

Shasta RAC Meeting

June 18, 2014

Shasta-Trinity National Forest Headquarters

3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002

9:00am-12:00pm/1:00pm-4:00pm

Attendance:

Shasta RAC Members: Group A: Ted James, Glenn Hawes, Stan Leach, Ken Showalter, Steve Uhles; Group B: Wendy Johnston, Sylvia Milligan, Genevieve Seely; Group C: Les Baugh, Brenda Haynes, Carol Perea, Sharol Schaefer, Terry Thomas.

Public: Ryan Desantis, Elizabeth Norton, Andrew Braugh, Joe Croteau, Diane Dealey Neill, Mary St. John (RAC Assistant), Donna F. Harmon (DFO).

Called to order: Chair Ted James: 9:15am

Review of agenda.

RAC Administrative Updates: Donna Harmon

We are currently working on the process of obligating funds from SRAC confirmation and TRAC recommendations.

Outreach: We have also begun outreach for new Shasta and Trinity RAC members, with anticipation of an extension. The Washington office is pushing to ensure we outreach to a diverse population, and we must also follow FACA guidelines. It's required that we show our efforts towards diversity: every phone call, email, everything recorded. Now we've also been asked to devise an outreach plan.

We are still waiting for an answer regarding renewals for existing members who are willing to continue serving. Your terms are good until the end of October 2014, and we don't know if there will be an extension, so there is a lot of unknown. The outreach process is about 6 months of work to get everything documented as required, to submit nominations, and to approve nominations. That hasn't been the timeline in the past, so we all know this could take longer.

Please help us outreach and pass this information along. This RAC is a great asset, and it helps us work with the public and it's a rewarding effort.

Brenda Haynes: I called the WO, it is in the President's budget to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools Act for next 5 years, but there is an election in the middle of that, so we don't know if it would pass through congress. It would be ratcheted down each year. I'm unsure if it would be a re-authorization or extension.

Donna: Either way, it would be valuable to keep you together.

Safety Briefing: The gathering point for evacuation is across the street and towards the jumper towers. Exit the door to the south.

Approval of minutes: Ted James

Ken Showalter moves to approve the minutes from the Shasta RAC meeting of March 26, 2014. Steve Uhles seconds. Les Baugh abstains. Motion unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

Ryan Desantis: In the March meeting, you came up with \$52,000 available, now why is it reflected as \$36,500 available to be obligated?

Donna: It was a projected figure. This is the final approved amount, and it proved to be less than expected. It will be very important to secure contingency projects in case there's extra funding. There is often very little time if extra money is provided, and if there is money being transferred to Lassen it takes an extra day of processing.

Elizabeth Norton:

Shares the Great Shasta Rail trail map and guide, designed by Enjoy magazine. It provided jobs and compliments a map produced last year for orienting travelers. Maps are available at the Enjoy store and the CA welcome center, as Shasta Dam, at Forest Service office in Mt. Shasta and Fall River Mails. They are sold for \$9.95. Most vendors are charging \$12.95-\$16.95. It's been very popular.

Presentations:

Hat Creek Restoration Project – Andrew Braugh, CA Trout

Requesting \$15,000

This project involves Tribal Workforce Training that integrates into a larger restoration project. There are five components: Riparian restoration, build large wood construction for fish, improve recreational access, Hat creek youth initiative, tribal workforce training.

Funding will go to hire Pit River Tribal members and engage them in the preservation of their tribal lands. This is on PG&E land, but its' ancestral lands of Pit River Tribe, so there are several stake holders.

Pit River Tribe matched funding for the green house built of \$15,000.

Youth (high school age) are recruited through public, media outlets and through the tribe. They are treated as CalTrout employees.

Last years' funding was short of what was requested, this year would still help fill that gap of the initial \$33,000 requested.

Great Shasta Rail Trail Project – Elizabeth Norton, Volcanic Legacy Community Partnership

Requesting \$15,000

Nine year project so far. VLCP is a six member core team, and we're ready to open the trail. We need to provide basic info on safe use of the trails. The current RAC proposal asks for signage. It's a 67 mile long trail between Burney and McCloud. Hope to increase tourism and visitation to assist with economy. Trail heads have been designed, two types: primary and secondary trail heads. Highway approach signs, and distance signs, destination signs on highways, private property signs, highway crossings, bike routes, and trail entrance signs. Working with CalTrans and counties to install these signs. Trails will also be branded with Great Shasta Rail Trail logo. Signs for welcome, trail rules and type of use trails. Total of 300 signs, plus installation. Currently motorized vehicles will not be part of the use of the trails once escrow closes and ownership shifts to Great Shasta Rail Trail logo.

Update on 2012 funding: doing engineering inspections on 490 ft. long Lake Britton Tressle Bridge. It is a high priority to get it open for public use. Applying for additional funding to build

railings and decking on bridge to make it more walker and biker friendly, as well as address safety concerns.

Forestry Institute for Teachers – Ryan Desantis, Forestry Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension
Requesting \$12,000

FIT will provide a one week training camp to teachers from all over California. There are presentations, field trips and student learning. The information is presented, allowing teachers to form opinions and learn through teacher directed interest. Enrollment is effected by the amount of funding we receive. It costs about \$1,000 per teacher to attend. Funding is paying for transportation, Camp McCumber, food, etc. This program is free to the teachers. Teachers are broken into student grade levels. This year's

Shasta FIT starts July 4 weekend; it is in discussion to possibly change this date in future years. Update on Shasta FIT 2013: Service learning project last year was required for RAC, and it ended up being one of the best things we did. We helped install fencing, a deer enclosure and aspen enclosure in Lassen NF. Looking for and hoping for ways to cut costs, form partnerships and secure new funding. Carol Perea offers district contacts to request funding from school districts and she will send this info to Michale De LaSaux.

BCHC Top of the State Unit PCT Trails – Joe Croteau,
Requesting: \$15,000

Requesting funding for equipment usage, gasoline and reimbursement to volunteers (travel, per diem, monitoring and grant administration) for maintenance of the PCT within Shasta County. Could include funding towards an acknowledgement sign at Soda Creek. Top of the State unit covers work in Siskiyou, Trinity and Shasta counties. Top of the State covers 175-210 miles of PCTR plus all the feeder trails. Seek money from each county for work within that county's boundaries. These volunteers do work that the FS doesn't always have man power or funding to do, keeping trails clear and removing safety hazards. Keeping trails open and clear also prevents hikers from creating new trails and effecting watersheds. In wilderness trails in CA, there are no chain saws allowed unless it's an emergency, so we have to use saws/chain whips.

Shasta Forestry Challenge – Diane Dealey Neill

This challenge is an academic competition for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics. The four day events are held throughout CA, including in Shasta County. Activities include field training, fieldtrip and field tests. Teams represent their schools and it is a competition. Shasta event is held at Mt. Meadows camp. Resource professionals present and interact with students throughout the time at camp. Fees are \$100/person. Last event hosted 48 students, at the new location, Mt. Meadows, has a capacity of 80 students, so we are working on recruiting more students. Some people ask for transportation costs and registrations fees supplied by sponsors, fundraising, etc. Shasta event has 9 schools and 70-80 students for the Shasta session registered. Focus topic for 2014 will be learning what is done in the wake of fire, and design a planting plan and schedule for land affected by the Pondosa Fire. The team with the best designs will be planted by SPI. Bussing is expensive, so most things will be done on site. The organization recruits a diverse list of sponsors.

Outcome of 2013: At Mt. Meadows camp, we learned about fire since the Ponderosa fire had come through in the Mt. Meadows property. Students created a Cooperative Forest Management Plan in the wake of 2012 Ponderosa Fire. Students also did fuels reduction work. Students attended Wed. through Saturday. Shasta had 48 students and 9 teachers from 7 schools. 78% of student and teacher registration fees were covered by sponsors.

Lunch 11:45am-1:00pm

Discussion among Groups A, B and C: 1:00pm-1:30pm

Group discussion: Ted James

Group A, B and C write their suggestions on the board for funding amounts and contingency ranking.

Hat Creek is universally suggested for zero funding. They have a lot of funding from other sources, and it's a good project, but they have access to funding from many other places and the Shasta RAC does not have much funding to disburse.

Group A and Group C agree that because we don't choose to fund Hat Creek, it would be our first contingency project, the first to receive additional funding.

Rail Trail, FIT and PCT are universally suggested for funding. Group A and B suggested funding for Forestry Challenge.

Group B: Sylvia wanted to split money proportionately to each project for what they wanted (excluding Hat Creek). We're open to other allocations, but we really like FIT and we've committed to them over the years.

Group C: We chose not to fund Forestry Challenge, but we can make a compromise. What if we compromise to give 15K to Great Shasta Rail Trail, 6 K to FIT, \$10, 579 to PCT and 5K to Forestry Challenge.

Action: Les Baugh moves to recommend funding of \$15,000 to Great Shasta Rail Trail, \$6,000 to Forestry Institute for Teachers, \$10,579 to Opening Trail Maintenance on PCT, \$5,000 Shasta Forestry Challenge for a total of \$36,579. Terry Thomas seconds the motion.

Vote: Unanimously approved by Group A, B and C.

Motion approved.

Contingency Projects Discussion:

Action: Glen Hawes moves to recommend the suggested ranking of Group A and C with contingency ranking of 1. Hat Creek Restoration project, 2. Shasta Forestry Challenge, 3. Opening Trail Maintenance PCT, 4. Great Shasta Rail Trail, 5. Forestry Institute for Teacher. Stan Leach seconds the motion.

Vote: Group A: Unanimously approves, Group B: Wendy Johnston – no; Sylvia Milligan – no; Genevieve Seely – no; Group C: Carol Perea – no; Scharol Schaefer – yes; Brenda Haynes – no; Terry Thomas – yes; Les Baugh - yes.

The motion does not pass.

Continued Discussion:

Group B would like to take out Hat Creek from first place in contingency. Other groups concur that they could compromise. Rail Trail is fully funded, so why is it in the contingency? Group concurs to remove it from contingency and re-organize. Possible re-organization: 1. PCT, 2. Forestry Challenge, and 3. Hat Creek, 4. FIT.

Genevieve Seely: I want to know more clearly what Forestry Challenge is teaching the children.

Sylvia Milligan: Steve and I have been involved. IT's not common core, it takes a group of children and every year they come up with a different forest concept that they want the kids to learn. They are promoting understanding and value of the land and forest. It's a different issue each year, and that's why a student can go four years in a row and have a different experience very time. This is hands on.

Genevieve Seely: It concerns me that there are no Native American teachers there.

Ken Showalter: If we switch Hat Creek to be in placement 4, if we get more than \$15,000 in contingency, it will fall into Hat Creek and they would eventually receive funding.

Action: Glen Hawes moves to recommend the contingency ranking of 1. Opening Trail Maintenance PCT, 2. Shasta Forestry Challenge, 3. Forestry Institute for Teachers, 4. Hat Creek Restoration.

Wendy Johnston seconds the motion.

Vote: Group A, B and C unanimously approve.

Motion passes.

Monitoring Field Trip: Donna Harmon

Does the RAC see a need or desire to have a field trip?

Ken Showalter: Due to the low funds available, Ken says they don't see a need for monitoring.

Ted James: Polls by show of hands for visiting the Great Shasta Rail Trail. Nine members say yes they would be interested in something like that. The Rail Trail has interest, and we could try to get a group together to visit that. The other projects can be visited or participated in individually.

Adjourn:

There is no need for Shasta RAC to meet on the scheduled June 19, 2014 date, as all of the business has been addressed.

Ken moves to adjourn the meeting at 1:55pm.

Sylvia seconds. Shasta RAC unanimously approves.

Monitoring:

In 2013-14 the Shasta RAC performed the following monitoring activities:

- September 2013: Sylvia Milligan visited the Shasta Forestry Challenge project as a judge when camp was in session. Sylvia says, "I loved having an opportunity to judge the students on what they learned and seeing their enthusiasm participating in the program. Great opportunity for these students. I am so happy and proud that our RAC helped make this possible."

- August 2014: Shasta College Natural Resource Youth Training: Shasta RAC members visited multiple work sites and trail in the Lake Shasta area where the Shasta College Natural Resource Youth Training team had completed work. Members met with youth in the program to discuss their involvement and future goals.

- November 2014: Great Shasta Rail Trail Project: Shasta RAC members visited the Great Shasta Rail Trail in Burney, CA. Members visited areas where trail entrances and signage will be placed to mark trailheads and provide visitors with information about the project, area and trails. Members visited the Lake Britton Bridge and learned about the process and stages for renovation.