

Shasta County RAC Meeting
Shasta-Trinity National Forest Headquarters
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, California
June 17th, 2015
9:00 a.m. – Noon

RAC Members Present: Genevieve Seely, Carol Perea, Brenda Haynes, Sylvia Milligan, Ken Showalter, Steve Uhles, Ted James (RAC Chair) & Sharol Schaefer (via phone)

Others in Attendance: Susan Erwin (RAC Coordinator), Sue Crowe (Shasta County) Hayden Garr (w/ Brenda Haynes), Megan Dorney (Shasta County), Marge Ownby (Note-taker)

New DFO Lesley Yen was unable to attend
RAC Member self-introductions
Shasta RAC Contact List passed around for each member to update

Public Forum: None

Shasta RAC Items:

November 15th, 2014 Field Trip to **Great Shasta Rails to Trails** in Burney

- Received a nice letter from them, thanking our members for attending
- Trip was great; They were supportive and enthusiastic; photographs shared
- Field trip was an excellent means for understanding what they have accomplished and where they need to keep working toward their goals, etc. (Monitoring)

July 30th, 2014 Field Trip to **Shasta College Natural Resources Crew**

Ken: Crew lead (Katy Cottrell) did a great job and ended up getting a second job at Shasta College; One of the crew members (Kelli England) is working as a range tech on the Shasta-Trinity this summer;

- Interacted with Student workers, learning about their career goals and sharing RAC member advice;
- Genevieve was disappointed in the lack of communication / discussion in her van on the ride up to Shasta Dam;
- It is best to do what we can to communicate with the kids and show them how to interact with adults and professionals; Students doing excellent and impactful work
- Summer 2014 Natural Resource Crew Photo Report distributed

USFS Items:

Title II Funding

Congress approved a two-year extension of the 2008-2011 Secure Rural Schools Authorization, following 1 year extensions in 2012 and 2013. Shasta RAC is receiving \$144,769.00 in Title II funds. \$10,135.00 is dedicated to RAC Administrative Fee, leaving **\$134,635.00** for projects funding recommendation;

USFS Items (continued):

Title II Funding

Allocated funding was 95% of 2013, plus deduction of \$2588.81 to compensate for the 1908 Payments-to-States payouts made in February; the 2016 funding is expected to be 95% of this year's allocation (\$137,530.00). This year's allocation is 2014 funding even though deposits are being made in 2015. Susan provided a comparison of this year's funding to funding in the last extension;

Request for Proposals for 2016 Funding

Proposals are due July 31, 2015 with presentation and voting on list of recommended proposals on August 26th and 27th, 2015; Proposals are required to be submitted on the **2015 version of the form** and must be accompanied by a site specific map and a signed District Ranger Project Support Checklist.; The Forest Supervisor's (Dave Myers) desire is to continue to use the District Ranger Project Support Checklist and have completed NEPA for proposed projects; He encourages proposals that work toward ecosystem restoration, but project types other than fuels and watershed restoration are also welcome.

Shasta RAC Items (continued):

HR 2178 –Forests Act of 2015

- This bill would designate "Forest Active Management Areas" with concentrated timber harvest; Goal is to generate revenues for schools and roads at level seen with the 1908 25% payments to states; Legislation would lead to elimination of Secure Rural Schools RAC payments;
- Requires 50% of sustained yield be harvested annually from Forest Active Management Areas
- If the harvest money was more than the schools money, RAC would be less necessary;

HR 2647 – Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015

- Increase activities on NFS lands
- Could elevate the role of RAC's as advisory groups; RAC's would play a lead role in recommendation of treatments; Existing RACs would be grandfathered in, but new RACs would only require 6-members (2 from each category);
- Encourages greater collaboration with public; follows lead of HFRA;
- Monies would go to LEI, patrol & training equipment & services;
- Challenge is to complete NEPA in a timely way to meet the 50% annual harvest requirement;
- Shasta RAC is willing and able to review Forest projects;

Questions:

- How much timber harvesting is going on in Shasta County on the Shasta Trinity National Forest? Proposed 35-million board feet/year for 3 years; (10% of growth)
- Are we utilizing the timber that has been harvested from wildfires? Yes (Lumber)
- Monies received from harvest go into reforestation, rehabilitation, etc.
- Region 10 and Canada can sell logs to China, but we can't
- Private owners have to pay USFS for cutting down trees on their own land? No (Pay Yield Tax)
- With these new Bills, are they trying to streamline NEPA and reduce litigation, etc.? Yes

Shasta County Title III Funds:

- Restricted to emergency services, development of CWPPs and programs under the Fire-Wise Community Program;
- \$53,000 to WSRCD for Wildfire Protection Planning;
- County Fire is holding their \$50,000 until next year
- 75% reimbursement for emergency service costs;
- Public works has only taken \$5000 in Title III funds over the last 15 years;
- Title I (85%) to County schools & roads;
- Can we split our 15% our own way? We don't have a say as current legislation designates split 8% Title II and 7% Title III; The Title II and III split established in 2014 carries over to 2015-no election option with this reauthorization;
- Does Title III fund fire engines and equipment? No, only on the ground emergency services; Funding must be obligated before any need arises (before an incident);
- Fire-Wise Community Certification; Sharol Schaefer compiled all the materials needed for certification for Lakehead; They were free at that time, but she says they cost money now;
- What does it mean to be certified? How do we get certified?
- What are the benefits of working with a Fire-Safe Council rather than Fire-Wise Community Certification?

Other Discussion:

- Monitoring funded projects is highly recommended;
- Sylvia suggested all should participate in California Forestry Challenge organized by Diane Dealey-Neill (partially funded by Shasta RAC);
- Grateful to RAC for funding on Bagley Recreation Project; Funded project has been very successful and lots accomplished; Project did a feasibility study and \$23,000.00 are left in grant; ROC has been working with Lisa Walker (FS OHV Manager) to see what can be accomplished with remaining dollars; ROC will now be researching titles for existing routes that aren't currently on MVUM;
- Lisa is purchasing signs & kiosks with other FS funding; ROC is looking at OHV specific signs for this area
- Group worked well with public and Forest Service

Collaboration:

Susan asked Sylvia and Steve if their multi-year experience collaborating with the FS has changed their perspective of collaboration with the FS;

- Staying with the process has been very helpful
- Yes. Since informed of mandate to comply with local government things have gotten better
- Genevieve: It costs more to close roads than to keep them open;
- We are collaborating better, but it's been hard due to turnover in public personnel; Public should've been more involved, but are reluctant due to failures in the past; We should address these trust issues
- Important to bring a solution to the table

Collaboration (continued):

- Collaboration sometimes creates too much “noise”; Hard to get to a focused project due to divergence of opinion; Collaboration is an overused term that now many find offensive;
- We need more skilled facilitation; Perhaps we should train folks better in facilitation;
- Wilderness society and other similar clubs are watching the FS very closely;

Offer of Merger with Lassen RAC:

- Joyce El Kouarti is Lassen NF RAC Coordinator; She has made contact with existing, but disbanded Lassen RAC members, but not enough members are interesting in participating in the extension to reach a quorum, so effectively inoperable; She is also in process of recruiting new members, but challenged by the lack of diversity in Lassen County;
- Lassen Deputy CAO had concerns about merging Shasta and Lassen, regarding travel expenses and control of funding;
- Funds will not defer back to Treasury until one year after end of this authorization;
- The Shasta RAC offer to help the Lassen was just to help them out, not for the Shasta-Trinity to attain more funding; Assisting the Lassen RAC because we know how difficult it is to get this program together and functioning; Another reason for the merger is that we have had overlapping projects in the past; We concur that merging would be an added issue with regard to travel; RAC members agreed that we step back and let them work on their own formation, but remain available should they have a need in the future; Former member Bob Allen belonged to both Shasta and Lassen RAC groups, Susan will ask if it's okay to be a member of more than one RAC currently;
- Brenda offered to help with the establishment, as did Sylvia

Shasta RAC Status and New Member Approval Process:

- Current makeup is 5 folks for Category 'A', 3 for Category 'B' and 5 for Category 'C';
- New member slate of candidates has been forwarded to Secretary of Agriculture's office for approval; Shasta RAC candidates have already been vetted; List includes 2-candidates in Category 'A'; 4-candidates in Category 'B'; and 2-candidates in Category 'C';
- Ken asked Susan to please check who is responsible for looking into recruits for RAC
- Would be nice if a forest would send a letter to RAC explaining what has or hasn't been approved from the recommended projects, and thank you letters as appropriate;
- Susan goes through each proposal to assure that it meets authority before giving it to RAC;
- RAC group knows what they are looking for, thus it is easy to push things through;
- If proposal is on Shasta County, but implemented on Lassen NF, then Lassen Forest Supervisor approves;

Next meeting will be **Wednesday August 26, and Thursday August 27, 2015**, with the effort to get everything done on the 26th.

Project proposals should be submitted by July 31, 2015 with Proposal Binders the following week;
Adjourn at 11:47

Handouts Below:

FY 2015 PAYMENTS BY THE USDA FOREST SERVICE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PAYMENT TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA UNDER PL 110-343

FY 2014 Funds

COUNTY	Full Payment Amount	TITLE I (Schools & Roads)		TITLE II (Projects on FS land)		TITLE III (County projects)	
		pct	amount	pct	amount	pct	amount
(columns 1 + 2 + 3)		column 1		column 2		column 3	
ALPINE <i>R4 HTNF</i>	436,639	85.00%	371,143	8.00%	34,931	7.00%	30,565
AMADOR	287,207	85.00%	244,126	8.00%	0	7.00%	43,081
BUTTE <i>Plumas NF</i>	403,694	80.00%	322,955	13.00%	52,480	7.00%	28,259
CALAVERAS	153,680	85.00%	130,628	0.00%	0	15.00%	23,052
COLUSA <i>Mendo NF</i>	113,750	85.00%	96,687	15.00%	17,062	0.00%	0
DEL NORTE <i>6R NF</i>	1,336,963	85.00%	1,136,418	15.00%	200,544	0.00%	0
ELDORADO <i>Eldorado</i>	1,822,264	85.00%	1,548,924	8.00%	145,781	7.00%	127,558
FRESNO <i>Sierra NF</i>	1,240,865	85.00%	1,054,735	8.00%	99,269	7.00%	86,861
GLENN <i>Mendo MF</i>	323,880	80.00%	259,104	13.00%	42,104	7.00%	22,672
HUMBOLDT <i>6R NF</i>	949,505	85.00%	807,079	8.00%	75,960	7.00%	66,465
KERN <i>Sequoia NF</i>	195,357	85.00%	166,053	8.00%	15,629	7.00%	13,675
LAKE <i>Mendo NF</i>	447,448	85.00%	380,331	8.00%	35,796	7.00%	31,321
LASSEN <i>Lassen NF</i>	1,747,831	85.00%	1,485,656	8.00%	139,826	7.00%	122,348
MADERA <i>Sierra NF</i>	502,199	85.00%	426,869	8.00%	40,176	7.00%	35,154
MARIPOSA	283,997	85.00%	241,397	0.00%	0	15.00%	42,600
MENDOCINO <i>Mendo NF</i>	311,939	85.00%	265,148	8.00%	24,955	7.00%	21,836
MODOC <i>Modoc NF</i>	1,507,729	85.00%	1,281,570	12.00%	180,927	3.00%	45,232
MONTEREY	16,237	100.00%	16,237	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
NEVADA <i>Tahoe NF</i>	347,574	85.00%	295,438	8.00%	27,806	7.00%	24,330
PLACER <i>Tahoe NF</i>	742,678	80.00%	594,142	13.00%	96,548	7.00%	51,987
PLUMAS <i>Plumas NF</i>	3,273,024	85.00%	2,782,070	8.00%	261,842	7.00%	229,112
SHASTA <i>S/T NF</i>	1,809,615	85.00%	1,538,173	8.00%	144,769	7.00%	126,673
SIERRA <i>Tahoe NF</i>	833,253	85.00%	708,265	11.50%	95,824	3.50%	29,164
SISKIYOU <i>Klamath NF</i>	4,180,144	85.00%	3,553,122	8.00%	334,412	7.00%	292,610
TEHAMA <i>Mendo NF</i>	1,079,869	85.00%	917,889	9.75%	105,287	5.25%	56,693
TRINITY <i>S/T NF</i>	3,485,420	85.00%	2,962,607	12.00%	418,250	3.00%	104,563
TULARE <i>Sequoia NF</i>	490,069	85.00%	416,559	8.00%	39,206	7.00%	34,305
TUOLUMNE <i>Stan NF</i>	1,155,812	85.00%	982,440	8.00%	92,465	7.00%	80,907
YUBA	107,756	85.00%	91,593	0.00%	0	15.00%	16,163
SUBTOTALS	29,586,397		25,077,360		2,721,851		1,787,185
25% Payment to State							
FY 2013							
County							

**6/17/2015 Shasta RAC Meeting
Forest Service Update**

Contact List Update

SRS Update

- 2 year extension passed in May, 2015 in Medicare Bill
- 95% of 2013 payments
- 1908 Payment to States payouts deducted (\$2,588.81 for Shasta County)
- Previous election remain in place
- 2016 payments should be 95% of 2015 (\$137,530/\$127,903)

RFP

- July 31 deadline for submissions
- Forms available on website
- NEPA ready
- Proposal packages need to include 2015 proposal form, map showing project area, and completed and signed DR Project Support Checklist
- No change in Forest Supervisor's intent : NEPA ready and signed DR Checklist. Encourages all restoration proposals as well as other types of projects

RAC Merger

- Lassen County Administrator has reservations about merger. Concerns about logistics and control of funding. Prefers to continue outreach and recruitment for independent Lassen Co RAC
- Tehama RAC-deferring RAC until 2016 with combined funds

New Members

- Mary St. John completed extensive recruitment process in 2014. Slate of 9 candidates (3 per category) vetted and submitted to Secretary of Agriculture's office for approval.

PROJECTED 04/2015	
2014 Title II SRAC Funding	147,357.98
7% Admin funding	10,315.06
Total Available for Projects	\$137,042.90

FINAL 05/26/2015	
2014 Title II SRAC Funding	144,769.17
7% Admin funding	10,133.84
Total Available for Projects	\$134,635.33