

# Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Resource Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Chelan & Kittitas Counties Title II Projects

June 1, 2021

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

Deb Kelly – meeting facilitator

Robin DeMario – note taker

Avery Kool and Starr Farrell – behind the scenes Zoom coordinators

## Welcome, Introductions and RAC business

1. Welcome from Designated Federal Official/Deputy Forest Supervisor Erick Walker
2. One-minute review of agenda by meeting facilitator Deb Kelly
3. Brief introductions of RAC members: Powys Gadd (retired FS employee and archaeologist for Nature Conservancy and the local museum); Darcy Batura (the Nature Conservancy); Matt Gilroy (representing hunting interests); Brandt Cappell (works with Rep. Goehner, senior legislative assistant, represents fishing interests); Al Murphy (retired federal employee; firewise program manager, and works with master gardeners); Ken Tolonen (master gardener, WRCD board, interested in soils, hunting, and fishing); Jeff Hardesty (educator, interested in wildlife, he is a hunter, fisherman, and rock climber); Keith Goehner (State Legislator and orchardist); Amy Ramsey (Dept of Natural Resources, interested in all lands cross boundary forest health and restoration).
4. Selection of chairperson and vice chairperson:
  - **Keith Goehner:** I nominate Jeff Hardesty as vice chair.
  - **Al Murphy:** I second the motion.
  - Discussion: none
  - **Vote taken, motion passes.**
  - **Al Murphy:** I nominate Travis Hornby as chairperson.
  - **Powys Gadd:** I second the motion.
  - Discussion: none
  - **Vote taken, motion passes.**
5. Ratify RAC bylaws (does the committee support the bylaws as written or wish to make changes?)
  - Proposal by Darcy Batura to add this text to the bylaws; *“The Forest Service is part of USDA. All of us at USDA, including the Forest Service, are striving to become a multicultural organization that reflects the demographics of the communities we serve. The Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee is working to make sure that committee representation reflects the diversity and values of the communities that depend on these forests.”*
  - RAC Coordinator Robin DeMario shared the information that is included in the OUTREACH PLAN for Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee dated May 12, 2021. Under the Diversity Emphasis category it reads--*Diversity shall be considered as part of all outreach efforts in accordance with the Chief’s priority to accomplish work in an environment with diverse ideas and an inclusive culture in support of the Secretary’s priority for cultural transformation. The RAC will broaden the scope of their outreach efforts to get representation on the committees, whenever practicable, that better reflects the diversity of the public served by the RAC. Equal opportunity practices in accordance with United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies shall be followed in all appointments to the RAC. To help ensure that the recommendations of the RAC have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include women, men, racial and ethnic groups, and persons with disabilities.*

- **Darcy Batura** read the suggested addition to the Bylaws. Externally facing documents need to show the goal of diversity.
  - **Al Murphy**: It's a good idea to add this info to the bylaws.
  - **Travis Hornby**: I move to modify the bylaws.
  - **Al Murphy**: I second the motion.
  - Discussion: How do we measure values and diversity?
  - **Darcy Batura**: I am specifically talking about racial diversity, not only cognitive diversity or diversity of thought.
  - **Keith Goehner**: There are user groups that need to be clearly represented.
  - **Deb Kelly**: You could put together a committee to review it.
  - **Travis Hornby**: Are we OK with the bylaws with Darcy's changes but also have a subcommittee?
  - **Powys Gadd**: Put something in the bylaws, in section 3, about diversity, or just a statement about valuing diversity.
  - **Al Murphy**: Getting it in print exemplifies that the RAC is looking for opportunities to be all inclusive. We don't need a subcommittee. Put that verbiage in which will help us go in that direction.
  - Call for the question.
  - Vote taken to add the wording to the bylaws, **motion passes.**
6. Discuss situation with Yakima and Kittitas counties which have insufficient projects to meet current Title II allocated dollar amounts
- **Erick Walker**: Generally, we have more project requests than Title II money available, leaving some remaining balances for those counties. That doesn't mean the proposals have to be voted approved by the committee, we have some prior year funding that was not completely used on projects. In the past, the committee identified priorities in case additional monies became available (we could look at previous year project lists to utilize those monies). We want to get as much of the money as we can allocated via the RAC. We would like to identify some framework/guidance that allows the agency to allocate funds not utilized in the past. When we don't have enough projects, how does the RAC want the Forest Service to manage remaining money and how do you advise we should manage any unspent prior year funds?
  - **Travis Hornby**: In 2019 we made decisions on projects we funded and didn't fund. Those decisions were made at the time that the monies be used for those projects. I don't want to take decisions away from previous committees.
  - Discussion: Review previous years looking at projects next on the lists that are fully funded. Surprised that there weren't more FS projects proposed, why is that? What the Forest Service needs is the OK from the committee to allocate funds allocated prior to this Committee, and then a recommendation on unspent monies for Yakima and Kittitas Counties.
  - **Erick Walker**: As long as the RAC approved the past projects we can move the monies to fund past projects.
  - **Al Murphy**: Two issues 1. previous approved projects, and 2. more money than projects. I move that we accept what previous RACs did as far as the funds go with previous years funds.
  - **Keith Goehner**: I second the motion.
  - **Vote taken, motion passes.**
  - **Al Murphy**: With the current projects and the excess funds, I don't think we should just fund all of those project that have been submitted for Kittitas and Yakima counties. I'd like clarification on the projects.
7. Review Ethics information sent to members on May 18, 2021. No discussion.

8. Follow-up on indirect topic item discussed in the last 2019 RAC meeting:

- **From 2019 meeting notes: Lee Carlson:** *I talked with Travis Hornby to make sure he is comfortable with being the chairperson next year. In our last meeting a question came up regarding the 10 percent administrative cost. The Act says that up to 10 percent of each county’s total can be charged for RAC support only. For example, it could be spent on supplies such as binders, photocopying, room rental, and mileage reimbursement. We thought that we had misapplied it this year, but next year one of your first tasks is to include in the instructions that if someone is going to claim administrative cost they will need to itemize it, it is not just free money.*
- **Erick Walker:** Concern was expressed by Lee Carlson during the June 2019 RAC meeting to get most of the money on the ground to projects instead of using it for administrative costs. His goal was to minimize administrative costs. The Act limits the amount the agency can charge for administrative costs. We are trying to get some agreement to keep our admin costs below that 10% mark.
- **Travis Hornby:** Admin for running the RAC and grant admin & preparedness and additional costs can rack up a lot of money in administration in each project. These binders cost money, and costs for meeting room rentals is reasonable. Are we limiting that indirect to 10% as well?
- **Jeff Hardesty:** We need to itemize the costs, if it’s spelled out clearly and all in line with what the outcomes of what the grant are for, then it’s appropriate. The use of 10% for indirect costs can be reasonable if it’s in line and itemized.
- **Keith Goehner:** We don’t have to use the 10 percent, that’s the maximum stated in the Act.
- **Erick Walker:** Does this RAC want to limit the percentage and ask for an itemized list of the uses of that 10 percent proposed?
- **Al Murphy:** We don’t need an itemized list but an upper limit. If the indirect is over that limit, then we’d need a breakdown on itemized expenses. I move that we limit project overhead to 10 percent unless overhead assessments exceed 10 percent, then there would be a need for an itemized worksheet to be supplied.
- **Matt Gilroy:** I second.
- Discussion: 10 percent could be up to \$50,000 which is a lot of money that needs to be accounted for. Everything should be itemized regardless of the amount.
- **Al Murphy:** I withdraw my motion.
- **Powys Gadd:** I move that we request that all future projects show what the itemized 10 percent indirect is being used for.
- **Jeff Hardesty:** I second the motion.
- **Vote taken, motion passes.**

9. Chelan County Commissioner Bob Bugert sent this info in an email to Chairperson Travis Hornby: *“I am unable to attend the June 1 RAC meeting to discuss the grant applications for the Title 2 funds in Chelan County, so Robin suggested that I send you my recommendations for funding. After reviewing the applications, here are my thoughts:”*

(NW Youth Corps)	Entiat Trail Reconstruction and Maintenance	\$35, 659 (full funding)
(Wenatchee River RD)	Wenatchee RD Maintenance on Icicle Road	\$25,000 (partial funding)
(Wenatchee River RD)	Invasive Plant Control—recreation sites and roads	\$30,746 (partial funding)
(Wenatchee River RD)	Wilderness Toilets Repair and Replacement	\$11,550 (full funding)
(Chelan RD)	Crupina Cooperative Management	\$48,510 (full funding)
<u>(CCNWCB)</u>	<u>CCNWCB/USFS Cooperative Common Crupina</u>	<u>\$37,772 (full funding)</u>
Total		\$189,237

Lists of proposed projects for RAC members to discuss:

## KITTITAS COUNTY PROJECTS

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

#	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested
1	<b>Integrated Weed Control</b> (Biocontrol agents)	WSU (Dale Whaley)	<b>\$9,890</b>
2	<b>#1 Dispersed Area Litter, Dumping &amp; Abandoned Vehicle Removal</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Brian Speeg)	<b>\$33,000</b>
3	<b>#2 Winter Trail Maintenance</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Brian Speeg)	<b>\$44,000</b>
4	<b>#3 Beverly Campground Toilet Replacement</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Brian Speeg)	<b>\$44,000</b>
5	<b>#4 Cle Elum RD/Teaway Cooperative Weed Management</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Helen Lau)	<b>\$22,000</b>
Total requested =			<b>\$152,890</b>

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

Potential FY19 & FY 20 Title II funds Available = **\$181,810**

## CHELAN COUNTY PROJECTS

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

#	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested
1	<b>Integrated Weed Control</b>	WSU (Dale Whaley)	<b>\$9,890</b>
2	<b>Entiat Trail Reconstruction &amp; Maintenance</b>	Northwest Youth Corps (Edison Velez III)	<b>\$35,659</b>
3	<b>Fish Lake Garden Loosestrife Control</b>	Chelan County Noxious Weed Board (Julie Sanderson)	<b>\$8,278</b>
4	<b>Cooperative Common Crupina Project</b>	Chelan County Noxious Weed Board (Julie Sanderson)	<b>\$37,772</b>
5	<b>#1 Road Maintenance on Icicle Road</b>	Wenatchee River R.D. (Kayli Barber)	<b>\$55,000</b>
6	<b>#2 Wen. River RD--Invasive Plant Control-Recreation Sites and Roads</b>	Wenatchee River R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	<b>\$49,894</b>
7	<b>#3 Chatter Creek Guard Station Roof Repairs</b>	Wenatchee River R.D. (Les Moscoso)	<b>\$36,960</b>
8	<b>#4 Road Maintenance on Chiwawa River Road</b>	Wenatchee River R.D. (Kayli Barber)	<b>\$86,900</b>
9	<b>#5 Wilderness Toilets Repairs &amp; Replacements</b>	Wenatchee River R.D. (Katie White)	<b>\$11,550</b>
10	<b>#6 Volunteer Trailhead Ambassador Program</b>	Wenatchee River R.D. (Katie White)	<b>\$13,200</b>
11	<b>#7 Wilderness Boundary Sign Replacement</b>	Wenatchee River R.D. (Katie White)	<b>\$3,850</b>
12	<b>#1 Crupina Cooperative Management</b>	Chelan R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	<b>\$48,510</b>
13	<b>#2 Chelan RD--Invasive Plant Control-Recreation Sites and Roads</b>	Chelan R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	<b>\$35,231</b>
14	<b>#1 Abandoned Property/Vehicles Clean Up</b>	Entiat, Chelan, WRRD (Jon Meier)	<b>\$22,000</b>
15	<b>#2 Entiat RD--Invasive Plant Control-Campgrounds, Trailheads &amp; Roads</b>	Entiat R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	<b>\$35,231</b>
Total requested =			<b>\$489,925</b>

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 Chelan County = **\$189,237**

## **Cle Elum Ranger District**

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

Past project monitoring report and new project presentations.

**Brian Speeg** gave an update on Cle Elum District 2019 projects and reported on 2021 proposed projects:

#### **1. 2019 & 2021 Dispersed Area Litter Dumping and Abandoned Vehicle Removal project:**

The Cle Elum Ranger District covers 375,000 acres and 64 percent of the land is under public ownership in Kittitas County. In 2019, the RAC awarded us money to clean up abandoned vehicles and trash. The money was utilized through an agreement with *Friends of Trail* whose volunteers clean up every weekend-- abandoned RVs and vehicles are demolished and hauled away. Over the past 2 years volunteers have removed 5 tons of trash, amounting to 170 hours of volunteer work. We have about \$6,000 left to utilize of the funds awarded in 2019. Having the *Friends of Trail* helps our relationship with adjacent landowners and helps keep the forest clean. Last year we saw a 10 percent or more increase in the amount of litter left in the forest, which is a huge health and safety issue. Every weekend, this grant helps support cleanup of trash and human waste. We supplement the grant with front country rangers contacting forest visitors, they hand out trash bags, deliver leave no trace messages, and pick up trash, but the amount is so much that we can't accomplish it all by ourselves with our limited number of summertime employees. We also host different groups that help pick up trash left each weekend, but *Friends of Trail* is very important and consistent.

- Question: Are these in order of priority? Answer: The correct order of district priority is listed on the voting sheet. This is the district's number one priority project.
- Question: Do we know how many vehicles are abandoned, where they are, and the scale of the issue? Answer: We often have 18 or 19 vehicles dumped each year. Our Law Enforcement is involved in getting the vehicles removed (they contact owners to remove them, if they can't track down the owners then we do what we can to remove the vehicles). We have other local volunteers (East Cascades Recreation Partnership) who also help to report abandoned vehicles and other issues.
- Question: Washington has an RV disposal program, is that also being utilized? Answer: We have not utilized that program. Do they come and retrieve the RVs? No. The Friends of Trail would be set up as a disposal company and would be reimbursed for their costs. Primarily this grant is for removal for household waste.

#### **2. 2021 Beverly Campground Toilet Replacement project**

This is a 14-site campground in the north fork of the Teanaway, the cost to camp there is \$8 per night; it averages 700 overnight visitors during the camping season. Questions: none.

#### **3. 2021 Winter Trail Maintenance project**

We are requesting Title II dollars to fund a winter trail maintenance crew. The crew brushes out winter trails, posts trail makers, marks winter hazards, repairs and keeps winter bulletin boards up to date, grooms trails, and bucks trees out of the trails. In the past we received RCO funding but that isn't available this year.

- Comment: I understand the level of effort it takes to do this work in the winter. It would be more efficient to get started as soon as the fire season is over instead of December. Answer: The primary focus is on winter trails, but we do part of the work year-round, however the need is to fund the winter crew when there is snow on the ground.
- Question: Are you not putting in for RCO money? Answer: Snowmobile grooming is funded by state winter rec, we use this to supplement that money to help log out routes and cross-country ski trails. We did put in a request for funding for RCO but reduced the amount of match and didn't rate high enough to receive funding.
- Question: Who are the partners and what percent of work is done by them? Answer: Kittitas County Grooming Council (including six snowmobile clubs, and contract groomers the state has hired), and volunteers from central WA winter rec collaborative (a group of non-motorized users off the I-90 corridor) who volunteer year-round.

**4. Helen Lau, Botanist for Cle Elum & Naches Districts: Cle Elum/Teanaway Noxious Weed Project.** Clarification, in 2019 the RAC did not fund this project; she is only presenting for this round of Title II funding. In previous years the RAC has supported the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with land management boundaries that overlap. In this proposal, the focus is on lands centered around the Teanaway Community Forest Lands, community education, and work with local city government on invasive issues. The goal is to help support the organization of the CWMA and the treatments.

- Question: What class and species of weeds are there and has any rehab of areas occurred? Answer: It takes several years, at least 4 years of follow up work. We don't have any Class A weeds in Kittitas County; we eradicated a population of Hawkweed. There is Class B, occasionally Class C and D species in Kittitas County. We would work with the group and set our priorities.

**5. Kayli Barber: 2019 Road Stabilization project (Kittitas County) monitoring report.** Overall investment was \$50,500, and 24 miles were treated, the majority of the work was done on nine roads that received blading, drain dips, ditch cleaning, and culvert installation. Work was done through contract. Everything that was requested in the project submission was completed.

- Question: Is this a Kittitas County project? Yes, this is just a monitoring report, not a request for funding.

## **Presentation of External Projects in Kittitas and Chelan Counties**

### **Integrated Noxious Weed Control projects in Kittitas & Chelan Counties**

(Requesting \$9,890 for Kittitas Co. & \$9,890 for Chelan Co.) – Dale Whaley, Washington State University extension office

**Dale Whaley:** Dale is an Assistant Professor and entomologist and coordinates the WSU weeds program in central WA. Biological weed control is the use of organisms to control/suppress another organism such as weeds. USDA APHIS approves biological control agents before introduction into the U.S. Insects are mobile, so we encourage drift to areas where weeds are located. They are cost effective and the benefit/cost ratio is \$15-\$23 per \$1 spent. Accomplished last year--31,000 bioagents released, workshops completed, early detection and rapid response work done, 49 weed control recommendations were provided, and 35 grass seeding recommendations were made.

- Question: Who does the work? Answer: Dale said he does the work.
- Question: Why is the university overhead rate so high? Answer: Dale used 10% but the university uses 25%.

### **Entiat Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance project**

(Requesting \$35,659) – Edison Velez III, Northwest Youth Corps (NYC)

**Edison Velez III:** Edison is the WA State Program Manager for Northwest Youth Corps. Monies from this project would support up to 4 weeks of work on the Entiat Ranger District. We pay our youth that serve on our trail crews; we hire youth ages 16-19 and young adults ages 19-26. Overview of the budget--\$71,909 in total funding with matching NYC funds; we are requesting \$35,660 in Title II dollars.

- Question: You don't have a specific trail or trail system? Answer: We are working with Jon Meier at Entiat Ranger District to identify the trails that need work done.



## **Chelan County Noxious Weed Board/USFS Cooperative Common Crupina project and Fish Lake Garden Loosestrife Control project**

(Requesting \$37,772) – Chelan County Noxious Weed Board, Julie Sanderson & Adam Plfeeger

### **1. 2019 Crupina Cooperative Management project report and the same project for 2021.**

**Julie Sanderson:** We have been requesting money for weed control for a few years. Common Crupina is a high priority Class A weed. This is the only location in the state where it is found. There are 434 privately owned acres of inholdings within forest property. Our goal is to control the weeds on private lands to keep the weeds from continuing to infest national forest lands. The Lakeshore Trail goes through these private parcels. The grant money helps us work with landowners. We spray and we hand pull the weeds. We partner with the Forest Service, WA State Dept of Agriculture, WA State Noxious Weed Board (which has contributed funding in past years), and private landowners do what they can near their buildings and we work on the steeper lands and along the trail. What we are doing is working but follow up is very important--initial spraying followed up by second year hand pulling. We did get some funding in 2019 that allowed a crew and a half to spray and hand pull weeds. The focus this year is on the northern reaches of the infestation. We are also working closer with the National Parks working towards preventing the weed from being transported to those lands.

- Questions: none.

### **2. Fish Lake Garden Loostrife Infestation project:**

**Adam Plfeeger:** Fish Lake Garden Loostrife is a Class B noxious weed. We have funding from Dept. of Ecology to spray at Fish Lake, a popular recreation site. Currently, it is the only location of this plant in Chelan County. We are asking for money to pay for contractor costs to spray weeds; in future years costs will go down and we can collaborate with the Forest Service and the county to do the work inhouse.

- Questions: What are you doing for revegetation following removal of the species? Answer: Most of the shoreline has a robust population of shrubs and brush.

## **Chelan Ranger District**

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

**Brigitte Ranne**, Zone Botanist for Chelan, Entiat and Wenatchee River ranger districts, reported on past project monitoring and new project presentations on these four projects:

### **1. 2019 Common Crupina project on national forest lands and the same project for 2021:**

The infestation is between Prince Creek and Hunts Bluff near Moore Point. This population was discovered at the same time as a population in Idaho which now has 70,000 acres of the infestation. We follow up with bunch grass seeding. This request would support four WA Conservation Crews (WCC) and is 100 percent matched with USFS funds, and WCC matches 25 percent of their crew costs. We didn't do any treatments in 2020, this year we treated 300 acres. We had water issues this year as the snow melted off quickly, but we got a lot treated.

### **2. 2019 Chelan District Invasive Plant Control and the same project for 2021.**

Invasive plant treatments on recreation sites and roads. We treat infestations that are on the access points to rec sites, we treat rec sites themselves and prevent spread of the weeds to the trail system. Diffuse Knapweed and Dalmatian Toadflax are two of the noxious weed populations on the district. We got money in 2019 and did treatments in 2020, we completed 150 acres of roadside infestation identified in the 2019 funds request.

- Question: District treatments are lower priority than Crupina, why is that? Answer: It's because Crupina is a Class A noxious weed which makes it a higher priority.

### **3. 2019 Entiat District Cooperative Weed Control and the same project for 2021.**

It would take a two-person crew 90 days to do the work for the season. Common Houndstongue and Dalmatian Toadflax are common weeds on the district; both are Class B noxious weeds and Chelan County has a requirement that they be controlled. We did treatments in 2020; we hired a crew and accomplished 200 acres on the Entiat District.

4. **Wenatchee River Ranger District cooperative weed control** in the Mission Ridge area.

The goal is to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the existing trail system. Bull Thistle, Canada Thistle, and Diffuse Knapweed are weeds of concern.

- Question: Can you prioritize which of the districts you'd treat if money was limited? Answer: If I got less money, I could do some treatment on each district, I'd rather have reduced amounts for each of the projects than to pick just one area not to do work in.

**Entiat Ranger District**

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

**District Natural Resource Specialist Jon Meier:** Past project monitoring report and new project presentations:

1. 2019 **Silver Falls Historic CCC shelter** monitoring report. We were able to get the project done with help from History Corps; the project was completed in 2020.
2. 2021 **Abandoned Property/Vehicles Clean Up** on Entiat, Chelan and Wenatchee River Ranger Districts. This project is similar to the project that Brian Speeg presented. The forest doesn't have dedicated funds or staffing to address these issues. We'd use these funds to hire a towing company to remove these items. There are no appropriated funds to remove abandoned trailers, they are costly to remove, they may contain hazardous materials, dumping of these vehicles leads to more damage/trash, and prevents use of sites. Questions: none

**Wenatchee River Ranger District**

*2021 project proposals*

**Assistant Forest Engineer Kayli Barber reported on two projects:**

1. **Road Maintenance on Icicle Road project**

Icicle Road parallels the Icicle River with multiple campgrounds, dispersed campsites, and access to Glacier Peak Wilderness. The proposal is to treat maintenance level 3 roads (gravel/aggregate roads). We'd focus on the upper Icicle Road, the last 5.7 miles of the road that is aggregate and 4 miles on Eightmile Road. If we receive more money, we could do more work including asphalt patching on Icicle Road and on adjacent roads. We'd reestablish the ditch line and do draining, brushing, and spot asphaltting.

- Question: You aren't asking for much money for the amount of work you plan to do. Answer: We are doing aggregate/gravel treatment. If we can't do aggregate treatment, we could just do grading and brushing.

2. **Chiwawa River Road maintenance project**

The priority treatment area is the upper 13 miles of the road and 2.39 miles on Phelps Creek Road which is currently at maintenance level 2 with the objective to get that road to maintenance level 3. We could get the project treated with ditch work and crown work. Questions: none.

**Wenatchee River Ranger District Recreation Staff Les Moscoso:**

- Chatter Creek Guard Station Roof Repair project**

This building was constructed in the 1930s by the CCC; most recently it was used by volunteers, as a visitor information center, and as a location for a fire weather station. The barn and corral are occasionally used to house the district stock team. This project is to replace the cedar shake roof with a new roof. The start date is September 2021 with completion in September 2022 for a total cost \$36,960.



- Questions: Is there consideration for the fire element with the cedar roof as opposed to a metal roof that lasts longer and is better protection? Answer: As this is a historic structure, we are keeping the shakes as part of the historic look and original condition.
- Question: How bad is the roof? Is it leaking? Answer: It isn't leaking; we are behind in routine maintenance, there are missing shakes and it's just a matter of time before it leaks.
- Question: There are alternatives, like fiberglass shakes instead of cedar shakes, see if you can get it through SHIPO. Okanogan-Wenatchee NF has a programmatic agreement with SHIPO that allows for use of different materials instead of the cedar shakes. Answer: We could do that and adjust accordingly. Les will follow up on this recommendation.

**Wenatchee River District Lead Wilderness Ranger Katie White** gave project presentations on three 2021 projects:

1. **Wilderness Toilets Repairs & Replacements project:**

In 2020 we disposed of 1,800 piles of human waste, this was a 180 percent increase, and we flew out 5,300 pounds of human waste. Backcountry toilets have been utilized on the district since the 1960s; we have 78 backcountry toilets on the district. We utilize two types of toilets—vault and pit toilets. We fly them out in the fall and replace them at that time with empty vault toilets. Material to replace the toilets would be purchased locally and installed as soon as possible. We will utilize volunteers and partnerships to help with upkeep. Questions: none.

2. **Volunteer Trailhead Ambassador Program project:**

We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of trail users, 70,000 people were counted using a digital counter. Last year, over 350 pounds of trash was packed out by wilderness rangers, 1,500 piles of human waste were disposed of, 25 notice of violation citations were issued, and 54 incident reports were written. Last year there were 12 Saturdays with over 900 visitors with six of those being over 1,000 just at the Stuart Lake Trailhead. This is causing a massive increase in on the ground work for wilderness rangers. We work closely with the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce and volunteers (two people volunteer every Saturday and Sunday from various volunteer organizations). We asked for \$7,000 in salary because it is important to have rangers present to help educate during this first year of the Ambassador program. We can reconsider the extent of ranger involvement. The project is shovel ready. Questions: none.

3. **Wilderness Boundary Sign Replacement project:**

There are 39 wilderness boundary signs on the district, the majority are on the Henry M. Jackson and Alpine Lakes Wildernesses. We have exhausted our supply of signs. We'd work with partners (4-H development); it takes two months to make the signs. Trail users really rely upon these signs to know when they are in wilderness areas to avoid unintentional wilderness incursions (such as mountain bikes and snowmobiles). All these proposals are shovel ready.

- Questions: Comment--the Trail Ambassador is an outstanding program and it's extremely important that they be trained and don't become cops, they must have the right message to share. Answer: We have trailhead ambassador training and will make sure it is purely education and also some de-escalation training.
- Question: It sounds like you have done a lot of work, do you have other means of funding? Answer: The money would help us to fund a Forest Service owned canopy, pay for education materials, table and chairs for volunteers to use, radios for communication, and uniform shirts and hats identifying the volunteers.
- Comment—City of Leavenworth is giving \$5,000 to assist and this is a community effort.

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11:50 **Public Comment Period** – no public comments were provided

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12:00-12:45 **Lunch** – *The committee decided to have a 30-minute lunch instead of 45 minutes, and to resume at 12:30 p.m.*

## RAC DISCUSSION & VOTING on KITTITAS COUNTY & CHELAN COUNTY PROJECTS

### **Voting on Kittitas County Projects:**

**Travis Hornby:** Suggested that we discuss the Kittitas County projects before we jump into voting on the projects.

Discussion:

Any questions/concerns with the Integrated Weed Control project? Concern with the 25% overhead costs that the university is requesting. Going forward, it must be specific that any costs over 10% must have a line item explanation. We don't have to fund every project in full.

Robin DeMario: WSU did send five documents for each of the three project proposals they submitted, she can send these 15 documents to RAC members if they would like to review them.

How long is the money good for? It must be obligated by 9-30-2022, that means that a contract must be awarded but the work doesn't have to be completed by that date.

**Brandt Cappell:** I move we fund the WSU bioagent control project for the requested amount of \$9,890.

**Darcy Batura:** I second.

Discussion:

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

**Project #2 Cle Elum Ranger District Litter and Abandoned Vehicle Removal** project requesting \$33,000.

Discussion: We need to know the number of vehicles removed each year. Concern about archaeological sites that get cleaned up, the clean-up must be specific to modern trash. Friends of the Trail has 25 years of experience specializing in this type of work. They contract out the towing of the vehicles. We are funding a project that will be occurring over the next year to two years, are we funding in the rearview mirror or in the future?

**Travis Hornby:** The motion is to move forward with funding this project with the added direction that the clean-up must be specific to modern trash.

**Powys Gadd:** I second.

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

**Project #3 Winter Trail Maintenance** project requesting \$44,000 in funding.

Discussion: None.

**Brandt Cappell:** I move we fund this in full.

**Al Murphy:** I second.

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

**Project #4 Beverly Campground Toilet Replacement** project requesting \$44,000 in funding.

**Keith Goehner:** I move we fund this project in full.

**Brandt Cappell:** I second.

Discussion: None

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

**Project #5 Cle Elum RD/Teaway Coop Weed Management** project.

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.

**Al Murphy:** I move to fund the project with the three caveat items (they need to identify the weeds they are going after, their coordination with the grazing permittee, and their revegetation efforts).

**Matt Gilroy:** I second.

Discussion: none

Vote taken, motion fails.

Discussion: There are real opportunities to work with East Cascades Recreation and Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition partnership on some of the management across boundaries.

Question: Can we bring this back for consideration?

**Erick Walker:** 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.

Comment: I want to see it in writing as part of the formal project approval.

**Travis Hornby:** I recommend that Helen Lau come back on June 16 to answer these questions.

**Brandt Cappell:** I move that we table this project until the June 16 RAC meeting.

**Powys Gadd:** I second.

Discussion: Helen needs to highlight the most likely projects they would be addressing and other details.

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

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

## Proposed Title II Projects in Kittitas County FY2021

(Utilizing FY2019 & FY2020 Title II funds)

Potential FY19 & FY20 Title II funds available for Kittitas County = **\$181,810**

**June 1, 2021**

	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested	RAC Funding Allocation
1	<b>Integrated Weed Control (Biocontrol agents)</b>	WSU (Dale Whaley)	<b>\$9,890</b>	<b>Fully funded for \$9,890</b>
2	<b>#1 Dispersed Area Litter, Dumping &amp; Abandoned Vehicle Removal</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Brian Speeg)	<b>\$33,000</b>	<b>Fully funded for \$33,000</b>
3	<b>#2 Winter Trail Maintenance</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Brian Speeg)	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>Fully funded for \$44,000</b>
4	<b>#3 Beverly Campground Toilet Replacement</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Brian Speeg)	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>Fully funded for \$44,000</b>
5	<b>#4 Cle Elum RD/Teaway Cooperative Weed Management</b>	Cle Elum Ranger District (Helen Lau)	<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>Tabled for further discussion during the June 16, 2021 RAC meeting</b>

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

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### Voting on Chelan County Projects:

Discussion:

If we look at the first four priorities, we are almost budgeted out.

Al Murphy shared that as the former Chelan District Ranger he has a high regard for the Common Crupina project and asked if any members had an issue with his past experience and current preference for this project. None did.

If we do partially fund them, do we have an idea of other options? With Crupina we have two requests. Some of these projects have matching monies.

How does it play out if they didn't get awarded this money, would they lose the in-kind match? In-kind is written up in two ways (labor and materials/equipment) so it may be a decrease in the amount of labor that is available in-kind and the same with equipment.

Do we want to go with the county commissioner's list?

There are two road maintenance projects that could get work done at a lesser cost than requested.

As much as I'd like to see the Crupina eradicated, that is an excessive amount of money to put toward one project, I recommend partial funding instead. There are two Crupina proposals, one for private lands and one on federal lands. Any money that goes toward weed management is a continued effort to try to limit those plants on the landscape.

**Travis Hornby:** Let's select our six top priority projects with the understanding that we plan to reduce funding on them. Numbers listed after RAC members names correspond with the projects listed on the Chelan County projects table on page 4.

Ken Tolonen: 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14  
Al Murphy: 1, 2, 5, 9, 13, 15  
Brandt Cappell: 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 14  
Matthew Gilroy: 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 15  
Darcy Batura: 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14  
Powys Gadd: 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14  
Amy Ramsey: 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14  
Keith Goehner: 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12  
Jeff Hardesty: 2, 11, 15, 14, 12, 4  
Travis Hornby: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 14

The projects receiving the most votes in round one of voting are projects 1, 2, 5, 9, 12, and 14.

Discussion: There is \$6,628 left if you fund your top six projects. The seventh top project is #8.

**Travis Hornby:** Let's choose the top seven projects in voting round 1 to fund (these would be projects 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, and 14).

**Matt Gilmore:** I move that we select the top seven projects voted on in round 1 and bring them to round 2 to prioritize funding amounts.

**Brandt Cappell:** I second.

Discussion. You could use a Zoom pole to prioritize the order of projects.

We could pare down some of those top seven projects before we go to a poll.

If we move these seven forward, we just need to establish our funding level.

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

Right now, the total amount of money allocated to these top projects is \$269,509.

**Discussion:** We need to identify projects that can have a reduction in funding.

#1 doesn't look like it can be reduced, minus what the university charges for indirect.

#2 trail maintenance for the youth corps could be reduced, it is scalable.

#5 can reduce to \$25,000.

#8 can reduce to \$35,000.

#9 can reduce to half but it received the highest number of votes, so I don't recommend that it be reduced.

If we reduce these amounts, then the total adds up to \$187,609.

Reduce one of the weed projects and incorporate those monies into project #4.

Reduce the trail project.

Reduce the two road projects.

Fund road projects and cut every other project by 5%?

Maybe #8 is reduced more and those savings could then be added to project #5.

Take Chiwawa road project #8 off and put that money toward projects #4 and #5.

In the original vote, we moved these seven projects forward.

Cut project #8 deeper than \$35,000.

Discussion about ranking of the projects.

Projects #4 and #12 are interrelated but not dependent upon one another. Recommend that #12 and #4 be reconfigured. Reduce #12 to \$36,000 and #4 at \$12,000.

The weed management project on Cle Elum District should be considered.

Project #5 road maintenance, commissioners said \$25,000 would be enough.

Any money they get will have an impact. Icicle Road is heavily traveled, I'd hate to see us reduce that to \$25,000.

Bring project #4 forward to add to the top 7 projects.

If we reduced project #12 and awarded #4 money, then resources would be pulled together.

How does the county spend funding they get from residents for weed control?

The county is already collecting noxious weeds assessment fees and maybe those funds could be moved around between projects.

1	9890	WSU Weed	
9	11550	Toilets	
14	22000	Abandoned Property	
Sub total	<b>43440</b>		
4	20000	Crupina	
12	20000	Crupina	
Sub total	<b>83440</b>		
5	25000	Icicle Road	
8	35000	Chiwawa	
Sub Total	<b>143440</b>		
2	30000	Entiat Trails	
Sub Total	<b>173440</b>		
Budget	-189237		
Extra	<b>15797</b>		

*This screen shot of a spreadsheet shows the project numbers in the far-left column, the dollar amounts recommended in the middle column, and a shortened name of each project in the right column. The number in the last row titled Extra is the amount that hasn't been allocated.*

Discussion: Reduce Entiat Trails more and put that amount towards the Icicle Road maintenance project. You could take a little money from the abandoned vehicle and trash clean-up project.

1	9890	WSU Weed	
9	11550	Toilets	
14	17138	Abandoned Property	
Sub total	<b>38578</b>		
4	20000	Crupina	
12	20000	Crupina	
Sub total	<b>78578</b>		
5	45000	Icicle Road	
8	35000	Chiwawa	
Sub Total	<b>158578</b>		
2	30650	Entiat Trails	
Sub Total	<b>189237</b>		
Budget	-189237		
Extra	<b>0</b>		

*This spreadsheet screen shot shows all monies allocated with 0 (zero) dollars extra.*

**Jeff Hardesty:** I move that we prioritize the grant awards to represent what was displayed in the excel spreadsheet for funding for eight projects.

**Darcy Batura:** I second.

Discussion: About additional funding.

**Keith Goehner:** I move to amend the original motion. I move it be amended to include eight of the projects on the spreadsheet that Brandt Cappell has presented.

**Powys Gadd:** I second.

No discussion.

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

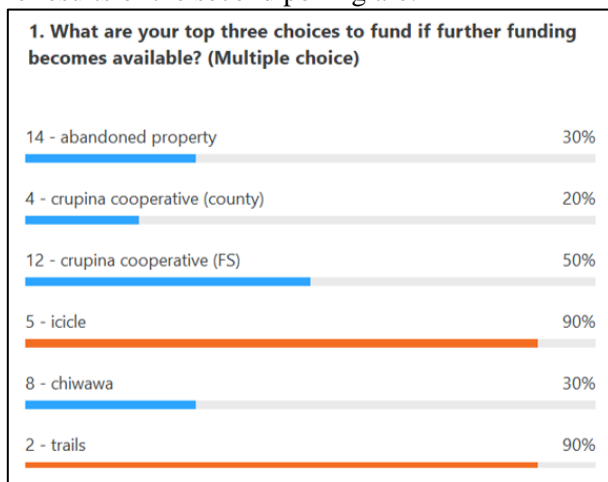
1	9890	WSU Weed		
9	11550	Toilets		
14	17138	Abandoned Property	Part	
Sub total	<b>38578</b>			
4	20000	Crupina	Part	
12	20000	Crupina	Part	
Sub total	<b>78578</b>			
5	45000	Icicle Road	Part	
8	35000	Chiwawa	Part	
Sub Total	<b>158578</b>			
2	30659	Entiat Trails	Part	
Sub Total	<b>189237</b>			
Budget	-189237			
Extra	<b>0</b>			

*Spreadsheet screen shot showing the eight projects recommended for Title II funding in Chelan County.*

RAC members next voted on prioritization of remaining unfunded or partially funded projects utilizing Zoom polls.

The polling was taken a second time as one member had voted for four projects instead of three.

The results of the second polling are:



*This screen shot shows the RAC's priority list for funding projects if additional funds become available.*



**Brandt Cappell:** I move that projects 5, 2, 8, 12, 14 be funded in full in this order if additional monies become available.

**Matt Gilmore:** I second.

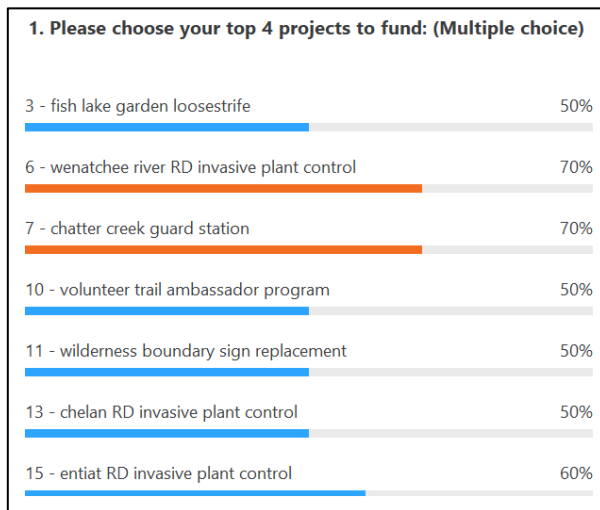
Discussion: none

**Vote taken, motion passes**

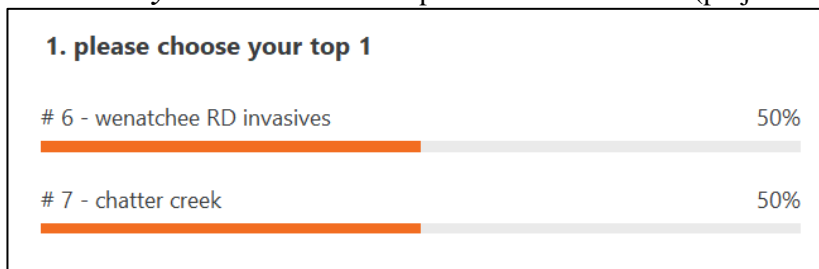
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Second round of voting on prioritization of remaining unfunded projects and partially funded projects.

Discussion: Six are partially funded, lets vote on the top three projects of the six that weren't fully funded Let's vote on the next top four projects in the second round of voting to prioritize projects in the event that additional Title II funding becomes available. The remaining projects are projects numbered 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15.



**Travis Hornby:** Let's vote on the top two of these selected (projects #6 and #7).



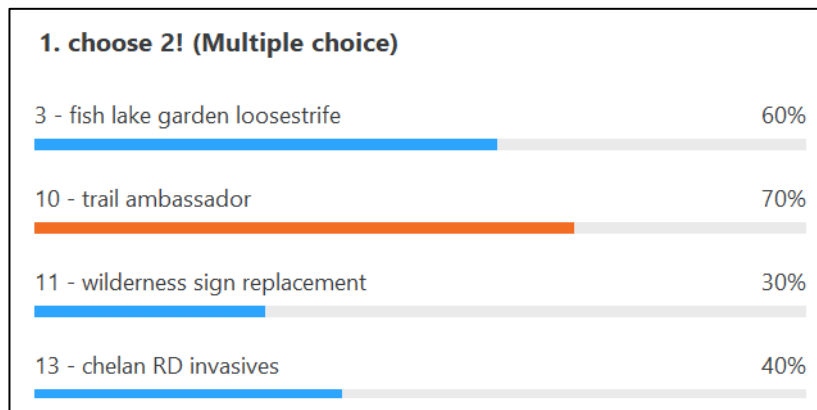
**Brandt Cappell:** As both projects received the same percentage of votes, I move we prioritize these two projects according to the District Ranger ranking, listing project #6 as first priority and project #7 as second priority.

**Al Murphy:** I second.

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

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**Travis Hornby:** Let's vote on our next two priority projects out of these four projects--3, 10, 11, and 13.



**Keith Goehner:** I move that we use this order to reflect our priorities for funding in the event additional monies become available—projects 10, 3, 13, 11.

**Brandt Cappell:** I second

No discussion

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

**Brandt Cappell:** I move that we present the projects as approved to the Forest Supervisor for consideration.

**Ken Tolonen:** I second.

Discussion, none

**Vote taken, motion passes**

Comment: The use of the Zoom poll is outstanding.

**Brandt Cappell:** I move to adjourn the meeting.

**Darcy Batura:** I second.

**Vote taken, motion passes.**

Meeting wrap-up, discussion about the June 16 RAC meeting.

**Erick Walker:** You all are rock stars! I commend how you all came together, and it all worked. We will take the next two weeks to hopefully get our books squared away regarding previous year's Title II funds, what was previously approved, and what still needs to be done. Our goal is to get all that money allocated to the ground as soon as possible. We will allocate adequate time during the June 16 meeting to discuss the prior year funding issue.

**Robin DeMario:** During the June 16 meeting, please come prepared with your calendars so we can select some dates for the fall RAC meetings to discuss recreation fee increase proposals and any additional Title II project proposals for Kittitas and Yakima Counties.

Meeting adjourned.

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

## Proposed Title II Projects in Chelan County FY2021

(Utilizing FY2019 & FY2020 Title II funds)

Potential FY19 & FY20 Title II funds available for Chelan County = **\$189,237**

**June 1, 2021**

#	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested	Round 1 votes	RAC Funding Allocation
1	Integrated Weed Control	WSU (Dale Whaley)	\$9,890	5	Fully funded for \$9,890
2	Entiat Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance	Northwest Youth Corps (Edison Velez III)	\$35,659	7	Partially funded for \$30,659
3	Fish Lake Garden Loosestrife Control	Chelan County Noxious Weed Board (Julie Sanderson)	\$8,278	1	////////////////////
4	Cooperative Common Crupina Project	Chelan County Noxious Weed Board (Julie Sanderson)	\$37,772	2	Partially funded for \$20,000
5	Road Maintenance on Icicle Road	Wenatchee River R.D. (Kayli Barber)	\$55,000	8	Partially funded for \$45,000
6	Wen. River RD--Invasive Plant Control-Recreation Sites and Roads	Wenatchee River R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	\$49,894	2	////////////////////
7	Chatter Creek Guard Station Roof Repairs	Wenatchee River R.D. (Les Moscoso)	\$36,960	3	////////////////////
8	Road Maintenance on Chiwawa River Road	Wenatchee River R.D. (Kayli Barber)	\$86,900	4	Partially funded for \$35,000
9	Wilderness Toilets Repairs & Replacements	Wenatchee River R.D. (Katie White)	\$11,550	9	Fully funded for \$11,550
10	Volunteer Trailhead Ambassador Program	Wenatchee River R.D. (Katie White)	\$13,200	1	////////////////////
11	Wilderness Boundary Sign Replacement	Wenatchee River R.D. (Katie White)	\$3,850	1	////////////////////
12	Crupina Cooperative Management	Chelan R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	\$48,510	6	Partially funded for \$20,000
13	Chelan RD--Invasive Plant Control-Recreation Sites and Roads	Chelan R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	\$35,231	1	////////////////////
14	Abandoned Property/Vehicles Clean Up	Entiat, Chelan, WRRD (Jon Meier)	\$22,000	7	Partially funded for \$17,138
15	Entiat RD--Invasive Plant Control-Campgrounds, Trailheads & Roads	Entiat R.D. (Brigitte Ranne)	\$35,231	3	////////////////////

Prioritization of all Chelan County Title II projects. The project #s correspond with the list on the voting chart RAC members used during the voting segment of the June 1, 2021 RAC meeting (and as represented above on page 17 of this document):

RAC Priority order	Project name and funding amount
1	Project #1 WSU--Integrated Weed Control fully funded for \$9,890
2	Project #2 NW Youth Corps--Entiat Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance partially funded for \$30,659
3	Project #4 Chelan Co. Noxious Weed Board--Cooperative Common Crupina Project partially funded for \$20,000
4	Project #5 Wenatchee River RD--Road Maintenance on Icicle Road partially funded for \$45,000
5	Project #8 Wenatchee River RD--Road Maintenance on Chiwawa River Road partially funded for \$35,000
6	Project #9 Wenatchee River RD--Wilderness Toilets Repairs & Replacements fully funded for \$11,550
7	Project #12 Chelan RD--Crupina Cooperative Management Chelan RD partially funded for \$20,000
8	Project #14 FS Jon Meier--Abandoned Property/Vehicles Clean Up partially funded for \$17,138
	If additional monies become available, the following projects will be fully funded in the following order:

9	Project #5 Road Maintenance on Icicle Road for \$10,000 until it is fully funded
10	Project #2 Entiat Trail Reconstruction & Maintenance for \$5,000 until it is fully funded
11	Project #8 Road Maintenance on Chiwawa River Road for \$51,900 until it is fully funded
12	Project #12 Crupina Cooperative Management Chelan R.D. for \$28,510 until it is fully funded
13	Project #14 Abandoned Property/Vehicles Clean Up for \$4,862 until it is fully funded
14	Project #6 Wenatchee River RD--Invasive Plant Control-Recreation Sites and Roads for \$49,894
15	Project #7 Wenatchee River RD--Chatter Creek Guard Station Roof Repairs for \$36,960
16	Project #10 Volunteer Trailhead Ambassador Program for \$13,200
17	Project #3 Chelan Co. Noxious Weed Board--Fish Lake Garden Loosestrife Control for \$8,278
18	Project #13 Chelan RD—Invasive Plant Control-Recreation Sites and Roads for \$35,231
19	Project #11 Wenatchee River RD--Wilderness Boundary Sign Replacement for \$3,850
20	Project #15 Entiat RD—Invasive Plant Control-Campgrounds, Trailheads & Roads for \$35,231

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