

# **Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting**

## **10 a.m., May 21, 2009 Challis, Idaho**

In Attendance: Group A - Bruce Cole, Jerry Hamilton Group B - Dick Hauff, Gary Power (Richard Smith – replacement) Group C - Earl Skeen, Mark Stauffer

Forest Service: DFO Bill Wood, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers - Chris Grove, Russ Bacon, Scott Feldhausen and Mike Foster

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

### **Introduction of RAC members and visitors**

**There is not a quorum for any of the three groups. The members who are present will vote, and Kent will call the non present members for their votes. There will be no approved projects until a quorum is established.**

### **Review April 20, 2009 Notes**

- Bruce Cole moved to approve minutes of April 20, 2009. Jerry Hamilton second. All in favor –

### **Forest Supervisor/DFO Update (Bill Wood)**

- Diane Weaver is the Acting Range program manager and Mike Foster is acting District Ranger.
- Scott Feldhausen is acting District Ranger for the Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District. Scott is filling in for Kimberly Nelson while she is on maternity leave.
- ARRA – still waiting for the word from the Secretary's Office.
- The Secretary is also keeping a very close interest in how we manage Grants and Agreements and contracts. We now have an extra step we have to go through in that the Secretary is asking to review all Grants and Agreements and contracts. This affects 3 Range projects, the YEP project and the Mosquito Flat project. This underscores the need for projects to be closely coordinated with the District Ranger.

### **Comments from CIRAC Chair (Mark Stauffer)**

- We have quite a few projects left on the table and we want to have each one clearly defined and represented. We have \$165,433 left to spend. Each project will be allowed five minutes to be represented.

### **Kent**

- There is a blank form in your packets. By the end of the day each RAC member will have that form filled out by priority. Discussion will take place at the end of the meeting to determine Committee priority.

**All Engineering Projects are being taken off the table, both North and South Zone.**

## **Projects Still on the Table – State, County, Group or Public (Misc)**

- Project Learning Tree (IFPC)
  - There was not a presenter for this project. However, a letter was read from the State Coordinator explaining the project.
  - Earl Skeen discussed the program. It is a really good program that teaches kids natural resources stewardship objectives.
  - This can be tied into connecting kids to the outdoors (a national movement)
  
- Sawtooth Native Plants (Bernadette Cooney)
  - We all know the importance of native plants. They create wildlife habitat, forage, keep out noxious and invasive weeds, and a slough of other things.
  - What makes this proposal different is that there are many entities involved.
  - This project will help meet botany targets.
  - This project would be a good project to dovetail with another project – removal of noxious weeds. Could go behind the removal of the noxious weeds and plant native plants in their place.
  - This is a great opportunity to educate.
  
- Trail Creek Dust Abatement
  - There is no representation for this project.
  
- Campground Hazard-Tree Removal
  - Assesses and removes the high risk diseased trees from campgrounds that could potentially place a risk on campers.
  - Lemhi and Custer counties managed by LCEDA.
  - Waste would be efficiently processed.
  - We are losing ground to the bark beetles.
  
- Leave No Trace
  - Implement and expand the training course held in a three county region (Lemhi, Custer and Butte)
  - Teaches Forest users to improve Forest health.
  - Benefits the community, youth and local communities.
  
- Moose Creek Estates Environmental Enhancement
  - There is no representation for this project.
  
- Strawberry Spring Solar Water Trough
  - Would like to reinstate the enclosure, but in order to do that, need to create a water source.

- Solar pump to pump the water from the stream inside the enclosure out to the water trough (approximately a mile away)
- Big Gulch Solar Water Trough
  - No water supply in Big Gulch for the cattle
  - Would like to reinstate the enclosure, but in order to do that, need to create a water source.
  - Solar pump to pump the water from the stream inside the enclosure out to the water trough (approximately a mile away)
  - The water trough would be sitting on State Land
- Hughes Creek Monitoring (Gina Knudson)
  - Hughes Creek was the first project between the SVS and FS and was not appealed.
  - Now we need to monitor the results, not just the FS, but multi partied.
  - The Forest Service is VERY supportive of this project.
  - YEP may be utilized.
- Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds (Daniel Bertram)
  - Have been grazing in Carmen Creek since 2001 (primarily leafy spurge)
  - Are placing permanent monitoring transects this year
  - Goats reduce seed spread
  - Leafy Spurge prefers new growth after grazing.
  - Salmon City Waterworks is being grazed this year for spotted knapweed.
  - Pilot project across the road from Newland Ranch
  - RAC funding would go completely to Carmen Creek and City Waterworks
- Bio-Control Collection Day (Daniel Bertram)
  - Did last year, and had tremendous success
  - Employs the youth
- Middle Fork Trail Clearing
  - Will keep local
- Middle Fork Youth Mentoring
  - Might be getting a little too late in the season.
  - The difficulty is what services can be contracted.
  - Would be doing resource work on the camps
- ***NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors***
  - Spring Creek CG Tree Trimming
  - Big Deer/Clear Creek Trail Clearing

### **Projects Still on the Table – South Zone FS**

- Antelope Guard Station

- Converting to rental facility/outdoor education facility
- Need to write a site plan due to historical value
  
- Green Lake Access
  - ¼ mile trail used to provide access
  - Road deteriorated to point where it doesn't currently provide access
  - Effects on fish would be minimal
  
- Horseshoe Mine I&E Project
  - Tie into adjacent cultural interpretation projects
  - Cleanup and Interpretation
  - S. Custer Historical Society is key partner
  
- Carlson Lake Fence
  - New construction project
  - Carlson Lake is a high lake – a combination of seeps
  - Being impacted by grazing and OHV use
  - Fence would protect the lake
  
- *NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors*
  - Pistol Creek Trail Clearing

### **Projects Still on the Table – North Zone FS**

- **NZ Trail & Property Maintenance**
  - Would be employing youth
  - Could be going through Stewardship
  
- **NZ Weed Management**
  - Would be employing youth and coordinating with CWMA
  
- **NZ Five Culvert Restoration**
  - Part going back to the Hughes Creek area
  - Finishing up design work and contracting out the NEPA or using the FS Enterprise Team
  - Could be done through Stewardship
  - The potential to turn this into local contractor employment is huge
  
- **Lemhi-Little Springs Riparian Exclosure**
  - Jack pole fence around little springs creek
  - 1.5 miles of fish habitat
  - Reduce sediment
  - Restore riparian vegetation
  - Improve water temperatures

Kent will update the table.

### **Projects Still on the Table – Other National Forests**

- SNRA – Salmon River Drainage Weeds (Dave Cottle)
  - Treatment of weeds in the Salmon River corridor along hwy. 75
  - Last major area of the Forest currently being treated in house
- SNRA Trail Maintenance Contracting (Dave Cottle)
  - Some concern about some of the trails being located outside of Custer County. In the process of estimating exactly how much is outside.
  - Reduce request to \$30,000
  - Can employee YEP
- SNRA Tree Thinning (Jim Reinholt)
  - Actively harvesting beetle killed timber
  - In restoration mode
  - There are unmerchantable trees
  - Would like to go back to private land and really treat it
  - Educational for the kids
- CT – Charcoal Kilns Fence Replacement (Richard Newton)
  - Have a lot of visitors at that site, and would like to keep the cows out
  - Would be contracted
- CT – Birch Creek Weeds (Richard Newton)
  - Money would augment monies from the CWMA
  - Joint effort with various counties and some of the BLM folks
- CT – Travel Management Education (Richard Newton)
  - Hire a person to be a trail ranger to help enforce the motorized use rules and regs
  - Help identify trail maintenance needs
- CT – ATV Barriers (Richard Newton)
  - Pretty sure will be getting stimulus money to accomplish this
- ***NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors***
  - SNRA – Conifer Encroachment (Dave Cottle)
  - CT – Charcoal Kilns Sun & Wind Shelters

### **Clarification of an already approved project (Carmela Leavitt)**

Pass Creek Range Improvement project update (Carmela Leavitt)

- NEPA is cleared for 3 miles of fence and 2 water pumps
- Originally asked for contract dollars, but now need labor

- Would like to fund range riders for 79 days
- A redirection of dollars

Earl Skeen moved to approve the clarification of the project, seconded by Bruce Cole.

Voting was unanimous to approve in Groups A, B and C (noting there is not a quorum and other voting members will be contacted for their vote).

### **PROJECT APPROVALS**

**Project Learning Tree: \$15,000**

**Campground Hazard-Tree Removal: \$23,840**

**Moose Creek Estates Environmental Enhancement: \$52,000**

**Hughes Creek Monitoring: \$10,000**

**Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds: \$10,000**

**Bio-Control Collection Day: \$1,000**

**Middle Fork Trail Clearing: \$2,500**

**Middle Fork Youth Monitoring: \$36,000**

**Green Lake Access: \$15,000**

**Carlson Lake Fence: \$20,000**

**NZ Five Culvert Restoration: \$40,000**

**Hughes Creek Stream Restoration: \$50,340**

**Panther Creek Stream Restoration: \$34,130**

**NZ Trail Maintenance: \$7,000**

**NZ Weed Management: \$70,000**

**NZ Trail & Property Maintenance: \$8,000**

**SNRA – Salmon River Drainage Weeds: \$10,000**

**SNRA – Tree Thinning: \$10,000**

**CT – Birch Creek Weeds: \$10,000**

**CT – Charcoal Kilns Fence Replacement: \$5,000**

Gary moved, Earl second.

**GRAND TOTAL APPROVED 5-21-09** **\$172,000**

<b>Amount Available at start of the meeting</b>	<b>\$165,433</b>
<b>Minus Grand Total Approved</b>	<b>- \$172,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REMAINING 2009 FUND</b>	<b>\$- 9,567</b>

**Public Forum**

- Daniel Bertram thanks the Committee for the work and effort they put into this process.