

HOOD/WILLIAMETTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMER 2010



RAC Field Trip with RAC Committee members at the habitat restoration project.

Welcome to the sixth newsletter and report highlighting the efforts of the Hood/Williamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). This committee was formed as a result of the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act meant to provide additional funding for counties around the country. During the 2008 legislative year, Congress amended the SRS Act, extending its reach through 2012. These additional funds go to support programs that enhance forests and other federal lands while building critical partnerships with private businesses and citizens.

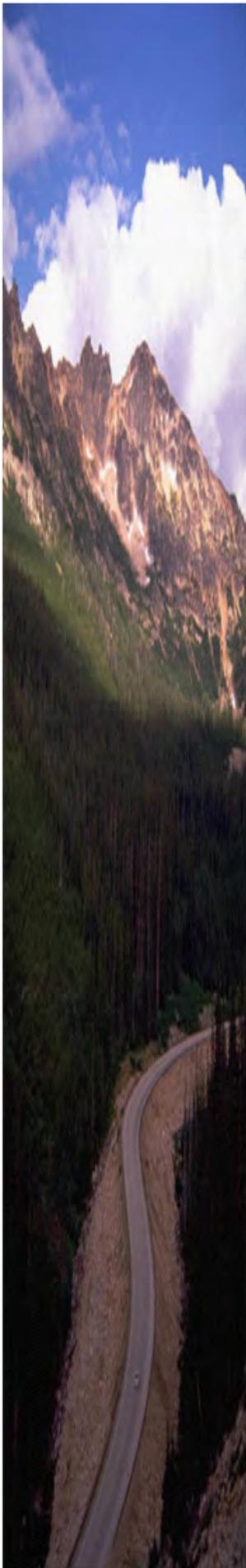
Here in the Northwest, the SRS Act has provided much-needed funding to conduct stream restoration projects, develop new animal habitat, improve and extend the trail network, and to complete many other worthwhile projects. More information about the Act

and the RAC can be found on our local website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/partnersites/payco/index.html>

The stories listed below are just a few of the incredible projects made possible through Title II funds provided by our local counties through the SRS Act.

RAC Field Trip

Hood/Willamette RAC members had a full day of reviewing projects completed using Title II funds. The first stop of the day was the Arrah Wanna River-keeper habitat restoration project. This successful project was completed in 2007 with the collaboration of several groups and agencies including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wolfree Inc., Arra Wanna Homeownership Association, and the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. The project site



was on private land adjacent to national forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land along the Salmon River. The purpose of this project was to restore spawning and rearing habitat for Threatened and Endangered salmon species, so the project included restoring flow to an historic side channel through well-positioned boulders in the mainstem channel. The side channel provides shelter for juvenile salmon and steelhead trout. In addition, partners planted numerous willow seedlings, and smoothed areas where heavy equipment had disrupted soil.

The Hood/Willamette RAC members then visited a Stewardship Contract timber thinning sale project. This thinning sale was supported through the collaboration of the Clackamas Stewardship Partners. Title II funded the coordinator for this collaborative group. Prescribed thinning projects are meant to simulate the natural life cycles of forests. Through the thinning process, space and nutrients are recycled to make room for new growth, and funds are generated that can support other restoration projects. Overall, the field trip gave RAC members the chance to strengthen partnerships already made and discuss new ones for future projects.

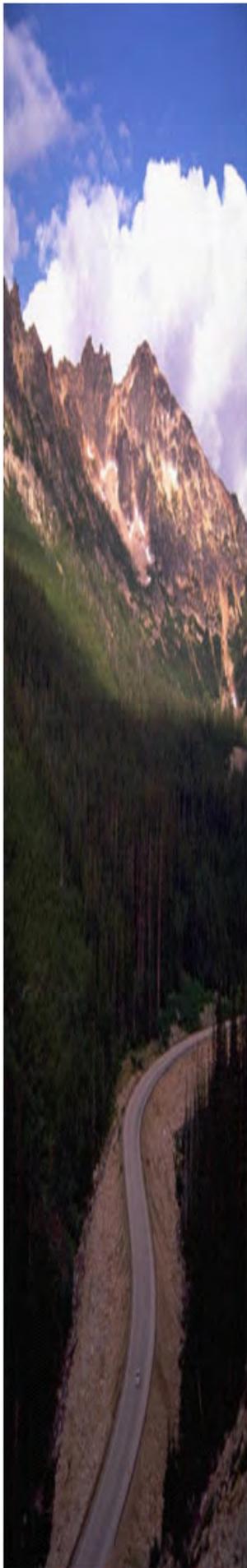
North Fork Trail Connection

Some of the RAC funds were used to connect sections of the North Fork Trail system, just west of Oakridge.

Specifically, trail work was completed to extend the existing trail from West Fir Portal to Box Canyon. Due to this recent extension, access is now available to roads, campgrounds, and day use activities in the Aufderheide corridor and the geographically and scenically unique Buffalo Rock. The trail work also brought us closer to having the complete 30 mile stretch of continuous trail from the West Fir Covered Bridge all the way to Box Canyon. While it may yet be a number of years until this goal is attained, the trail work done using last year's RAC allocation made it possible for four and a half more miles of trail to be open for public use.



Volunteers improve the North Fork Trail Connection.



Charleton Burn Clean Up

The goal of this Title II funded project was to remove fallen trees and other debris blocking proper access to a number of trails in the Waldo Lake Wilderness area. A number of volunteer groups, most notably the High Cascade Forest Volunteer group, joined forces with the Willamette National Forest staff to complete this technically challenging project. Due to the access restrictions specified by the Wilderness Act, cross saws and other non-mechanized equipment and highly skilled contractors were employed to carry out the necessary tasks to make the trail safe and accessible again.



Planning for the Future

The allocation of Title II funds for 2011 has been determined and 101 projects were recently recommended by the Hood/Willamette RAC. Below is a breakdown of the dollar amounts by county that will fund these projects. If you have any questions about any of the information in this newsletter you can contact Connie Athman, Hood/Willamette RAC Designated Federal Official at: **(503) 668-1672 or by email at cathman@fs.fed.us**.



Volunteers cleaning up the Charleton Burn.

TITLE II FUNDS FOR 2011 BY COUNTY

Mt. Hood National Forest		Willamette National Forest	
Clackamas	\$420,363	Douglas	\$66,172
Hood River	\$173,518	Lane	\$1,406,758
Linn	\$665,345	Multnomah	\$62,412
Marion	\$250,111	Wasco	\$327,040