

# Tri-County Resource Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2016

RAC Members in Attendance: Bobby Lanford  
Richard Cline  
Chris Laity  
Bob Andreozzi  
Jim Paris  
Maggie Schmidt  
Karen Porter  
Jim Durglo  
Vyonne Moran  
Charla Bohlman  
LeeAnn Corlett

Breck Hudson, RAC Coordinator

Guests/Presenters in Attendance: Scott Snelson , Acting Designated Federal Official  
Shannon Freix, Montana Wilderness Association  
Bart Boixney, Granite Count Commissioners  
Charlene Bucha, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
Jen Hensieck, Lolo National Forest  
Ron Shafer, Forest Service  
Jeremiah They, Great West Engineering  
Jocelyn Dodge, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
Matthew Pitzer, Representative of Congressman Ryan Zinke  
Sharon Sawyer, Forest Service Grants and Agreements  
Emma Spurlock, Forest Service Grants and Agreements  
Stan Marley, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Budget Analyst

## I. Introduction and Program Information

Introduction of RAC members

**Scott** – Thank you members. Melany and Scott are trying to maintain access to landscapes. Scott offered encouragement to recruit new members.

*Overview of Title II program and funding:* Breck provided a background on how funds are calculated, what funds were available and what is appropriate use of Title II funds.

Funding currently available for allocation is \$203,181.

## II. Discussion

### Budget Summary

Breck presented the Budget Summary.

### Review of Secure Rural Schools Funding

Breck presented handout with listing of SRS funds that came down

Discussion of process of SRS funding.

## III. Project Proposals

The committee agreed to hear all presentations in full before any discussion of recommendations.

TC-16-01 - **CDNST Trail Maintenance in Anaconda-Pintler wilderness** presented by Shannon Freicks of MWA Continental Divide Trail program. Shannon gave an overview of the CDT program and highlighted that it's not only a trail but a main watershed of the West. Shannon presented photos of previous projects. MWA also does advocacy work with congressmen and senators in Washington D.C. every winter. MWA is looking for funding of three projects in 2017. Salary cost on proposal is for MWA employees to be able to bring the experience and skilled crew leaders on site during project. A member questioned the overhead assessment and Sharon stated indirect is allowable and negotiable. Shannon shared that MWA has a pot of projects that they prioritize with agency input. Every crew is 8-10 volunteers and a paid staff member. MWA is usually successful with filling volunteer positions.

TC-16-02 - **Georgetown Lake Road No. 8686 Reconstruction** presented by Bart Boixney Granite Count Commissioners. The county applied for a Federal Lands Access Program grant to improve the Lakeshore roads and are requesting funds to make the required match. Lakeshore road is a major primary access to the National Forest System lands. Two trailheads that lead into the wilderness are reached by this road and Georgetown Lake is an important fishery. This is a very popular recreation site. The county wants to improve road to standard and then the Forest Service will give the roads to the county. These roads now lead to residential areas where summer population greatly increases from winter. Charlene Bucha stated that these roads were built to access NF lands but it's now a public health and safety issue with the population. This is also a resource issue with all of the tributaries that feed into the lake. The county has been maintaining the roads for 30 years under a Road Agreement. The FS and county are working together to transfer jurisdiction. The county has not pursued funding from any other entities to make up that 13% match. The FLAP grant will be approved in August. The county can provide road work, putting culverts in, pulling ditches, crusher which would be approximately \$50,000 in kind. If the FLAP doesn't come through then the RAC will utilize the funds on back up project. FLAP funds are 2018 funds so likely work will be done 2019 or 2020.

TC-16-03 - **Lower East Fork Campground Road** presented by Charlene Bucha, Pintler District Ranger. Charlene presented a map and background information of road. There was a subdivisions developed on private ground that is accessed by this road. Last 7/10 of a mile road that comes off of the Skalkahoe road to the E Fork Reservoir is very rough and rocky. Constituency that lives in subdivision want quality to be improved. This is a public health and safety issue. Residents have been approached with a rural improvement district which have not been accepting of that. FS manages for forest users not homes. Great West Engineering did analysis to bring up to FS standard and then the county will add to Schedule A to blade once or twice a year and snow removal. for maintenance. Right now the constituent is

plowing Forest Service road without permit. FS has gone to Anaconda Job Corps who has equipment and is willing to perform all labor. The biggest expense is for the gravel. Partial funding will be accepted and used to pay for culvert and supplies. This road is second priority for the county and can be brought to RAC again next year.

TC-16-04 - **Weed Treatment at the Confluence of the South Fork of the Flathead River** presented by Ron Shafer of Flathead NF. Youngs Creek and Danaher have a lot of knapweed. We have made significant progress in the Bob Marshall. Water corridor treatment stipulations are different. The Forest Service has had RMEF, MT Conservation Corps, Friends of Bob Marshall and other partners working with them on noxious weed treatment. The proposal is for ongoing treatment needed. RAC contributed funds in the last years and it was very effective. An overview of current Weed Treatment program.

TC-16-05 - **Rock Creek Road and Recreation Access Blading** presented by Jen Hensick the Missoula RD District Ranger. The proposal is to hire a contractor to blade the Rock Creek Road. FS contract blades in the spring and this proposal is for an additional blade in the fall. The proposal includes campgrounds and fishing sites as well as side drainages. It has been funded by RAC in the past. There has been a big effort in the last 5 years to invest in this road and they are considering adding gravel but this proposal is strictly for blading. If not fully funded the priority is the county road so it could be reduced by residences and recreation sites.

TC-16-06 - **Recreational Forest Trail Way-Finding** no one attended to present. Group discussed cost and value of kiosk with map development with QR code. Charlene Bucha expressed support.

TC-16-07 - **Deer Lodge Valley Leafy Spurge Treatment** presented by Charlene Bucha. Leafy Spurge is and has been a prevalent issue in the valley. This is a proposal where specific sections have been mapped out where it is prevalent. Aerial treatment was done in 2008 and they need to follow up on that treatment. The FS would like to treat 734 acres with a combination of aerial and ground treatment. Ground work will be done by seasonal crews and aerial treatment will be done under contract. In the past the RAC has funded a lot of aerial treatment.

TC-16-08 - **North Fork Cottonwood Creek Fish Passage** presented by Charlene Bucha. The decision was signed in 2015 and FS is in litigation. RY Timber started road work yesterday and harvest anticipated in August. In meantime of litigation they're starting timber sale work. This is an integrated restoration package such as fish passage and water improvements. Clark Fork Coalition got partial funding last year and were able to leverage funds from Future Fisheries to purchase 1 culvert and need 11 more. This proposal is for culvert 2 out of 12. Whatever funds they can get they will look for other avenues to leverage funds. Clark Fork Coalition will contract because their contracting process is less stringent than federal contracting. Sharon clarified match requirements for proponents of projects on NF lands. CFC has been a strong partner for many years.

TC-16-09 - **Burnt Cr. Trail Rehabilitation** presented by Ron Shafer. Trail goes to popular lake and trail is overgrown. Two backcountry crews went in a week ago and did some work. The funding will be used for MCC crew for four weeks to do this project with some packing contracted. Member requested that next year the district present report on previously funded projects.

TC-16-10 - **Pintler Ranger District AmeriCorps Partnership Project** presented by Jocelyn Dodge of Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. Overview of accomplishments of AmeriCorps. Trail clearing is very big issue currently with dead and down trees. The AmeriCorps crews consist of 15-35 members in the summer.

This request is an extension of RAC award to continue work in the fall and into the spring. This group is an emergency response team also that provide initial attack to fires. They are contracted out through FEMA. FS provides stipend, gas and food and vehicle if splitting group. In the past FS has offered crew members jobs after they graduate the program. They often use Back Country Horseman to pack in supplies as well as other partners.

TC-16-11 - **Flint Creek Campground Road Relocation** Project presented by Jocelyn Dodge. Flint creek is located below the dam of Georgetown Lake. The proposal is to relocate the road for public safety and Bull Trout. Work would include moving the road away from the creek, graveling the new road and rehabbing old sites. Job corps will spend program time in operation of heavy equipment. Last year RAC funded \$15,000 for road grading but that cannot be done until gravel is purchased. This is a county road that goes to the hydro plant facility. Gravel and culverts are priority over barrier rocks. The campground is on a perpetual easement to the FS that's been upheld is 2 court cases. The work will be authorized under schedule A.

TC-16-12 - **East Deer Lodge Valley Weed Treatment** presented by Charlene Bucha. This was partially funded last year. If partially funded this year that helps to treat some of that area.

#### IV. Public Comment

Matt Pitzer, representative of Congressman Zinke

Briefing that Congressman Zinke voted to increase SRS and PILT Payment in Lieu to Counties by voting for the bill. Mr. Pitzer presented a letter from Zinke to the committee.

#### V. RAC Recommendations

##### *General Discussion:*

Discussion by the committee of whether to fund travel. Discussion of priority of the RAC. Funds will not be split up by county.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
TC-16-01 - CDNST Trail Maintenance in Anaconda-Pintler wilderness	\$10,000
TC-16-02 - Georgetown Lake Road No. 8686 Reconstruction	\$40,000
TC-16-03 - Lower East Fork Campground Road	The committee decided not to fund the project
TC-16-04 - Weed Treatment at the Confluence of the South Fork of the Flathead River	\$6,300
TC-16-05 - Rock Creek Road and Recreation Access Blading	\$9,000
TC-16-06 - Recreational Forest Trail Way-Finding	The committee decided not to fund the project

TC-16-07 - Deer Lodge Valley Leafy Spurge Treatment	\$23,150
TC-16-08 - North Fork Cottonwood Creek Fish Passage	\$43950
TC-16-09 - Burnt Cr. Trail Rehabilitation	The committee decided not to fund the project
TC-16-10 - Pintler Ranger District AmeriCorps Partnership Project	\$10,000
TC-16-11 - Flint Creek Campground Road Relocation Project	\$46,800
TC-16-12 - East Deer Lodge Valley Weed Treatment	\$12,500

Rick Cline moved to approve the allocation of projects and Chris Laity seconded. IF FLAP does not approve the Gorgetown Lake project the RAC will revisit how those funds will be distributed at September meeting. Remaining funds (\$1481) were set aside to cover RAC travel expenses. The RAC will meet again in September 2016 to review 2017 projects and form a decision on which project to fund prior to receiving 2017 funds.