

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

10 a.m., April 20, 2009, Salmon, Idaho

In Attendance: Group A - Bruce Cole, Doug Westfall, Jerry Hamilton; Group B - Hadley Roberts, Dick Hauff, Dan Mulick, Bert Doughty; Group C - Bob Cope, Earl Skeen, Mike England

Forest Service: Acting DFO / Ranger Kimberly Nelson, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers - Chris Grove and Mike Foster, Engineer Jake Stromeyer

Note Takers: Kimberly Nelson and Kent Fuellenbach

Introduction of RAC members and visitors – Cope

Review February 24, 2009 Notes

- Mike England moved to approve minutes of March 20, 2009. Hadley Roberts second. All in favor – minutes approved.

Forest Supervisor/DFO Update (Kimberly Nelson /Acting)

- Kimberly expressed Bill's apology for not being in attendance.
- Stimulus – Will get information out as soon as we have it.
- Proposals – should make appropriate Ranger aware of the incoming proposals as the projects ultimately become a Forest project.
- Need to provide for consistency with Forest Plan, Fiscal Regulations and other Federal Laws (i.e. NEPA)
- Reminder – nation-wide 50% of the funds must go to categories 1 & 2; road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration; and stream & watershed restoration. The RAC needs to be sure to contribute to this 50%.

Comments from CIRAC Chair

- When we received the Title II money we thought we received \$1,006,240. Some of the money for the new South Idaho RAC was recorded in the CIRAC account.
- Amount actually allocated to CIRAC is \$977,753 for this year.
- At Copes request, Jake gave an update on the stimulus funding for roads, trails and facilities.
- At the very least today, we need to start prioritizing.
 - Possible moratorium on new project proposals
 - Review of projects already received but not discussed
 - Approve a number of projects

Kent

Kent discussed changes the RAC Project Analysis Flow Chart – emphasized the need to remember the project priorities set in the Secure Rural Schools Act as well as the RAC economic priorities. Three handouts- updated Flow Chart, RAC Project Priorities and CIRAC Economic Priorities.

Screening Process

- RAC Members request that we follow-up with those individuals whose projects were not selected, several folks have been wondering if their project was funded.
- Mike England requested information concerning RAC members and the “Rico Act”. Kent will follow up.
- The RAC agreed to put a temporary moratorium on new projects at the end of today’s meeting. Mike made the motion, second by Hadley. Motion approved unanimously.
- Review of new projects – see below.

Review of Projects – First Reading

The RAC decided to look at project previews that had not yet been reviewed (Projects submitted at previous meetings and new projects submitted in time for this meeting) before voting on any projects.

New Project Previews since meeting 3-20

- **Salmon River Whitewater Park**
 - Chace Slavin and others presented the proposal The Salmon River Whitewater Park, to be located at Island Park in Salmon.
 - The plan consists of recreational boating improvements as well as related bank and access improvements.
 - Whitewater drop structures would create drops and pools providing excellent fish habitat.
 - CIRAC funding requested \$100,000
 - RAC members discussed the project with proponents
 - RAC members concerned that the project is not on the Forest and would not benefit the resources on the Forest and therefore doesn’t meet the requirements of the legislation.
 - RAC discussed the project with proponents for half an hour. The project was tabled so the RAC could move on to other projects.
- **Moose Creek Estates Environmental Assessment**
 - Environmental Enhancement
 - Tree thinning – planting – spraying
 - Weed Eradication
 - Private property surrounded by Forest
 - \$52,000 requested
 - RAC will consider – need more information
 - Contact Russ Bacon – John Goodman
- **Big Deer-Clear Creek Trail Clearing**
 - Trail Maintenance of F.S. trails

- Dave Melton, Permittee would clear the trails
- Contracting questions
- \$12,540 requested
- Richard Smith to follow up with Russ Bacon and Melton

- **Strawberry Spring Solar Water Trough**
 - OPCFP – Range
 - Permittee Stephen Bachman
 - \$2,984 for solar pump and pipeline
 - Private, State, and National Forest land
 - Need more information/ discussion with C-YF Ranger, ID Lands, BLM
 - Earl Skeen to follow up

- **Big Gulch Solar Water Trough**
 - OPCFP – Range, Streams & Watersheds, Wildlife
 - Permittee Stephen Bachman
 - \$5,784 for solar pump and pipeline
 - Need more information/ discussion with C-YF Ranger
 - Earl Skeen to follow up

- **Hughes Creek Monitoring**
 - Stream & Watersheds/ Ecosystem Management
 - Ecosystem monitoring of Hughes Creek Project
 - \$10,000 requested
 - Partnership with Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group
 - Need more information on where the money would go
 - Mike England with follow up

- **Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds**
 - Noxious Weed Control
 - Lemhi CWMA – Daniel Bertram
 - \$10,000 requested
 - Need more information on what goats would be used – what weeds do they eat?
 - Kim Nelson will follow up

- **Youth and Resources Middle Fork Trips**
 - Ecosystem Health/Trail and Campsite maintenance
 - Youth leadership and natural resource education
 - YEP project
 - Dirk Gibson Middle Fork Outfitter
 - \$15,000 per trip, 4 trips per year
 - Questions about bidding the project – involving other outfitters
 - Can the RAC approve the project?
 - Chris Grove, Middle Fork Ranger will follow up

- **North Zone Trail and Property Management**
 - Trail Maintenance, a
 - YEP project
 - \$8,000 requested
 - Need more information
 - Kim Nelson to follow up

- **Middle Fork Trail Maintenance**
 - Trail Maintenance of F.S. trails
 - Ron Ense, Permittee would clear the trails
 - Contracting questions
 - \$2,500 requested
 - Bruce Cole to follow up with Kris Martinson and Ense

- ***NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors***
 - Lost River Range Improvement Maintenance Crew
 - Bio control Collection Day
 - Aminopyralid Bio Assessment
 - The Ditch Creek Bridge Installation – F.S. received other funding

Projects received from SNRA and C-T – not yet reviewed

- **C-T Birch Creek Noxious Weeds**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - Noxious Weeds
 - Partnership with BLM and landowners
 - \$10,000 requested

- **C-T ATV Barriers**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCFP – Closing illegal motorized routes
 - \$5,000 requested

- **C-T Travel Management**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCFP – Education/Information – enforcement
 - \$14,750 requested
 -

- **C-T Charcoal Kilns Protection**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCFP – Stream & Watershed protection/Maintenance of historic structures.
 - \$7,000 requested for Exclosure fence

- **C-T Charcoal Kilns Sun and Wind Shelters**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCPF – Visitor comfort at Historical Interpretation site.
 - \$25,000 requested.

- **SNRA Conifer Encroachment**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Forest Health/Wildlife Habitat
 - \$46,000 requested

- **SNRA Salmon River Road Weeds**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Noxious Weeds
 - \$20,000 requested

- **SNRA Redfish Lake Wind Throw**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - OPCFP Safety, Firewood, Recreation Clean up
 - YEP project
 - \$45,000 requested

- **SNRA Stump Removal (project was withdrawn by sponsor)**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Will resubmit project next year

***NOTE:** The following projects had not been received by the RAC coordinator because of problems with the SNRA inter-net connection. The RAC decided to review the projects at the meeting. (see additional hand drawn poster)*

- **SNRA Hunting Season Campground Maintenance**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Facilities Maintenance – Water Quality
 - Maintain restrooms and trash collection during the hunting season
 - \$4,700 requested

- **SNRA Youth Conservation Corps**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Establish a YCC to perform various resource projects
 - Similar to YCCs funded by the RAC on Challis-Yankee Fork and Lost River Districts

- **SNRA Trail Maintenance Contracting**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA
 - Trail Maintenance
 - Request \$45,000

- Need more information on specific project location – Smokey Mountain Range is mentioned and it is located in Blaine County.
- **SNRA Tree Thinning**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Forest health
 - Request \$10,000
- **NOTE: SNRA Stump Removal proposal- withdrawn**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Project was withdrawn by the sponsor
 - Will be resubmitted next year
- **NOTE: The Following Miscellaneous Project Proposals Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors.**
 - Leesburg Stage Road Maintenance
 - Newland Boat Ramp
 - Cache Bar Picnic Table
 - Cache Bar Exit Ramp
 - Scat Machine Upgrade

Cope's Comments

The RAC had \$977,753 to spend this year. We have approved projects for \$389,000. That leaves us \$588,753 - with more than \$3 million worth of projects to choose from. Where do you want to go from here?
Cope asked for suggestions on approving projects

Doug Westfall suggested that because the legislation strongly emphasizes road maintenance, roughly 50% of the remaining funds should go to road maintenance projects. He recommended splitting the remaining \$588,000 to 50% roads and 50% other projects. The RAC discussed the proposal and Doug moved that the RAC set a goal of selecting approximately \$250,000 in road projects. Bruce Cole seconded. The RAC approved the motion unanimously.

See the list of approved projects for more information/clarification.

PROJECT APPROVALS

Road Maintenance:

The RAC discussed the various Salmon-Challis National Forest Road Maintenance project proposals.

Doug Westfall moved to approve the following projects, seconded by Bruce Cole.

- **Forest-wide Road Maintenance - \$125,000**
- **Forest-wide Dust Abatement - 85,000**

- **Custer Motorway Improvements - 45,000**
Total \$255,000

The voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C

Other Approved Projects:

The RAC discussed a number of other non-road maintenance projects and approved the following:

- **SNRA Redfish Lake Wind Throw - \$39,200**
 - Motion to approve by Mark Stauffer, second by Mike England
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **SNRA YCC - \$10,000**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Mark Stauffer
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **SNRA Hunt Season Restrooms/Camp Maint. - \$ 4,700**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Mark Stauffer
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **Sawmill Canyon - \$ 8,000**
 - Motion to approve by Dan Muleick, second by Doug Westfall
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **Racetrack Meadow - \$20,000**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Hadley Roberts
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **NZ Firewood/Slash - \$41,000**
 - Motion to approve by Jerry Hamilton, second by Hadley Roberts
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **SNRA Sawtooth Water Development - \$40,000**
 - Motion to approve by Bert Doughty, second by Earl Skeen
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **Leafy Spurge Bug & Bomb - \$25,920**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Jerry Hamilton
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C

Total Other Projects	<u>\$188,820</u>
Plus Road Maintenance	<u>\$255,000</u>
GRAND TOTAL APPROVED 4-20-09	<u>\$443,820</u>

Amount Available at start of the meeting	\$588,753
Minus Grand Total Approved	- \$443,820
TOTAL REMAINING 2009 FUND	\$144,933

RAC discussed the Middle Fork Youth and Resource Trips, which was re-formatted to include the Salmon YEP organization in recruiting. Members did not feel they had enough information to make a decision. There were concerned that other outfitters were not participating in the project, the amount of resource work needed, and the fact that the river-left side of the river is located mostly in Valley County and therefore not within the RAC boundary.

RAC discussed Salmon River Water Park further. The RAC members unanimously agreed the project is a good economic project but it does not fit within the parameters set by the legislation that the RAC has to live by. The project would not be located on the National Forest and would not directly benefit the fisheries habitat or other resources on the National Forest.

Chairman Cope - Closing

- RAC approved nearly \$145,000 in projects today.
- RAC members should go through the remaining projects to determine which projects they would like to see approved with the remaining funds.

Public Forum

- No additional comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. ???