

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Resource Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Yakima and Okanogan Counties Title II Projects

June 16, 2021

Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) members in attendance: Chairperson Travis Hornby, Darcy Batura, Ken Tolonen, Jeff Hardesty, Keith Goehner, Al Murphy, Brandt Cappell, Meghan Craig, Matthew Gilroy, Powys Gadd, Amy Ramsey, Bob Bugert, and Designated Federal Official Erick Walker

Sarah Walker – meeting facilitator

Robin DeMario – note taker

Avery Kool and Victoria Wilkins – behind the scenes Zoom coordinators

Welcome, Introductions and RAC business

- **One-minute review** of agenda
- **Brief introductions** of RAC members
- **Report on the status of past Title II projects** – Erick Walker and Robin DeMario

When we reconvene at the fall RAC meeting we will have detailed info about any Title II monies that might be remaining. Prior to that meeting, we will send out a news release soliciting project proposals for projects in Yakima and Kittitas Counties. We will try to get those monies allocated out according to the direction and priority lists of past RACs.

Question: Can we move the monies to other counties?

Answer: When Secure Rural Schools (SRS) was first enacted, each county's payment was calculated as the average of the three highest revenue-sharing payments received by the county between FY1986 and FY1999. When the program was reauthorized in FY2008, however, Congress modified the program in several ways, including by establishing a new payment formula and specifying the total authorized payment level. The payment formula is still based on historic revenue-sharing payments, but it also considers each county's share of federal land and relative income level.

Options for leftover Title II funds:

1. Forest supervisor can repurpose Title II monies to fund past RAC approved but unfunded Title II projects
2. Monies can be used if rangers still want to get the work done on the projects that still have Title II monies or are ongoing projects that need to get done
3. Add the additional Title II monies to this year's totals and solicit more projects again (or apply to the lists of unfunded projects for this year)

The projects showing money on the books are:

1. Not completed
2. Have been funded through other avenues
3. De-obligated from a contract or an agreement

Although there is a balance on the books, that doesn't tell us whether the projects were completed using other funds, if they still need to be completed, or are no longer viable projects. Employee turnover (loss of historic knowledge about the projects), lack of knowledge of past projects by new employees, and having other priorities (which put these projects further down on the to do list) all contribute to the situation we are seeing of having unspent Title II funds. We are in the process of identifying which projects are completed, those that are partially completed, and those that are no longer viable.

- **Coordination of calendars** to schedule RAC meetings in October (topics to be discussed in October include proposed recreation fee increases, additional projects submitted for Yakima and Kittitas Counties, and allocation of prior year Title II funds to projects that were not funded in prior years). Your rec fee recommendations will go to the Regional Forester.

- Available meeting dates: October 5, 7, 20, 27, 28 and November 2, 3, 4 We will host that meeting in-person depending upon pandemic recommendations. (Robin sent RAC members the Doodle poll on June 21, 2021).
- Robin will send the recreation fee increase proposal news release to RAC members (completed on 6/16/2021).
- **RAC Member Ethics reminder:**
 - Matt Gilroy works for the Public Utility District in Okanogan County and that entity would be providing the power to the Crawfish Lake Campground Power & Vault Toilet project if the project is approved. Chairperson Travis Hornby asked if any RAC members had any issues with this situation; RAC members had no issues.
- **Items brought forward from the June 1 RAC meeting:**
 - Chelan County Project #15 **Entiat R.D. Invasive Plant Control** was not prioritized during the June 1 meeting. In the meeting notes, it was listed as the last project on the table of projects, do RAC members approve?
 - Discussion: It ranked out at the bottom of the list, so leave it there.
 - Review of **Cle Elum Ranger District/Teanaway Coop Weed Management** project presented by Botanist Helen Lau (requesting \$22,000). Notes from the June 1 RAC meeting pertaining to this topic – *"Discussion: They didn't speak about what species they were going after and revegetation efforts. They weren't specific enough in explaining this. They need to identify the weeds they are going after, their coordination with the grazing permittee and their revegetation efforts. There are real opportunities to work with East Cascades Recreation and Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition partnership on some of the management across boundaries. Part of this proposal is to set up a cooperative weed management group and to bring groups together, it is an evolving effort in this geographic area. I want to see it in writing as part of the formal project approval. I recommend that Helen come back on June 16 to answer these questions and the ones that Al Murphy mentioned. Helen needs to highlight the most likely projects they would be addressing and other details."*

Continued discussion on the **Cle Elum R.D./Teanaway Coop Weed Management project:** Houndstongue is one of the plants that we would be eradicating. We will work in high priority sites like meadows, wetlands, and rec sites. Funds would go to paying internal staff or a contract crew, we'd also be creating volunteer events that engage the public. Cooperative Weed Management Area groups help facilitate efficiency with funds and help with eradication of weeds across boundaries. We are going after the four highest priority noxious weeds and developing a management plan on the community forest, and also a way to get everyone working together. Question: Who is the lead for the community forest and responsible for their weed program? Answer: Larry Leach at DNR is their lead; they have a small amount of money that they give to the county weed board.

Brandt Cappell: I move that we fund this project in full.

Al Murphy: I second the motion.

No discussion.

Vote taken, motion passes

Lists of proposed projects for RAC members to discuss:

YAKIMA COUNTY PROJECTS

2021 Secure Rural Schools Title II Proposed Project List for Yakima County:

#	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested
1	Naches District Noxious Weed Management	Naches Ranger District (Helen Lau)	\$40,700
2	Deep Creek Bridge repair and stream restoration	Naches Ranger District (Kayli Barber)	\$139,975
Total requested =			\$180,675

Potential FY19 & FY 20 Title II funds available for Yakima County = **\$184,401**

OKANOGAN COUNTY PROJECTS

2021 Secure Rural Schools Title II Proposed Project List for Okanogan County:

#	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested
1	Integrated Weed Control	WSU (Dale Whaley)	\$15,658
2	Palmer Mtn. Wildfire Recovery Noxious Weed Control	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board (Larry Hudson)	\$25,000
3	Twisp River Trail/Tripod Maintenance	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (Joe Brown)	\$62,000
4	Highlands Nordic Sno-Park Trails	Highlands Nordic Ski Club Patti Baumgardner)	\$4,040
5	Okanogan County Public Works--USFS Road Maintenance their project #1	Okanogan County Public Works (Jo Ann Stansbury)	\$20,000
6	Okanogan County Public Works--Hauling Truck & Trailer purchase their project #2	Okanogan County Public Works (Jo Ann Stansbury)	\$50,000
7	Okanogan County Public Works--Sno-Park Plowing their project #3	Okanogan County Public Works (Jo Ann Stansbury)	\$10,000
8	Black Pine Creek Culvert Replacement	Cascade Fisheries (Kristen Kirkby)	\$203,972
9	Twisp River Drainage Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance	Northwest Youth Corps (Edison Velez III)	\$35,659
10	Winter Trails Maintenance and Grooming	Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc. (Adam Osin)	\$204,960
11	#1 Noxious Weed Control-Tonasket R.D.	Tonasket Ranger District (Matt Marsh)	\$30,250
12	#2 Crawfish Lake Campground Maintenance	Tonasket Ranger District (Betsy Peterson)	\$13,420
13	#3 Tonasket Resource Team	Tonasket Ranger District (Matt Marsh)	\$8,800
14	#4 Crawfish Lake CG Power & Vault Toilet	Tonasket Ranger District (Matt Marsh)	\$34,320
15	#1 Invasive Plant Control on MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District (Kelly Baraibar)	\$27,500
16	#2 Road Brushing on MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District (Kayli Barber)	\$75,900
Total Requested =			\$821,279

The number in front of project names indicates the District Ranger's priority order for projects.

Potential FY19 & FY 20 Title II funds available for Okanogan County = **\$357,067**

Naches Ranger District

Review of 2019 projects that received Title II funding and 2021 project proposals

Botanist Helen Lau gave a monitoring report on the following 2019 Naches District projects, and summarized the 2021 proposed noxious weed project:

1. **2019 Naches District Noxious Weed Mgmt. & Fire Prevention project**

This project was partially funded for \$49,542. COVID caused some problems as we'd put some money into Washington Conservation Corps (WCC), but they were not able to work last year. Due to COVID. Our Forest Service technicians treated 30 acres last year and found another 30 acres of the population. The ask for this year is to ask for additional funds to treat Vedu. We monitored this spring and also did a treatment, which was very successful.

No questions.

2. **2021 Naches District Noxious Weed Project**

In 2019 the district received \$49,542 for this project. This year we are requesting \$40,700 to continue the noxious weed treatments across the district. Meadows and wetlands are high priority for treatments because they provide a variety of habitats for insects, reptiles, and animals. They can also control flood water and act as a good ground water storage, they also benefit the public.

No questions.

3. **2019 Naches District North Africa Grass Noxious Weed project.**

The first treatments were monitored in early May 2020. Fall treatments of a preemergent herbicide showed good success. Some new populations were found. Continued surveys are needed and several years of additional treatments are needed.

- *Comment:* This weed is 10 times worse than cheat grass and from a wildfire standpoint it is something that we have to go after quickly. This is a very important project.
- *Question:* Do you have an idea about the how much it will cost per acre?
- *Answer:* If we use our Forest Service crew it is \$40-50 per acre, but if we contract it the cost could get up to \$100 per acre. In the Little Naches area, we are looking at 100 acres at the most that need treatment; also, some survey work would need to be done to map the population.

Assistant Forest Engineer Kayli Barber gave a monitoring report on the Naches District 2019 road stabilization project and reported on the 2021 proposed project:

1. **2019 Road Stabilization project** monitoring report

We received \$71,884 in Title II funds and treated 22 miles on various roads (Tine, Curved, Little Crow, Raven, S. Fork Little Naches, Upper Meadow, Fawn Bench, Fawn Lake, Meadow View, and Jungle Roost). The project was to improve road access and reduce sediment into neighboring waterways.

No questions.

2. **2021 Deep Creek Bridge repair and stream restoration** project

During the 2016 flood event woody material was moved downstream against the bridge approach. A large 48-inch diameter tree fell against the bridge and caught all the woody material moving downstream during that event. Material was eroded from the wing wall and the approach, which impacted the effectiveness of the guardrail. The bridge fill is eroding, and if it continues to erode over time vehicles will not be able to utilize the bridge. The proposed action includes three primary elements and one optional element--construct three j-hook structures of large riprap and woody material and root wads, utilizing a minimum of five whole trees 40 feet long. The historic channel is

preferred as it directs flow under the center of the bridge. The goal is to stabilize the approach fill and protect it from future erosion.

- *Question:* There's a lot of timber in that area, will we need to address this again as more timber accumulates there above the bridge in the future?
- *Answer:* We would install j-hooks for long term management, and hydrologic analysis would be incorporated into the design of the project. The funding level is not the total for this project, this is only the preliminary cost; design and a full analysis will have to be done for the long term.
- *Question:* The standing trees that are in the path of the natural evolution, what will happen to them?
- *Answer:* That would be considered in the analysis, but I don't have enough info to answer that.
- *Comment:* I'm concerned that in 5 years as the stream migrates, more trees will end up in the stream and mess up the work that you have done.
- *Answer:* You are looking at 100-year flood conditions and how the stream acts in its historic path.
- *Question:* Are the fish biologist and hydrologist involved in this?
- *Answer:* Yes, both are involved, and also our bridge engineer.

Lee Ellis gave monitoring reports on three 2019 Naches District projects that received Title II funding:

1. **2019 Boulder Cave Viewing deck** was fully funded for \$40,700.
This is the most popular day use site on the forest. Thompson Big Eared bats live there. In an effort to reduce the spread of bat white nose syndrome, which is fatal to bats, this project was done to help mitigate the spread of that disease into this cave. District employees and WCC crews finished the project. Mats of antibacterial material are placed on the new deck for people to walk on.
No questions.
2. **2019 Sawmill Flat Kitchen Roof Replacement** fully funded for \$30,985.
The structure is a CCC constructed shelter. With help from volunteers and Forest Service employees we completed the project in 2019.
No questions.
3. **2019 Conrad Meadow Bulletin board & Interpretive Signs** fully funded for \$6,600.
This project is located at the very southern end of the district. We replaced old signs with a three-panel sign that educates the public about wildlife and other entities there.
No questions.
Comment: These look good, thanks for working with other agencies and organizations on this.

Methow Valley Ranger District

2021 project proposals

District Ranger Chris Furr reported on the monitoring/status on four 2019 Title II funded projects and one 2021 project:

1. **2019 Noxious Weed Control project** and the **2021 Invasive Plant Control project** requesting \$27,500 in Title II funding.
With the 2019 project we were fully funded, and we have used those funds to pay three seasonal employees who treated 970 acres. We have \$11,700 left that we are using this season on an orange hawkweed site.

The 2021 project is essentially the same proposal as the 2019 project. There is a need for weed treatment around the Carlton Complex, Twisp River, Crescent, and Round Mountain fires; seeding with grass and other forbs is also occurring.

– *Comment:* It's a good write up.

2. **Burned Fence Repair project**

This project was fully funded; we contracted out a mile of new fence construction. There is \$2,300 left and we will use that money for a small fence repair contract in an area affected by the 2018 McLeod fire. These funds have been key in rebuilding fences in allotment areas. We didn't apply for funds this year because our ranger technician retired, and we are not sure when that position will be filled.

3. **Toilet Replacement/Placement at Early Winters Campground**

This project was fully funded and was put on hold due to COVID. We plan to complete it this year unless manufacturing issues arise.

4. **Fun Rocks Climbing Area Development project**

This project was fully funded for \$29,923 and is about 99 percent complete (we also got a grant from RCO for this project). There were some funds remaining that will be used for work on some platforms. This is a very popular site for climbers and is easily accessible and gets a lot of use. The user-built platforms were removed, and safer and more durable platforms were put in place with help from partners.

Assistant Forest Engineer Kayli Barber: **2021 Road Brushing project** on Methow Valley Ranger District requesting \$75,900.

There are 30-40 miles of roads that need brushing. Brushing benefits--improves safety and access, and high use maintenance level 2 and 3 roads are identified as need brushing. Our roads crew tries to cover brushing across the forest but due to the large number of roads, they can't access them all in one year.

- *Question:* You had a minimum and maximum amount of funding request, the desired is \$69,000 but the spread sheet shows \$79,000. You would treat 5-25 miles but somewhere else it says 25-100 miles.
- *Answer:* I will have to double check the mileage, but we could use whatever amount you all provide.
- *Comment:* It would be good to know how many miles you can accomplish for a certain dollar amount.
- *Answer:* Pricing and costs have been going up so it's hard to predict the actual cost.
- *Question:* It would be good to know the estimated costs and the estimated miles you can get done. Give us an estimate.
- *Answer:* \$35,000 for 5-10 miles is a realistic number.

Tonasket Ranger District

Review of 2019 projects that received Title II funding and 2021 project proposals

Betsy Peterson gave an update on three 2019 projects and reviewed two 2021 proposed projects:

1. **2019 Granite Mountain Trail Blasting and Trail Counters project**

We purchased the counters and 50 percent of the trail was blasted with help from volunteers. There is still half to do, especially on the top.

2. **2019 Lost Lake Guard Station repairs project**

We ended up using all of the money for the roof repair. We are currently soliciting bids to replace the roof and have it replaced this fall.

3. **2019 Lost Lake and Beth Lake Improvements projects**

We had a variety of projects under this umbrella. We completed the Beth Lake bridge replacement project. We also completed getting a shipping container for storage and a chain-link fence installed around the bone yard and the shipping container. We were also able to buy a chlorine meter for the water system. The only things left to do are the pumphouse replacement at Lost Lake Campground and the valve house replacement at Beth Lake Campground. Job Corps students were going to help us but have been under quarantine during COVID.

4. **2021 Crawfish Lake Campground Maintenance** (Requesting \$13,420)

Crawfish Lake Campground is situated on the southwest corner on the east side of the district and is a non-fee campground (so we don't receive any funds to maintain the campground). We were hoping to get money to re-gravel the site, put in new picnic tables, new fire rings, and anything else that needs refurbishment and repair at the campground.

- *Question:* Can this campground be put into the fee system?
- *Answer:* Yes, it is in the proposal to become a fee campground.

5. **2021 Crawfish Lake Campground Power and Vault Toilet** (Requesting \$34,320)

We would like to make a host site at this campground, currently there isn't one there. We need the power line extended 1,000 feet from the current Okanogan County PUD site. This project would be contracted out. We are estimating it will cost \$5,000 for a septic vault that the campground host would use for septic (no outhouse just the tank in the ground, the riser, and the lid).

- *Question:* I see an influx of people moving into the area, have you noticed an increase in use and wear and tear on your campgrounds?
- *Answer:* Yes, there has definitely been an increase, even before COVID. Last year there was a huge increase in the number of people using the campsites.
- *Question:* What is the demand for the power, is it just for the host? Yes.
- *Question:* For a \$25,000 investment are there other alternative power sources that they could use while they are there?
- *Answer:* Yes, solar would be another option, but we'd have to remove this equipment every winter and reinstall it in the spring. We don't know how much solar would cost.

Matt Marsh gave an update on one 2019 project and reviewed two 2021 proposed projects:

1. **2021 Noxious Weed Control on Tonasket Ranger District** (Requesting \$27,500)

We have been successful in getting funds to treat weeds and hiring local contractors to do the work through Okanogan County Weed Board. We spent \$25,000 to pay contractors to spray on National Forest lands with help from Okanogan County Weed Board. Approx. 91 percent of the approved funds will go directly to local contractors, no funds are being used for Forest Service salaries. North Star and Tunk fire areas had an explosion of weeds, but with our continuation of these RAC funds we have been successful at reducing these weed populations and reducing their spread. We asked for \$2,500 more this year to pay for the overhead of the Okanogan County Weed Board.

2. **2021 Tonasket FDRT Resource Team** (Requesting \$8,800)

This is a new Forest Damage Response Team responding to resource damage, illegal travel management, dump sites, and much more. We are asking for money specifically for a dumpster for forest trash we pickup daily, and trash from dump site, and to pay for fees to dispose of the waste at the Okanogan County Landfill. There are three or four abandoned cars on the district that also need to be removed. Everything else is covered by the forest (salaries and equipment)

Presentation of External Projects in Okanogan County

Integrated Noxious Weed Control project in Okanogan County

(Requesting \$15,658) – Dale Whaley, Washington State University (WSU) extension office

Past year project status monitoring report: 2019 monitoring report, WSU received \$10,872 in Title II funding in 2019. **Dale:** Dale Whaley is an Assistant Professor with WSU who coordinates the weed control programs for Okanogan, Kittitas, and Chelan counties. These bioagent insects are safe, approved, and ecologically viable. We encourage their spread and we like their mobility. These insects work for free, once we get them into an area they self-perpetuate and when they are done, they move on to weed populations nearby. I coordinate this program and work a lot with Larry Hudson at Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board.

- **Question:** How do you get the word out to the general public that this is available?
- **Answer:** The county weed board has flyers about the program, information has been shared on the radio, and he works with landowners.

Palmer Mountain Wildfire Recovery Noxious Weed Control

(Requesting \$25,000) – Larry Hudson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board

Past year project status monitoring report: 2019 monitoring report on Okanogan Coordinated Weed Mgmt. Area **Hoary Alyssum Control Project** which was fully funded for \$25,000. This was a cost share program; the Title II funds paid for half the cost of treatment and landowners paid for the other half. So far, 550 acres have been treated, we've assisted 50 landowners, and 30 landowners did their own control work with herbicide. We only spent just over \$10,000 so more treatments are occurring now, and all the funds will be spent by the end of this season.

Larry Hudson: Palmer Mountain Wildfire Recovery Noxious Weed Control project

This is another assistance project to assist landowners affected by the Palmer Mountain fire. We have class A and Class B plants—Hoary alyssum, leafy spurge, thistle, garlic mustard, and wild four o'clock. We assist landowners affected by last year's fire. Through this project we will do the cost share assistance on private land. This helps reduce the financial burden on the impacted landowners (we are asking landowners to pay for 25 percent of the cost to control weeds in their area); 100-120 landowners were affected by that fire. Benefits—help keep Class A and B weeds from spreading to other areas of the county and rehabilitate the fire scar area and fire lines. It will benefit the Forest Service as Palmer Mountain is a heavily recreated area and this will help reduce the spread of these weeds onto USFS lands. Also, it promotes positive working relationships between weed board, Forest Service, and partners in the weed management area.

- **Question:** What is your restoration on private land to get desirable vegetation there?
- **Answer:** We asked for certified weed free seed to assist in those heavily burned areas. We will provide that seed to landowners to use in those areas.

Twisp River Drainage Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance

(Requesting \$35,660) – Edison Velez III, Northwest Youth Corps

Edison Velez: Our focus is to serve youth, creating a job experience for them to transition into land management agencies. We employ high school students age 15-19 and young adults age 19-24. We did the tread reconstruction on the Eagle Creek Trail in the Twisp watershed which was impacted by a fire a few years ago. Funds would pay for four project weeks for \$35,000.

Twisp River Trail/Tripod Maintenance

(Requesting \$62,000) – Joe Brown, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Past year project status monitoring report: **Chickadee Multi-use Trail Expansion Project** was partially funded in 2019 for \$49,050 towards the completion of this multiuse trail project. The money was used to do the remaining trail construction and infrastructure work. We completed work on the Cold Creek Trail--5.5 miles of new trail into the backside of the Twisp River drainage and another trail that drops into the Radar Creek drainage. Those two trails represented the completion of new trail construction on this project; the remaining funds are going to signage, maps, and a series of kiosks that will be finished by October.

Twisp River Trail/Tripod Maintenance project

Joe Brown: We are seeing a dramatic increase of trail use and visitation and tourism, some of which has been fueled by COVID. We've also seen the damage and impacts on trails. We are asking to address the deferred maintenance on 34 miles of trails on the Methow Valley Ranger District, focusing on the Twisp River drainage and Tripod areas. We want to catch up on deferred maintenance so we can spread future visitor use. Backcountry Horsemen (BCH) have done a lot of work. With the recent fire impacts, we and BCH are trying to catch up on deferred maintenance on the Twisp River Trail and the four main trails in the Tripod area (main trail arteries that provide access to that area). We do have a collaborative focus—Methow Valley Trails Collaborative partners are working together with BCH and Methow Trails.

- *Question:* How does this work with volunteers, is there a core group?
- *Answer:* We get most of our volunteer work from locals in the valley and from north Central Washington. We have a lot of folks that have second homes here and they join in as volunteers too. Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is comprised of eight chapters and we work with our headquarters office to coordinate who our paid staff will be depending upon our projects and assign paid staff to our chapter based on our workload.
- *Question:* If four to five jobs generated are, what are those jobs?
- *Answer:* We have been able to create jobs with Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance in the community just by the amount of work that we have done here.

Highlands Sno-Park Trails

(Requesting \$4,040) –Jack Thurston Highlands Nordic Ski Club

This sno-park was started in 1985 and is mostly on national forest land using old Forest Service roads as ski trails during the winter. We are asking to improve some of the connections between these roads which will require some blasting. With the rock blasting and excavator work we can improve the safety in some of the more dangerous areas. This project will improve safety and improve relationships between the Forest Service, County roads department, and Washington State Parks.

- *Question:* Excavators and rock blasting is expensive; if you are only asking for \$4,000, do you have volunteer labor involved?
- *Answer:* The Forest Service has a microblaster to do some rock blasting on the trails.

Robin DeMario: I'm sorry, I listed Okanogan County Public Works three projects in the wrong order on the voting sheet; this is their correct priority order.

Okanogan County Public Works project proposals –

Jo Ann Stansbury, Okanogan County Public Works

JoAnn Stansbury: Presentations on three proposed projects.

1. **USFS Road Maintenance project** (requesting \$20,000)

Over the last year, with increased traffic, wash boarding is occurring on these roads. In order to maintain these miles of roads this project would address 14.67 miles of Forest Service roads using county equipment for general maintenance.

2. **Sno-Park Plowing project** (requesting \$10,000)

Washington State Parks funds the sno-park plowing and crews plow county roads. Due to cutbacks, they have had to cut back on sno-park plowing. Some sno-parks need additional attention, this will supplement monies from WA State Parks and snowmobile registration funds.

3. **Hauling Truck & Trailer purchase** (requesting \$50,000)

The groomer is larger than the Kenworth truck that state parks has, it is aging and requires a CDL driver. We are looking to purchasing a pickup truck and a tilt deck flat bed trailer that reduces the trailer height and also reduces the damage that is occurring to the equipment as it is loaded onto the trailer and does not require a CDL.

- *Question:* How much would WA State Parks add?
- *Answer:* About half but that funding has not been secured yet.
- *Question:* This amount is for a new purchase; can you purchase used equipment?
- *Answer:* The limitations on going out for bid and bidding for used equipment comes with a lot of strings. We hope to go off the state bids for new equipment.

Winter Trails Maintenance and Grooming

(Requesting \$204,960) – Adam Osin, Mountain Trails Grooming Association

Adam Osin: There are 177 miles of multi-use trails in the Methow Valley in Okanogan County. We are one of a few nonprofit groups doing trails grooming and all of the monies go to maintaining groomed trails. All money comes from gas tax and snowmobile registration fees. Funding changes from year to year. These trails have a diverse user group—hikers, backcountry skiers, snowmobilers. They are also used by wildlife biologists, border patrol agents, and others in their daily work; they also provide access to communication sites. Over 9,000 people visited the Methow Valley to use these groomed trails last winter. Funding supports critical trail maintenance in the area. If we reduced the amount we are asking for by 25 percent, we could still get a lot done. Required equipment upgrades would be helpful.

Black Pine Culvert Replacement project

(Requesting \$203,972) – Kristen Kirkby, Cascade Fisheries

Kristen Kirkby: Cascade Fisheries is a nonprofit fisheries enhancement group. Black Pine Creek is a zero percent passage creek, with no access for fish. Fish passability is an issue, also limiting the follow of water and movement of wood downstream. The culvert is undersized and prone to road washouts. An arched bridge would replace the culvert. Also, water temperatures still provide cold water refuge for fish. NEPA has been completed. We are working with the Forest Service on this. We have partial funding from Fish and Wildlife Service; will also be reaching out to other sources for potential funding. The road over the culvert leads to popular recreation areas. Any funding Title II would go to contracting for design. Partial funding would be helpful as well.

- *Question:* How much partial funding? Are there opportunities to partner and leverage the funds and what would be that amount?
- *Answer:* It depends upon the funding source we go to.
- *Question:* The NEPA process is a lengthy process. What is your status?
- *Answer:* NEPA has already been done, it would only take a state permit to get this project moving forward and work could begin next fall if we have funding in hand.

11:40 **Public Comment Period** – no public comments

11:40-12:10 *Lunch*

RAC DISCUSSION & PRIORITIZATION of YAKIMA COUNTY & OKANOGAN COUNTY PROJECTS

Voting on Yakima County Projects:

Discussion:

- Clarification If the RAC doesn't recommend these totals we will request submittals for additional projects. When we did the Kittitas projects, we funded them in full. My concern with these two projects is that only two projects use all of the funds. Would like to see additional projects submitted for consideration. If no projects come around then fund the larger project.
- Noxious weed management--ask them to look at integrated weed control like the WSU projects, to see if there is a more sustainable way to treat them.
- Is there a list of agents and what weeds they control?
- Yes, they are listed at this link: <http://invasives.wsu.edu/biological/weed.htm>.
- They have gone through a NEPA process and looked at alternatives available. Once they have gone through the decision-making process about NEPA, we shouldn't second guess them.
- We skipped the Deep Creek Bridge project because the NEPA wasn't done, they need to look at alternate ways of getting this done. Do we fund a project in which NEPA hasn't been completed? In the last 20 years, previous RAC members have not funded projects in which NEPA was not already done.
- If they haven't done the NEPA the project may not be valid; timeline seems unrealistic.
- Are there no emergency actions that can take place while NEPA is being pursued? One of the funding mechanisms available to us is Emergency ERFO federally owned assets. The bridge isn't at risk of failure at this time. There is some need for additional info that leads to NEPA.
- Concerned about creating a greater cost down the road by not doing something now but yet still be waiting for full funding at a later time.
- We need to have an interim proposal.
- I would not ask the RAC to make a recommendation on a proposal that hasn't been fleshed out. You can ask us to bring this back in the fall for consideration.
- We wouldn't be having this discussion if we didn't have more proposals for this county. I'm uncomfortable with approving a project that isn't shovel ready.

Meghan Craig: I move that we take a vote on Yakima County projects.

Al Murphy: I second.

Discussion none.

Vote taken, motion passes.

Jeff Hardesty: I move to approve full funding for **Naches District noxious weed project** and reserve the balance for projects addressed in the fall RAC meeting.

Bob Bugert: I second.

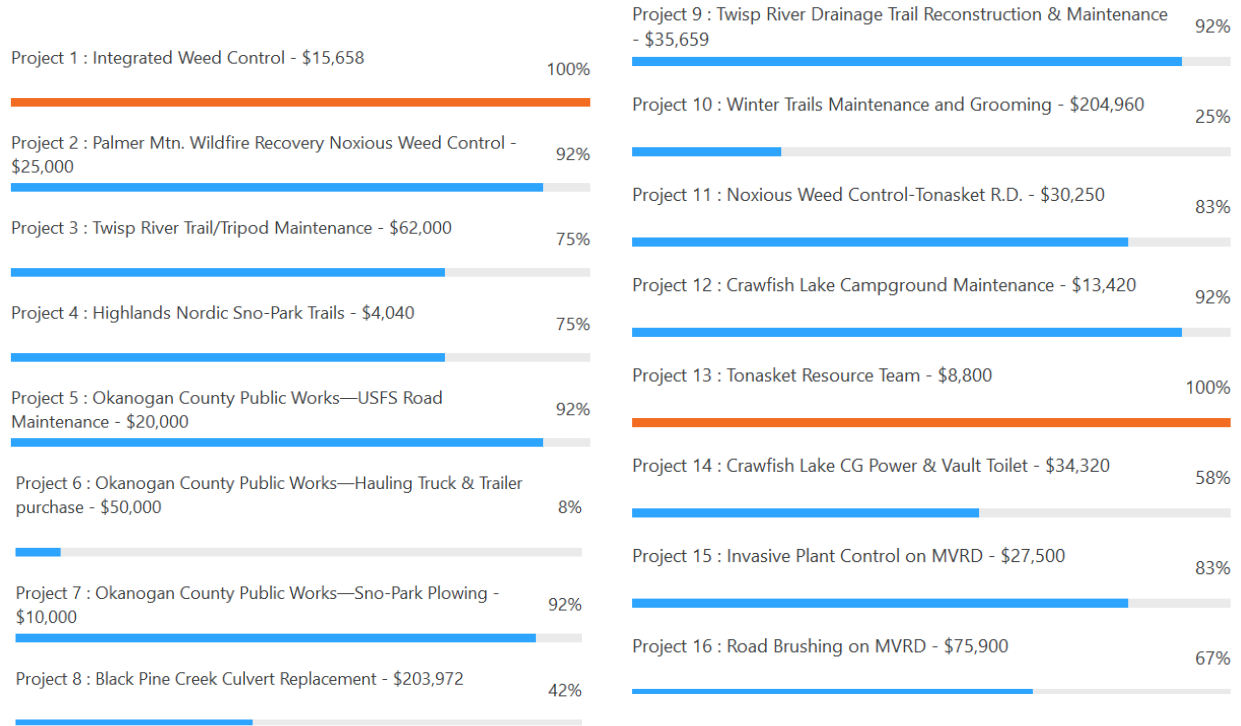
Discussion: Is there an opportunity for the Naches Ranger District to come up with an alternate scenario or projects. *Answer:* We would put out another call for projects in Yakima County and look at previous years' balances and projects as well. Nothing prevents the Deep Creek Bridge group from resubmitting their project.

Vote taken, motion passes.

Travis Hornby: Let’s select our top 12 Okanogan County projects in the first round of voting.

RAC members voted on their top 12 projects in the Zoom poll, following are screen shots of the results of their voting effort (project numbers correspond with the Okanogan County projects table on page 3):

1. Vote for your top 12 projects. You have a total of 12 votes for this question and the next. Please do not vote more than 12 times total between the two questions. (Multiple choice)



This table represents the results of the first round of voting showing the top 12 projects highlighted in yellow:

	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested	Round 1 vote%
1	Integrated Weed Control	WSU	\$15,658	100
2	Palmer Mtn. Wildfire Recovery Noxious Weed Control	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board	\$25,000	92
3	Twisp River Trail/Tripod Maintenance	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	\$62,000	75
4	Highlands Nordic Sno-Park Trails	Highlands Nordic Ski Club	\$4,040	75
5	Okanogan County Public Works--USFS Road Maintenance #1	Okanogan County Public Works	\$20,000	92
6	Okanogan County Public Works--Hauling Truck & Trailer purchase #2	Okanogan County Public Works	\$50,000	8
7	Okanogan County Public Works--Sno-Park Plowing #3	Okanogan County Public Works	\$10,000	92
8	Black Pine Creek Culvert Replacement	Cascade Fisheries	\$203,972	42
9	Twisp River Drainage Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance	Northwest Youth Corps	\$35,659	92
10	Winter Trails Maintenance and Grooming	Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.	\$204,960	25
11	#1 Noxious Weed Control-Tonasket R.D.	Tonasket Ranger District	\$30,250	83
12	#2 Crawfish Lake Campground Maintenance	Tonasket Ranger District	\$13,420	92
13	#3 Tonasket Resource Team	Tonasket Ranger District	\$8,800	100
14	#4 Crawfish Lake CG Power & Vault Toilet	Tonasket Ranger District	\$34,320	58
15	#1 Invasive Plant Control on MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District	\$27,500	83
16	#2 Road Brushing on MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District	\$75,900	67

Discussion about individual projects and possibilities for funding and other opportunities to find funds.

- If we funded the first 12 projects in full, that amounts to \$32,8254. With \$28,813 left to allocate.
- There are other funding sources for the culvert replacement, most of those require matching funds, so if we came up with the minimum amount of matching funds that would stretch the funds.
- They require a 15% match. So, it would be \$30,600 for the 15% match for project #8.
- RAC members proposed that the electricity for project #14 be a solar and battery system especially if it would cost less than to bring in the electricity.
- As this is a remote site, the electricity is an enticement for camp host volunteers to want to stay here for the summer.

1	15658	WSU Weed Control		
13	8800	Resource Team		
2	25000	Palmer Mt		
5	20000	OK County Rd Main		
7	10000	OK County Snow Park		
9	35659	Twisp River Trail Recon (NWYC)		
12	13420	Crawfish Lk campground Maint		
Sub total	128537			
11	30250	Noxious Weed Tonasket		
15	27500	Invasive Plant Control MVRD		
Sub total	186287			
3	59260	Twisp River Trail (Evergreen)	Partial	
4	4040	Highlands Nordic		
Sub total	249587			
16	73160	Road Brushing	Partial	
Sub total	322747			
14	34320	Crawfish Lk S&P		
Budget	357067			
Extra	0			

Screen shot of a list of the projects by number and their ranking in highest priority order.

Discussion on potential reductions per project:

- #2 Palmer Mtn project is scalable
- partial reductions to fund project #14
- Prefer round voting. Can't read Brant's graph. Fully fund 1,2,4,5,7,9,11,12 13,15,16,14, and half for 3 and 6...350,000

Brandt Cappell: I move that we accept the list as presented (Zoom poll) except for reducing projects 3 and 16 by \$2,740 each.

Jeff Hardesty: I second.

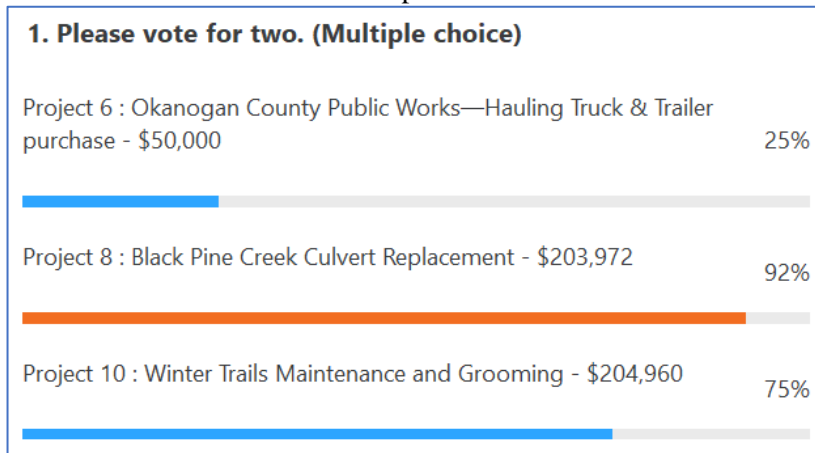
Discussion: none.

Vote taken, motion passes.

Discussion about remaining projects #6, #8 and #10 which need to be ranked in priority funding order.

Travis Hornby: Let's vote on our two highest out of these three remaining projects (#6, #8, and #10).

This is a screen shot of the Zoom poll results:



When the topic of selecting dates for the fall RAC meetings came up RAC members raised the concern about deciding on future meeting dates without all RAC members being present. Robin DeMario will send a doodle poll to all RAC members.

Al Murphy: I move we accept the result of the pole, that project 8 and 10 be first priorities and leave project #6 to the discretion of the forest supervisor.

Matthew Gilroy: I second.

Discussion: none.

Vote taken, motion passes.

Erick Walker: You can leave it up to the Forest Supervisor to fund in full or partially fund these projects or set that amount yourselves. We can come up with a ballpark figure of remaining funds from prior years for each county. Each of the counties has a prior year balance left, we have to verify if projects are completed, and whether previously unapproved projects are still viable. We will use a doodle poll to include all RAC members for our fall meeting. We will identify if people want in person meetings; we will see what the agency direction is as we get closer to the fall dates.

Robin DeMario will be sending RAC members 1. These meeting notes, 2. a Doodle poll to select dates for the fall RAC meeting, and 3. the letters from the Forest Supervisor to County Commissioners listing the projects that have been selected to receive Title II funding.

Erick Walker: Thank you all, and the presenters who answered questions and shared updates. There has been a lot of great work in support of the RAC. Thank all of you.

Al Murphy: I move we adjourn the meeting.

Darcy Batura: I second.

Discussion: none.

Vote taken, motion passes.

Following is the RAC recommended prioritized list to receive Title II funding for Okanogan County:

Title II Projects in Okanogan County FY2021

(Utilizing FY2019 & FY2020 Title II funds)

Potential Title II funds available = **\$357,067**

June 16, 2021

#	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested	Round 1 vote %	Round 2 votes %	RAC Priority Order	RAC Funding Allocation
1	Integrated Weed Control	WSU	\$15,658	100	-----	1	Fully funded for \$15,658
13	#3 Tonasket Resource Team	Tonasket RD	\$8,800	100	-----	2	Fully funded for \$8,800
2	Palmer Mtn. Wildfire Recovery Noxious Weed Control	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board	\$25,000	92	-----	3	Fully funded for \$25,000
5	USFS Road Maintenance their project #1	Okanogan County Public Works	\$20,000	92	-----	4	Fully funded for \$20,000
7	Sno-Park Plowing their project #2	Okanogan County Public Works	\$10,000	92	-----	5	Fully funded for \$10,000
9	Twisp River Drainage Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance	Northwest Youth Corps	\$35,659	92	-----	6	Fully funded for \$35,659
12	#2 Crawfish Lake Campground Maintenance	Tonasket RD	\$13,420	92	-----	7	Fully funded for \$13,420
11	#1 Noxious Weed Control-Tonasket R.D.	Tonasket RD	\$30,250	83	-----	8	Fully funded for \$30,250
15	#1 Invasive Plant Control on MVRD	Methow Valley RD	\$27,500	83	-----	9	Fully funded for \$27,500
3	Twisp River Trail/Tripod Maintenance	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	\$62,000	75	-----	10	Partially funded for \$59,260
4	Highlands Nordic Sno-Park Trails	Highlands Nordic Ski Club	\$4,040	75	-----	11	Fully funded for \$4,040
16	#2 Road Brushing on MVRD	Methow Valley RD	\$75,900	67	-----	12	Partially funded for \$73,160
14	#4 Crawfish Lake CG Power & Vault Toilet	Tonasket RD	\$34,320	58	-----	13	Fully funded for \$34,320
8	Black Pine Creek Culvert Replacement	Cascade Fisheries	\$203,972	42	92	14	Not funded
10	Winter Trails Maintenance and Grooming	Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.	\$204,960	25	75	15	Not funded
6	Hauling Truck & Trailer purchase their project #3	Okanogan County Public Works	\$50,000	8	25	16	Not funded

If additional monies become available, project #8 Black Pine Creek Culvert Replacement project will be funded in full followed by project #10 Winter Trail Maintenance and Grooming project. The Forest Supervisor will then decide upon the last project #6 Okanogan County Public Works Hauling Truck & Trailer purchase.

Following is the RAC recommended prioritized list to receive Title II funding for Yakima County:

Title II Projects in Yakima County FY2021

(Utilizing FY2019 & FY2020 Title II funds)

Potential Title II funds available = **\$184,401**

June 16, 2021

	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested	Round 1 votes	RAC Priority Order	RAC Funding Allocation
1	Naches District Noxious Weed Management	Naches Ranger District	\$40,700	Motion passed to fund in full	1	Fully funded for \$40,700
2	Deep Creek Bridge repair and stream restoration	Naches Ranger District	\$139,975			Not funded

There is \$143,701 remaining that will be addressed during the fall RAC meeting.

Topics to be discussed in October include proposed fee increases at recreation sites, additional Title II projects submitted for Yakima County, and allocation of prior year Title II funds to projects that were not funded in past years.

See you this Fall!