

## **Elk City ATV Partners of the Forest Project Summary**

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The Elk City ATV Partners of the Forest Project has multiple benefits to the community and National Forest. The most tangible benefit is improved recreational trails and facilities for local and visiting motorized recreational enthusiasts. Many of the trails are important to hunters as well as recreation enthusiasts. We were able to expand and continue to open both heavily used and unused trails. The second significant long-term benefit is the continued engagement of the local citizens and education of youth in the maintenance and repair of public lands. The Elk City Dust Devils ATV Club has taken steps to build long-term relationships with the Forest Service, the community, and local organizations during this partnership. We anticipate there will be continued need for such partnerships as a result of annual blow downs and reduction of available federal resources.

The Dust Devils ATV Club is a longtime partner of the Red River Ranger District, Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest. In recent years, our club volunteers and youth have enhanced the capacity of the Forest Service to accomplish trail clearing and maintenance goals. Project participants included youth and volunteers from Idaho County and the State of Idaho.



The Dust Devils provided leadership, coordination, supervision and training for adults and youth from local communities and organizations. Club volunteers, the Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corps and cadets from the Idaho Youth Challenge were engaged in hands-on

education on public lands while improving priority trails identified by the Red River Trail Manager.

During this RAC funded project, ten Club members and fifteen youth cleared and maintained 52 miles of Level 1 trail work and 2.5 miles of Level 2 trail clearing. Four (4) forest certified sawyers cleared the dense brush on Level 2 trails to Forest Service Specifications. Chain saw and ATV fuel was purchased to clear the Level 2 and Level 1 trails, along with parts and supplies for pole saws, loppers, and axes to accomplish project work.



This summer the Dust Devils ATV Club wanted to improve recreational facilities within the Red River Ranger District. To begin this initiative in August, 2014 they constructed an Elk City Trailhead, which consists of a 20' x 30' shelter with a concrete pad and an ADA access ramp. When completed, this trailhead will consist of the shelter, ADA bathrooms, and an informational center with trail maps, wildfire locations and conditions, local history, and available local amenities. Matching funds for construction came from Idaho Parks and Recreation, the Dust Devils ATV Club, and Framing Our Community. The vault ADA bathrooms will be installed in October, and outdoor pavilion, interpretive signage lighting, area lighting an information area that provides trail maps, local history, and local amenities will be completed in time for the 2015 season. Members donated materials and labor to construct the handsome, toasty fire ring to roast marshmallows and warm their toes. Below is a picture of the pavilion with the fire ring front right, the stub-ups for the vault flush toilets are in the background on the left next to the ATV waiting for delivery of the finished building.



The most visible accomplishments from this project are: the improved trail maintenance on many miles of trail, additional worker presence, and a welcoming, informative trailhead facility that is maintained by local organizations that will provide visitor education and boost the recreational economy.

Lastly, by engaging local community members and youth in the long-term stewardship of trails through this proposal, the RAC is making an important investment in the future of public lands management and economic development.