

# **Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting**

## **1 p.m., October 19, 2009 Salmon, Idaho**

In Attendance: Group A - Bruce Cole, Jerry Hamilton Group B - Dick Hauff, Gary Power, Hadley Roberts, Bert Doughty Group C - Earl Skeen, Mark Stauffer, Bob Cope, Adrienne Trapani, Mike England

Forest Service: DFO Bill Wood, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers – Kris Martinson, Russ Bacon, Diane Weaver, Dave Cottle SNRA

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

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

#### **Review May 21, 2009 Notes**

- Mark Stauffer moved to approve minutes of May 21, 2009. Earl Skeen second. All in favor – minutes approved.

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

- The Regional Forester received a letter from Jon Marvel, Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project (attached). He has concerns about the manner in which we funded the Pass Creek project. The Regional Forester responded to Mr. Marvel (attached). Upon receipt of this letter, the District Ranger notified the range rider that we could not continue to fund the riding.

#### **Comments from CIRAC Chair (Bob Cope)**

- We are going to be under heavier scrutiny than in early years due to the fact that now there is much more money to be spent. The RAC has done some very good work and if we don't get the members to attend the meetings, no decisions can be made.
- The May meeting essentially did not happen because there was no quorum.
- There is no quorum today, therefore no decisions will be made.

#### **Kent**

- We are required to send a notice to the Federal Register weeks before a meeting is scheduled to happen. If folks commit to a meeting and then do not come to the meeting, rescheduling is not an easy process.

#### **Review of 2009 Projects**

YCC crew \$15,300 (Lost River Ranger District)

- We were able to hire three boys and one girl, two of these kids were from Mackay High School and two were from Butte High School. They were a great crew and accomplished an incredible amount of work this summer.

- .3 miles of trail reconstruction on the Green Lake Trail
- Sanded and painted picnic tables at Broad Canyon Trailhead
- Oiled the new restroom , cleaned up slash piles, maintained the fence at Wildhorse Campground
- Built new rail fence and sanded the porch at the Fairview Guard Station
- Sanded/painted 21 tables, painted 2 information boards, painted 2 bathrooms , and grubbed sagebrush from 12 camp spots at Ironbog Campground
- Conducted population surveys for whitefish and bull trout
- Stocked cutthroat trout at Big Fall Creek Lake
- Conducted mountain lake surveys for fish populations and recreation impacts
- Salvaged and planted whitefish

Sawmill Canyon volunteers \$6,900 (Lost River Ranger District)

- This funding paid for a vehicle, gas, and per diem (\$21/day each for 2 people). These two people are the eyes and ears for me in this area, as well as accomplishing a huge amount of daily and project work. They:
  - Talk to everyone – visit every campsite. There was an average of 25 camp trailers each week in the Sawmill area in August, with 86 camp trailers over Labor Day weekend. There could be anywhere from four to eight people with each trailer, therefore there were probably an average of 100 to 200 people in this area every week that these volunteers contacted. They develop personal relationships with many visitors, a large number of which are people that return to camp in Sawmill every summer. This personal contact helps promote an atmosphere of good will, compliance, safety, and ownership with the visitors and the Forest Service.
  - Worked with the YCC crew on repairs and maintenance of the Fairview Guard Station
  - Sanded and painted picnic tables at Mill Creek trailhead and Timber Creek campground
  - Maintained the at Timber Creek Campground
  - Conducted fire prevention work with signing, putting out unattended campfires, cleaning campfire rings, talking to visitors about fire prevention
  - Talked to visitors about traveling on designated routes only. When necessary, they call law enforcement to deal with violations of the travel plan. Their presence, whether they were actually driving around the area or the fact that it was known that they were staying at the Guard Station, keeps many visitors more compliant with travel management laws and reduces potential resource damage
  - Worked with Butte County Deputies and FS law enforcement

- Assisted with responses and first aid at vehicle accidents

Green Lake Access \$17,500 (Lost River Ranger District)

- Contract was let to Dale Merrill and he began working on the road in early October. Weather has been a hindrance but we are still hoping it will be completed by end of the fall.

Biological control of noxious weeds \$12,320 (Lost River Ranger District)

- With the help of a FS helicopter, the YCC crew and the Butte County CWMA they collected 31,000 bugs and made 31 drops using the Challis FS helicopter to treat leafy spurge. Brad Gamett, Butte County CWMA, released insects on an additional 29 remote infestations by helicopter. Flight time was also used to inventory remote areas locating nine more sites that will be treated in 2010. Bugs were also purchased and released on ten different sites to treat Canada thistle.

Butte Co CWMA \$13,600 (Lost River Ranger District)

- Butte County inventoried and sprayed 175 acres.

Pass Creek Improvements and Riders \$65,000 (Lost River Ranger District)

- \$45,000 for range improvement projects to assist livestock management and protect bull trout :
  - Constructed an electric fence around Basin Creek,
  - Realigned Wet Creek pasture to keep livestock out of Wet Creek
  - Installed two solar water pumps, pipelines and troughs

Deep and Mud Creek Fence - \$8000

- This project was proposed by a permittee for reconstruction of two small fences. Due to FS processes and regulations for contracting work, the only bid received through our contracting office was for \$13,000 for 1/3 mile of fence. That was for labor only, the FS was going to supply the materials. The bid was turned down.



## Roads Projects

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Spent/Obligated</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Forest Wide Dust Abatement</b>	\$85,000	\$89,197	-\$4,197

<u>Roads</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Beaver Creek	5.0
Marsh Creek	1.0
Yankee Fork	5.0
Deep Creek	7.0
Williams Creek	<u>5.0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.0</b>

**Project Completed in Early July**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Spent/Obligated</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Forest Wide Road Mtc.</b>	\$125,000	\$123,304	\$1,696

### **Tupco - Blackfoot - In Progress**

Road	Length	Est. Price Blading	Est. Price Watering	Task Order Price
Colson-State Line	27.5	\$8,937.50	\$0.00	\$8,937.50
State Line	17.8	\$5,785.00	\$0.00	\$5,785.00
Spring Creek	7.1	\$2,307.50	\$0.00	\$2,307.50
Horse Creek	7.8	\$2,535.00	\$0.00	\$2,535.00
Sage-Hull Creek	5.6	\$1,820.00	\$1,680.00	\$3,500.00
Hughes Creek	3.4	\$1,105.00	\$1,020.00	\$2,125.00
West Fk. Hughes Creek	7.8	\$2,535.00	\$2,340.00	\$4,875.00
Ridge Road North	23.4	\$7,605.00	\$0.00	\$7,605.00
Diamond Creek	17.3	\$5,622.50	\$0.00	\$5,622.50
Morgan-Panther	42.5	\$15,937.50	\$14,875.00	\$30,812.50
	<b>160.2</b>	<b>\$54,190.00</b>	<b>\$19,915.00</b>	<b>\$74,105.00</b>
Mob Grader				\$1,000.00
Mob Water				\$800.00
Task Total				<b>\$75,905.00</b>

**Hopkins - Enterprise OR - Completed September**

<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Est. Price Blading</b>	<b>Est. Price Watering</b>	<b>Task Order Price</b>
Beaver Creek	14.6	\$4,234	\$730	\$4,964
Challis Creek	9.9	\$2,871	\$495	\$3,366
Morgan-Panther	10.5	\$3,255	\$735	\$3,990
Marsh Creek	6.9	\$2,001	\$345	\$2,346
Squaw Creek	4.0	\$1,160	\$200	\$1,360
Trealor Creek	2.6	\$754	\$130	\$884
Stanley-Landmark	0.6	\$186	\$42	\$228
Stanley-Landmark	2.4	\$696	\$120	\$816
Stanley-Landmark	5.2	\$1,508	\$260	\$1,768
Beaver-Loon Loop	41.1	\$11,919	\$0	\$11,919
Beaver-Loon Loop	5.7	\$1,767	\$399	\$2,166
	<b>103.5</b>	<b>\$30,351</b>	<b>\$3,456</b>	<b>\$33,807</b>
Mob Grader				\$1,200
Mob Water				\$800
Task Total				<b>\$35,807</b>

**Hopkins - Enterprise OR - Completed September**

<b>Road</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Est. Price Blading</b>	<b>Est. Price Watering</b>	<b>Task Order Price</b>
Leadbelt	5.5	1595	\$275	\$1,870
Left Fork Iron Bog	3.0	870	\$0	\$870
Copper Basin	17.6	5104	\$0	\$5,104
Sawmill Canyon	10.0	2900	\$500	\$3,400
Redrock Loop	6.4	1856	\$320	\$2,176
Timber Creek	2.2	638	\$110	\$748
Quigley Bear Loop	5.7	1653	\$285	\$1,938
	<b>50.4</b>	<b>14616</b>	<b>\$1,490</b>	<b>\$16,106</b>
Mob Grader				\$1,200
Mob Water				\$800
Task Total				<b>\$18,106</b>

**Total all Tasks**

**\$129,818\***

**PROJECT  
Custer Motorway Road Improvements**

**Approved**  
\$45,000

\*Balance covered by other funds  
**Spent/Obligated**  
\$44,494

**Balance**  
\$506

**Project in progress.**

2.5 miles of culvert and surfacing work on the Corkscrew Grade and approximately 3 miles of surfacing on Challis Creek Road.

Project supplemented by other Forest funds. Total Project cost ~ \$95,000

**PROJECT  
Blackrock road stabilization**

**Approved**  
\$40,000

**Spent/Obligated**  
\$19,106

**Balance**  
\$20,894

5 miles of road reconstructed by Forest Road Crew.

**Completed in June**

**PROJECT  
Deadwater Reconstruction Plan**

**Approved**  
\$20,000

**Spent/Obligated**  
\$13,215

**Balance**  
\$6,785

Project 75% Complete - Need to finish WSR Section 7 document. Could use balance of funds to complete.

Used other funds to provide survey, design, and contract package for the project.

**PROJECT  
Green Lake Access**

**Approved**  
\$15,000

**Spent/Obligated**  
\$11,908

**Balance**  
\$3,092

Project under contract with Dale Merrill of Arco.  
Project area received 20" of snow on start date.  
Project will likely not happen until next summer.

#### Carlson Lake

- Funds for youth labor were obligated through an existing agreement and funds for a portion of the materials and supplies were expended in FY09. Some additional supplies will be purchased in FY10, and the project is scheduled to be implemented during this next summer when the area is snow-free.

#### Mosquito Flat

- The RAC's portion of the funds for reconstruction of the Mosquito Flat Reservoir Dam were expended and the project was completed, including replacement of the outlet pipe sleeve, reconstruction of the spillway, and expansion of the buttresses.

#### YCC Challis-Yankee Fork/Middle Fork

- RAC funds supported a very successful season for the YCC crew.
- Accomplishments included building range fences, re-painting campground tables, installing interpretive signs at Custer Town site, piling slash from hazard tree removal in recreation sites, and cleanup at the Loon Creek Guard Station.

#### Noxious Weeds

- Two projects associated with noxious weed management were funded in 2009 on the SZ of the forest. Both projects were awarded to the Custer County CWMA and managed by Tommy Gionet, the SZ program manager.
- The Participating agreement between the forest and the CWMA was updated and an annual operating plan was developed.
- The First of the two projects was the Envirothon Team Biological Treatment.
  - This project was a great success; Members of the Challis High School Envirothon team collected and redistributed two different bio-control agents one targeted at Leafy Spurge, the other at spotted knapweed. In addition to collecting and redistributing bio-control agents they assisted in the management of the insectaries themselves by chemically treating the outer perimeter to maintain containment of both the agents and the target species.
- The second project, also a success was a cooperative weed treatment project in the Morgan Creek drainage.
  - Multiple weed species were treated on Private, State and Federal lands (both BLM & FS) within the drainage. RAC funding for the two projects combined was \$11,200.00, and that amount has been invoiced to the Albuquerque Service Center

#### **YEP projects**

General - Almost no work was accomplished due to the challenges associated with getting the Regional agreement in place. Dan Garcia was able to get one YEP student hired through a different agreement for some work to be accomplished in the NZ Resource Management-Mentoring project. Other than that, no YEP employees were

used. Some supplies were purchased in anticipation of agreements being signed so some RAC Money has been spent.

NZ Firewood Slash, paper for covering hand piles was purchased, no other work completed

NZ Resource Management- Monitoring - As mentioned, one YEP employee was hired late in the year to accomplish some fish surveys, FS seasonal were hired that would have supervised the YEP crews but because no YEP crews were hired, they worked on monitoring.

Race Track Meadows - No work accomplished

NZ Trail Maintenance and NZ Trail and Property Management - No work completed

### **Non-YEP projects**

Salmon River Road Toilets = Contract Awarded, came in less than last year

SVS- Hughes Creek Monitoring - Agreement signed, money obligated. This 10K has already allowed SVS to compete for additional Aspen related grant dollars so it has been a great investment

NZ Five culverts - 40,000 was contracted for design work for all of these projects, we anticipate working on NEPA this winter and hope to begin implementation in the coming years. Each of these projects can easily end up being a 100,000 dollar project so the investment from RAC can certainly lead to more local contractor opportunities.

SNRA – early opening of campgrounds for steelhead season. (March or April)

Fence at the Charcoal Kilns – C-T (complete)

The RAC will track individual project costs and report at each meeting.

### **Preparing for RAC projects 2010 and beyond**

The Committee needs a better list of project proposals. There needs to be a better system of compiling projects and presenting to the group.

- A group of RAC members and Forest Resource Specialists will work with our budget folks and grants and agreement Specialists and create a guide for project proposals.
  - RAC Members - Adrienne Trapani, Mike England and Dick Hauff

- Set two timelines for submitting projects. The second timeline will be contingent on money leftover from the first timeline.
- Public forum held at each Ranger District – Adrienne
- Website for RAC – Adrienne
- Make sure a Ranger has seen each proposal prior to going to the RAC

Next meeting: February 16, 2010 (Salmon) (let Kent know by mid-January if that date does not work)

Deadline for submitting projects: January 1, 2010

Informal work session: January 14, 2010 (Challis)

### **Public Forum**

#### **Comments from Members**

Mike England

- Hughes Creek Bridge is very nice. Received a lot of comments from folks that they are using it. Nice addition.

Gary Power

- The firewood project is very popular and is something everyone can identify with.

Mark Stauffer

- Are we going to be facing anything like the stimulus moneys that we received last year?
  - Received three pots of money so far. The only other money would be deferred maintenance on the Salmon River Corridor.