant niche once the weeds are gone? This is half a project, just the removal of the weeds and not the rehabilitation of the vacant niche. We get halfway there and it will be re-occupied by another invasive plant species.

A: It is not a one and done deal. We use biological controls on contiguous populations. We use spot spraying targeting individual plants. We recognize the need for seeding. We do not use glycolates very often.

Joe Rausch—The Cle Elum botanists have a robust native plant program of native seed. A lot of that seed is being used on the I-90 program where there is bare dirt. No revegetation was proposed in this project. There is a need to map out the populations and restoration of the native plants.

2021 Meadow Protection Project Status Update & 2022 Recreation & Aquatic Resilience 2022 project—Jen Syrowitz, Conservation Northwest

- **2021 Project status update: 2021 Meadow Protection, User Outreach & Education project (Naches):** We work a lot with the Forest Service in restoring forest habitat. Last year we asked for Title II funds to help with meadow restoration. We will work on Recreate Responsibly signage that is going to the printer next week and then meet with the Forest Service for placement of the signs and also buck and rail fencing. Signs will be installed this summer and 1,814 feet of buck and rail fence will also be installed this summer. We will have another field trip on June 3 to reaffirm where we want to best install these structures.
- **2022 Recreation and Aquatic Resilience project (Cle Elum):** We submitted one proposal that covers two project areas 1. Taneum Restoration Project and 2. Swauk Pine Restoration Project.
 1. Taneum Road--decommissioning of .65 mile of road as part of this project. A quarter mile of those roads (two segments of .8 and .7 mile each) need to be fully decommissioned before fuels treatments can take place. A .4-mile area near Icewater Creek also needs to be decommissioned.
 2. Swauk Pine recreation and aquatic resilience project identifies dispersed campsites and their impacts on aquatic species. We are looking to reduce that dispersed campground footprint area in half. We want to decommission the trail that goes through the creek, redefine the parking, and create a more sustainable campsite.

Questions: None

Table Mountain Puncheon Restoration project—Nichol Phillips, Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Assoc. (PNW4WDA)

- The Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Assoc. will restore two puncheons in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, just outside the Table Mountain Management Area.
- There are two puncheons that are 20 feet and 50 feet long. The restorations will fall in line with US Forest Service Standard Trail Plans and Specifications for “Standard Puncheon”.
- We will be donating our hours and boots on the ground to this project.
- We have been working in this area with several different clubs, motorcycle groups, and UTV groups.
- The goal is to conserve natural resources and motorized trail access and assist with backlogged maintenance efforts.
- Materials will be purchased from Bator Lumber, a local lumber supplier.
- The project will be performed by volunteers from the PNW4WDA. The PNW4WDA yearly contributes roughly 1,500 volunteer hours on the Cle Elum Ranger District.
- Similar work has successfully been performed by several members of the PNW4WDA members in the Naches area.

Q: Under #14 in your project proposal, it says three structures, is that a typo?

A: Yes, there are just two structures.

Mountains to Sound Historic Structure Assessment Project—Nicky Pasi, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

- We are a non-profit that has works with the Forest Service for many years on trail maintenance, weed control, and historic assessments.
- Our goal is to do historic structure condition assessment on four historic structures enabling future repairs.
- Issue: Red Top Lookout, Thorp Mountain Lookout, Swauk Picnic Shelter, and Taneum Picnic Shelter were built between 1920 and 1930. The Lookouts are still in use during the summer. The picnic shelters get a lot of use.
- Exposure, deterioration and vandalism has occurred.
- These are popular destinations and public use areas; their deteriorated condition creates safety issues.
- Alternatives are to repair or condemn. The agency doesn't have the staff needed to enforce closure of these facilities (this happened at Salmon la Sac even though there were closed signs and ribbon around the structure prohibiting entrance).
- User benefits: Safer facilities, restored amenity, increased engagement with Cle Elum District staff, and interpretive opportunities. Committing to preservation generates good will among the local community; there is a lot of community interest in seeing this work being done.
- USFS benefits: Determines repair scope, utilizes relationship with licensed restoration specialist, alleviates need for enforcement, avoids condemnation of historic structures, educational programming opportunities.
- Financial Need: Requested Title II contribution of \$24,000 and a total project cost of \$26,000 (materials, supplies contractor staff time and volunteer instruction)

Q: As the former program manager for these structures, I am very familiar with these sites. My only concern about this project is the condition of these structures can change in just one season. There needs to be money to do the restoration work as soon as possible after the assessments are completed. The assessments need to be timed with the actual restoration work and treatment rather than putting that off. Logs and Timbers is a fantastic company, it's just the timing. It's better to do an assessment on one project and then get money for the actual repair work and come back later to do the same thing with the other structures.

A: It's possible to take an existing assessment and apply it. It is difficult to get grant money if we don't have an idea of what the assessment costs will be. We hope to get funding from the Great American Outdoors Act which is limited to a certain time period.

Comment: The Forest Service used HistoriCorps on the Silver Falls shelter project. All of these structures need continuous maintenance.

Kristin Bail: Multiple assessments are needed now to secure funding for restoration work through a 2024 grant or some other pot of money.

Comment: Thank you for explaining the need to do all the assessments now versus doing them on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Who are you working with on the Forest?

A: Linsey Pruett. The new Archaeologist program manager will be onboard soon.

2021 & 2022 Integrated Weed Control in Kittitas & Chelan Counties—Dale Whaley, WSU

- Update on 2021 project, 10 education programs were done, 943 participants, 40 weed control recommendations, protection over 2,000 acres, and 35 revegetation recommendations were also given.
- Biological weed control is the intentional use of one living organism to control/suppress another organism, such as weeds. Some forms are insects, mammals, nematodes, pathogens, mites, etc.
- Advantages: Safe—USDA APHIS approves biological control agents before introduction into the U.S.
- Ecologically desirable—herbicide alternative
- Insects are mobile
- Long-term solution to a long-term problem
- Cost effective because insects are self-perpetuating; insects have been recorded flying up to a mile away from their release points
- Benefits/cost ratio of \$15-\$23 per \$1
- With biocontrol we don't eradicate the weed population as the insects have to live off of it

Q: Are you collaborating with Botanist Helen Lau's efforts and others dealing with invasives in the area?

A: I work with county noxious weed boards; I'd love to partner with the ranger districts.

Public comments about Kittitas County Projects: No comments were given.

Chelan County Title II Projects

2021 Abandoned Property & Vehicle Clean Up on Chelan, Entiat, and Wenatchee River Ranger Districts—Jon Meier

The management code for these projects came in a month ago. We are looking to partner with TREAD or other local organizations that will allow us to use those funds more efficiently, we will also be working with our law enforcement officers. We are working through the details and entering into an agreement with TREAD; we plan to get to work on this project by June or July.

Questions: None

2021 Road Maintenance on Icicle Road & Chiwawa River Road projects update—Kayli Barber

We are scheduling out pre-design on both of these projects as soon as snow melts to determine elements of pre-design work levels. We were unable to get to these projects last season as we were dealing with post fire project work. We hope to have it awarded this fall

Questions: None

2021 Wilderness Toilets Repairs & Replacement project status update—Kate White

We brought in new fiber glass vault toilets and replaced all of the ones that were decades old. The patched-up toilets will be replaced with the next toilet flight this fall. We did a "trial run" last summer, with the Washington State 4-H Youth development program, building and replacing a backcountry toilet at Eightmile Lake that was very successful and we will be continuing the project with them this summer (and also the Scouts) to replace the rest of the needed toilets with lumber purchased with Title II funds.

Common Crupina Cooperative Management projects 2021 & 2022—Brigitte Ranne

- Common Crupina is a State and Federal Class A Noxious Weed
- This is the one large population in WA, there is a smaller population in Asotin County. It has no value for wildlife and takes over native plants.
- Crews had a slow start this spring due to the snow.
- Areas were treated between Prince Creek and Rattlesnake Creek.
- Crews monitored and treated last years' areas and moved into new sites.
- April 21-28 tour to be based out of Moore Point with work focused between Meadow Creek and private land.
- The goal is to prevent users of the Lakeshore trail from spreading Crupina off site and to reduce and eradicate populations within the known boundaries.
- Most of Eastern Washington is potential habitat for crupina. Idaho has over 60,000 acres infested.
- This is an ongoing effort with multiple partners including WA State and Chelan County Noxious Weed Board, the Chelan PUD, and the WA State Depts. of Agriculture and Ecology.

2022 Chelan R.D. Invasive Plant Control at Recreation sites and roads project—Brigitte Ranne

- These projects were not funded with Title II funds last year.
- Focus treatments on the most heavily used areas of the forest in Chelan County.
- Increasing recreational use of USFS land increases the likelihood of invasive plant spread.
- This project would focus on treating infestations at trailheads, campgrounds, and the roads that access those sites to prevent spread up trails and into more pristine areas.
- Diffuse knapweed and Dalmatian toadflax are the populations we'd be addressing.

2022 Entiat R.D. Invasive Plant Control at Campgrounds, Trailheads, & Roads project—Brigitte Ranne

- Infestations on roads and at trailheads eventually spread the infestations up trails into remote areas that are currently un-infected.
- Known infestations in the upper Entiat Valley are from Fox Creek Campground to the North Fork of the Entiat River.
- Our request of \$32,029 would fund a two-person invasive plant crew for 90 days.
- Common houndstongue is currently confined to the lowest valleys and is easily spread by nutlets with Velcro-like hairs that attach to animals and clothing.
- Dalmatian toadflax is found at the lowest elevations of the district to 25 miles up the valley on the Tommy Creek Road. It is very aggressive, with each plant producing half a million seeds.
- Both are Class B weeds, designated for control in Chelan County.

2022 Wenatchee River R.D. Invasive Plant Control on Recreation Sites and Roads project—Brigitte Ranne

- The Wenatchee River Ranger District is very large with many areas of concentrated and dispersed recreation.
- Funding for invasive plant control work has not kept pace with the increased recreation use.
- Bull and Canada Thistle, and Diffuse knapweed are common invaders of dry forest ecosystems on the Wenatchee River Ranger District.

Q: What restoration will be occurring after eradication efforts?

A: We go over areas that we've addressed the previous year, the areas that need help we seed with natives in the fall if the areas haven't recovered well on their own.

Chelan County Noxious Weed Board/FS Common Crupina project—Julie Sanderson & Jemma Midler

- About 600 acres are infested, half on private land the other half on national forest land.
- Partners include US Forest Service, Chelan County Noxious Weed Board, WA Dept. of Agriculture, WA State Noxious Weed Board, and private landowners.
- Washington Conservation Crews hand pull and backpack spray the weeds. Progress is being made in areas where crews have been able to spray and follow up with hand pulling which has allowed the native plants to come back in. Grant funding for Crupina control on private properties benefits adjacent Forest Service parcels, especially along the Lake Shore trail.
- We do a cooperative crupina project with the Forest Service. Our 2021 recap—we were able to get up to the site and complete the work with WA Conservation Crews. Hand pulling crew and spot spraying crew worked on heavily infested private property (1.7 acres). Project goals were successful and we have been able to contain the spread. This is a Class A weed and is only found in two places in the state. We work with lots of other partners (Forest Service, Chelan County Noxious Weed Board, State Dept. of Agriculture, State Noxious Weed Board, and private landowners).

Questions: None

2021 & 2022 Entiat Trail Reconstruction project status update and 2022 Heather Lake Trail project—Edison Velez III, Northwest Youth Corps (NYC)

- 2021 Entiat Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance project—that work is scheduled to be done this year.
- 2022 Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance project on Entiat Ranger District—Members and partner benefits: quality assurance, 47% match, worker’s compensation, camping equipment, weekend recreation, insurance, tools, crew supervision, technical support, transportation, educational credit/award, leave no trace principles, job training and field experiences for youth and young adults 15-24 years old.
- Nine youth and two leaders work in the woods on trails, fuels reduction, fence construction, and more. Our field office is hosted on Wenatchee River Ranger District. We put out five youth crews of high school students and three young adult crews every season. NYC can reduce the timeframe of the project from two years to one year. We can also reduce the amount of work completed each year. Minimum unit cost = one teen crew week (409 hours at a cost of \$9,261). This project can also be increased in scale if desired (project greater than three weeks).
- 2020 request is for \$38,000 with NYCs match of \$35,333. Request is scalable by week (as little as 1 week and up to 5 weeks)
- 2022 Heather Lake Trail Erosion Control & Maintenance project

Questions: None

2022 Mission Creek Trail Re-route project—Erin McKay, Chelan County Natural Resources

- We have been working on the East Fork Mission Creek Trail Re-route alignment project for several years now. The goal is to remove recreation use from the flood plain of the steelhead bearing stream and move it to an upland location. This was a 2020 title II project. Since then, we have completed NEPA with Forest Service coordination. This is interconnected with the Devils Gulch Mission Ridge trail system. We received funding for this in 2020 and are asking for additional money to cover the increased construction costs. The construction contract is open right now, and the bid will be out soon, and we hopefully will do the construction this summer. About 10% addition to the original trail construction budget from the original 2020 expected costs.

Q: If this is for supplemental funding what will happen if you do not receive these funds?

A: We can take out some of the additional bid items and work on getting those final items completed in the future. We may have to figure out some give and take in the construction project we settle on. We know the bid will come in higher due to the increase in costs now. There might also be a delay. The sooner we can get this done, the better because there is a lot of motorized and non-motorized use there now. The restoration of the stream bed, with additions of wood structures, will help to spread out the flow, additionally some grading to help the flow spread out across the flood plain. We want to see the stream be able to meander across the flood plain creating unimpeded habitat for steelhead.

Reminder, WSU is seeking \$9,912 in funding for Integrated Weed Control in Chelan County.

Public comments about Chelan County Projects: No comments were given.

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| RAC DISCUSSION & PRIORITIZATION of YAKIMA COUNTY PROJECTS |
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Voting on Yakima County Projects:

Discussion on Yakima County proposed projects:

- We could do a proportional reduction among the three projects.
- Keep the road repair at the full amount and reduce the other two projects.
- Tread Lightly said their project is scalable but the road project said they'd need the full funding.
- The noxious management project might be scalable.
- Scale back on noxious weed management and Tread Lightly proportionally and keep the full amount for the Rock Creek Road project.
- Tread Lightly could cut back on the number of panels; split the reduction by \$4,000 each for the other two projects. Divide the difference of \$7,866 in two and reduce the funds to Tread Lightly and the noxious weed projects.

Keith Goehner: I move we fund the Rock Creek Road project for \$50,000 and reduce the other two projects (Naches District Noxious Weed Management and Tread Lightly! Info & Outreach Open Access Campaign) by \$3,933 each.

Bob Bugert: I second the motion.

No further discussion

Vote taken, motion passes.

RAC Recommendations on expenditure of 2021 Title II funds in Yakima County

Potential FY 21 Title II funds available for Yakima County = **\$102,673**

| # | Project Name | Project Sponsor | Funds Requested | Funds Recommended |
|---------|---|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Rock Creek Road 1702 pavement repair project | Naches Ranger District | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| 2 | Naches District Noxious Weed Management | Naches Ranger District | \$38,000 | \$34,067 |
| 3 | Tread Lightly! Info & Outreach Open Access Campaign | Treat Lightly! | \$22,539 | \$18,606 |
| Totals= | | | \$110,539 | \$102,673 |

If additional Title II monies become available, they will be allocated to project #2 Naches District Noxious Weed Management until it is fully funded, and then to project #3 Tread Lightly! until it is fully funded.

RAC DISCUSSION & PRIORITIZATION of KITTITAS COUNTY PROJECTS

Voting on Kittitas County Projects:

Discussion:

Bob Bugert: I move that we allocate:

- Project #1 Cle Elum/Roslyn/Teaway Cooperative Weed Management for \$25,000
- Project #2 PNW4WDA Table Mtn Puncheon Restorations for \$16,000
- Project #3 WSU Integrated Weed Control for \$9,870
- Project #4 Conservation NW Rec & Aquatic Resilience in Cle Elum RD for \$40,000
- Project #5 Mountains to Sound Historic Structure Assessment Project for \$21,000

Al Murphy: I second the motion.

Discussion:

- I'm not sure if \$21,000 is enough for them to do the Mountains to Sound Historic Structure Assessment project. The emphasis should be on the community shelters at Swauk and Taneum assessments first. It seems like a low amount for this company to do this work. Focus on the shelters in this go around.
- If we did \$12,000 it would get the structures assessed and free up money for other projects.
- No further discussion.

Vote taken, motion passes.

RAC Recommendations on expenditure of 2021 Title II funds in Kittitas County

Potential FY 21 Title II funds available for Chelan County = **\$111,870**

| # | Project Name | Project Sponsor | Funds Requested | Funds Recommended |
|---------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Cle Elum/Roslyn/Teaway Cooperative Weed Mgmt. | Cle Elum Ranger District | \$30,000 | \$25,000 |
| 2 | PNW4WDA Table Mtn Puncheon Restorations | PNW4WDA | \$16,640 | \$16,000 |
| 3 | WSU Bioagent Control Project—Kittitas County | WSU | \$9,912 | \$9,870 |
| 4 | Conservation NW Rec & Aquatic Resilience in CERD | Conservation NW | \$42,000 | \$40,000 |
| 5 | Mtns to Sound Historic Structure Assessment Project | Mtns to Sound Greenway | \$24,000 | \$21,000 |
| Totals= | | | \$122,552 | \$111,870 |

If additional Title II monies become available, they will be allocated to project #1 Cle Elum/Roslyn/Teaway weed management until it is fully funded, then to project #2 PNW4WDA Table Mtn. project until it is fully funded, and then to the remaining projects in order until each is fully funded or all additional monies are allocated.

RAC DISCUSSION & PRIORITIZATION of CHELAN COUNTY PROJECTS

Voting on Chelan County Projects:

Discussion:

\$153,517 is the total of the first four projects and is over the total amount available for Chelan County.

Is it anticipated that the Title II funds will be annually spent on the crupina projects?

How does the annual weed tax fit in with the crupina projects?

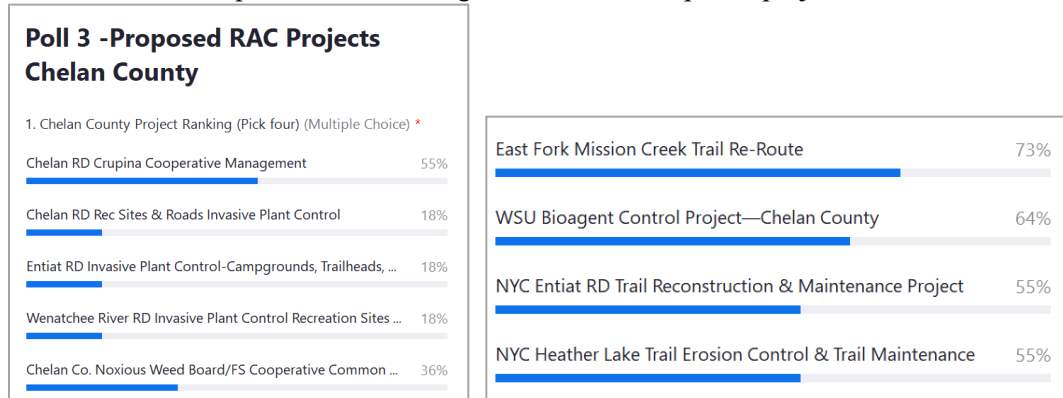
Constant request for title II funding for crupina every year, we should be able to use these funds for other projects in the county.

Potential for conflict of interest on the East Fork Mission Creek project:

- Travis Hornby—I will be involved until they hire a replacement president.
- Al Murphy—I build a lot of trails for evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. Evergreen is going to bid on this contract and if their bid is successful, I will be working on this project.

RAC members discussed these potential conflicts of interest and agreed that Al Murphy did have a conflict of interest due to potential for financial gain. Due to the conflict of interest, Mr. Murphy recused himself from voting on Chelan County projects. This led to not having a quorum within each category for voting and discussion about whether that was necessary to have the vote. The committee determined to use Roberts Rules of Order, which allows for a vote as long as a quorum is present. The SRS Act requires a quorum must be present to constitute an official meeting of the RAC, but is silent on having a quorum for each vote. Therefore, the committee’s decision to use Robert’s Rules of Order is consistent with the SRS requirements. No conflict was identified for Travis Hornby who would have no potential for financial or other gain resulting from the East Fork Mission Creek Project.

Screen shots of the poll results showing RAC members top four projects:



The projects receiving the most votes in the poll are:

1. East Fork Mission Creek with 73%
2. WSU bioagent control with 64%
3. Chelan Crupina with 55%
4. NWY Corps Entiat RD project 55%
5. NWY Corps Heather Lake project 55%

Discussion on the top five projects that received the most votes in the poll:

- There have been times when the school district would match funding in years past, maybe NW Youth Corps could scale down and seek other funding.
- Offer four weeks funding for NW Youth Corps, cut their request \$38,992 for both projects combined or half for each.
- Fund it at 50% and allow them the discretion to choose how to split that up between both projects or use all the money for one project.

This screen shot shows the recommended allocation of Chelan County Title II funds:

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------|---|----------|
| 1 | #1 Chelan RD Crupina Cooperative Management | Chelan Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | \$23,595 | 6 | 44100 |
| 2 | #2 Chelan RD Rec Sites & Roads Invasive Plant Control | Chelan Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | | | \$32,029 |
| 3 | #1 Entiat RD Invasive Plant Control-Campgrounds, Trailheads, & Roads | Entiat Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | | | \$32,029 |
| 4 | #1 Wenatchee River RD Invasive Plant Control Recreation Sites & Roads | Wenatchee River Ranger District (Brigitte Ranne) | | | \$45,359 |
| 5 | Chelan Co. Noxious Weed Board/FS Cooperative Common Crupina Project 2023 | Julie Sanderson (Chelan Co. Nox. Weed Bd) | 23594 | | \$37,788 |
| 6 | East Fork Mission Creek Trail Re-Route | Erin McKay (Chelan Co. Nat. Resources) | \$11,600 | 7 | 11600 |
| 7 | WSU Bioagent Control Project—Chelan County | Dale Whaley (WSU) | \$9,912 | 7 | 9912 |
| 8 | NYC Entiat RD Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance Project | Edison Velez III (NW Youth Corps) | \$19,496 | 5 | 38992 |
| 9 | NYC Heather Lake Trail Erosion Control & Trail Maintenance | Edison Velez III (NW Youth Corps) | \$19,496 | 5 | 38992 |
| | Sub Total | | \$107,693 | | |

Brandt Cappell: I move we allocate the funding as presented on the spreadsheet (screen shot page 13).

1. Project #1 Chelan Ranger District Crupina project to receive \$23,595
2. Chelan County Noxious Weed Board/FS Crupina project to receive \$23,594
3. East Fork Mission Creek Trail Re-Route project to receive \$11,600
4. WSU Bioagent Control project to receive \$9,912
5. NW Youth Corps Entiat RD Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance project to receive \$19,496
6. NW Youth Corps Heather Lake Trail Erosion Control & Mtnce. project to receive \$19,496

Jeff Hardesty: I second

Discussion: None

Vote taken, motion passes.

RAC Recommendations on expenditure of 2021 Title II funds in Chelan County

Potential FY 21 Title II funds available for Chelan County = **\$107,693**

| # | Project Name | Project Sponsor | Funds Requested | Funds Recommended |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Chelan RD Crupina Cooperative Management | Chelan Ranger District | \$44,100 | \$23,595 |
| 2 | Chelan RD Rec Sites & Roads Invasive Plant Control | Chelan Ranger District | \$32,029 | Not Funded |
| 3 | Entiat RD Invasive Plant Control-CGs, THs, Roads | Entiat Ranger District | \$32,029 | Not Funded |
| 4 | Wenatchee River RD Invasive Plant Control Recreation Sites & Roads | Wenatchee River Ranger District | \$45,359 | Not Funded |
| 5 | Chelan Co. Noxious Weed Board/FS Cooperative Common Crupina Project 2023 | Chelan Co. Noxious Weed Board | \$37,788 | \$23,594 |
| 6 | East Fork Mission Creek Trail Re-Route | Chelan County Natural Resources | \$11,600 | \$11,600 |
| 7 | WSU Bioagent Control Project—Chelan County | Washington State University | \$9,912 | \$9,912 |
| 8 | NYC Entiat RD Trail Reconstruction & Mtnce Project | Northwest Youth Corps | \$38,992 | \$19,496 |
| 9 | NYC Heather Lake Trail Erosion Control & Trail Mtnce | Northwest Youth Corps | \$38,992 | \$19,496 |
| Totals= | | | \$290,801 | \$107,693 |

If additional Title II monies become available, they will be allocated to project #1 Chelan R.D. Crupina Management project until it is fully funded, to project #5 Chelan County Noxious Weed Board/FS Crupina project until it is fully funded, to project #8 NYC Entiat R.D. Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance project until it is fully funded, and to project #9 NYC Heather Lake Trail Erosion Control & Trail Maintenance project until all additional monies are allocated.

End of meeting discussion:

Travis Hornby: With seven vacancies soon to occur, please talk to your friends and family and urge them to get involved in the RAC.

Any additional questions?

Q: If we have concerns about a project proposal, when do we have an opportunity to express that?

Q: How does it work if someone on the committee makes a recommendation, for example to focus on the shelters, what happens in that kind of situation?

A: Kristin Bail has the ability to decide upon the recommendations of the RAC. The Great American Outdoors Act has a sunset period. You can ask for a report back about how the projects were adjusted to meet the funding levels.

Comments:

- Our job as RAC members is to either approve/disapprove a project.
- Encourage proponents in the next Title II round of voting to address concerns or suggestions.
- We could suggest comments to the applicant or make suggestions for future rounds of RAC meetings.
- You are ranking the application you received, not the one you wished you'd received.
- Can you resend the announcement that the RAC is looking for members? Yes.
- It is frustrating to see good projects put together and we don't have the money available to fund them. Is there some way we can give good guidance to make the priorities clear on projects that the forest sees as top priority?
- **Kristin Bail:** Generally, our invasive plant program doesn't get near enough money to address the problem. Roads are another area where funding is low, we get very little funding for road maintenance on the forest. As to feedback to folks, there is an opportunity to provide that through this forum and communicating out to the forest and our partners where the opportunities are. Wildland fire risk reduction is getting funding for example.
- I tend to favor community projects like the youth corps and am pleased with the projects funded today.
- We have become more efficient in selecting projects.
- People who have received Title II funding need to provide more adequate updates on those projects. It would have been great to see some before and after photos of those projects, they needed to spend more time explaining what has been done on the projects in their updates.
- You could require they provide one slide of benefits, info on how the project is going, what if any challenges they've had, an update, and an explanation.
- Just an update and an explanation in one slide would be wonderful.
- We want to have accountability, and also a really deep understanding and appreciation of the work that is funded.
- The main point I think we are trying to make is we're excited about these projects, and we'd like to see the results of the projects, see how the projects are going.
- Accountability is needed, they need to share with us the status of the projects.
- A slide or a photo of the project, before and after, would be helpful.
- Where they are in the process.
- We could provide a template of what we want provided for monitoring, language from grants and agreement. Include it in the agreement funding (a condition of the funding). Add it into the actual agreement contract and the application form as well.

Robin DeMario: Title II projects submitted for Okanogan County will be discussed at the June 22 RAC meeting. This meeting will be in-person at the Chelan County Fire District 1 station located at 206 Easy Street (across the street from the Forest Service Headquarters office and the car wash).

We really need everyone who said they can attend this meeting to do so. Here are the names of those who said they can attend:

Group A: Travis Hornby, Al Murphy, Ken Tolonen

Group B: Meghan Craig, Powys Gadd, Darcy Batura

Group C: Keith Goehner, Bob Bugert, Amy Ramsey, Jeff Hardesty

-End-