

**SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000  
PUBLIC LAW 106-393  
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM  
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Fresno**  
**Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):  
**Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2010**

<b>2. Project Name:</b> Wilderness Ranger	<b>3a. State:</b> CA <b>3b. County(s):</b> Fresno
<b>4. Project Submitted By:</b> Justin R Robbins	<b>5. Date:</b> November 4, 2009
<b>6. Contact Phone Number:</b> (559) 855-5355 X3325	<b>7. Contact E-mail:</b> jrobbins@fs.fed.us

<b>8. Project Location:</b> Wilderness Areas on the Sierra NF (Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes and Kaiser Wildernesses).	
a. National Forest(s): Sierra National Forest	b. Forest Service District: High Sierra & Bass Lake RD
c. Location (Township-Range-Section)	

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:** Provide adequate ranger coverage in wilderness areas for the purposes of resource protection; designing and implementing restoration projects; completing wilderness visitor contacts/education; installation of trail signs; assisting with the management of Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Program; provide support for Forest Service and volunteer trail crews; providing visitor access by clearing trails for use as early in the season as possible; and assisting in light to medium trail maintenance throughout the field season.

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) Hire three seasonal wilderness rangers for wilderness resource protection/restoration projects, seasonal opening of trails, visitor contact and education, proper signing, leadership and management of Volunteer Wilderness Ranger program, and support for volunteer groups.

b. Detailed: The wilderness areas of the High Sierra Ranger District are some of the premier wilderness areas in the *nation*. The high profile and world-famous scenery of these areas create tremendous recreational pressure on these fragile areas of Fresno County. At least 14 wilderness rangers are required to maintain adequate ranger coverage of this area (approximately 450,000 acres of wilderness) for the purposes of trail clearing and maintenance, visitor contact and education, maintaining proper signage, conducting campsite inventory and restoration, and support for volunteer wilderness trail crews. This funding will provide for 3 summer-long temporary wilderness rangers, supplementing the 4 permanent wilderness rangers employed by the agency. These rangers will increase the wilderness ranger presence in our wilderness areas and push the agency closer to a level of adequate ranger coverage. Such coverage will be sustained for the entire high-use season and provide visitors with better access through trail maintenance; better experiences through restoration efforts of wilderness character components; and promote greater public understanding of wilderness values and regulation through the interaction between rangers and visitors. In addition, these rangers will fill the critical role of leadership and management of our Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Program and Wilderness Ranger

Internship Programs. Additionally, the Internship Program provides an opportunity for natural resource management majors in college to compliment their education with field-level experience. However, the Volunteer Ranger and Internship Programs cannot succeed without the leadership, management, and experience of seasoned summer-long temporary wilderness rangers. This project will provide the funding for those seasoned rangers, and allow for the continued success and expansion of the Internship and Volunteer Ranger Programs. Early season trail workload will focus on clearing high-use trails of trees and other major obstructions as soon as weather and ground conditions permit.

**11. Types of Lands Involved?**

State/Private/Other lands involved?  Yes  No

**Land Status:**

If Yes, specify:

**12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation?** (Check at least 1)

- Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
- Restores and improves land health.
- Restores water quality

**13. Project Type**

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify): Visitor contact and volunteer support

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1):

**14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish**

Miles of road maintained:

Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:

Number of structures maintained/improved:

Acres of soil productivity improved:

Miles of stream/river restored/improved: Assisting in the early season clearing of trails will provide collateral stream and river restoration as a result of reduced sediment loading from eroding trails.
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Miles of trail maintained: <i>Approximately 150 miles of level 3 and level 2 trails will be opened.</i>
Miles of trail obliterated: <i>1-2 miles of braided trail sections will be obliterated.</i>
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: <i>Removal and rehabilitation (to discourage further use) of campsites that are within 100 feet of water sources will provide more natural and unobstructed wildlife corridors.</i>
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated:
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. <i>Three people for 20 weeks per person.</i>
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): <i>1000 (~3% of Wilderness visitors)</i>
Direct economic activity benefit: <i>Wilderness Rangers will reside in Fresno County and purchase personal materials and supplies from Fresno County businesses</i>
Other:

<b>15. Estimated Project Start Date:</b> 06/01/2010	<b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date:</b> 9/30/2010
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.** Wilderness rangers will interact with wilderness visitors (private and commercial) to provide an enhanced wilderness experience. Rangers will educate visitors on wilderness rules, regulations, and Leave No Trace principles, and rangers will assist visitors with questions and concerns. Wilderness rangers will also work collaboratively with volunteer groups such as the Backcountry Horsemen, Wilderness Volunteers, Sierra Club, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew (HSVTC), and others groups to support their efforts in Fresno County’s wilderness areas. Rangers will support the Fresno County Sheriff’s Department and its affiliated Search and Rescue (SAR) unit during SAR operations. Finally, rangers will provide critical leadership and management of the High Sierra Ranger District Volunteer Wilderness Ranger and Wilderness Ranger Internship Programs.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.** Fresno County residents will see continuing and improved maintenance of wilderness trails, rehabilitation of highly impacted areas of wilderness, and have the opportunity to interact with professional wilderness rangers. The staff employed by this project will reside in Fresno County and benefit the county’s residents and economy.

**19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?** This project will enhance the wilderness character of federally designated wilderness lands in Fresno County. Federal appropriated dollars are not sufficient for the Forest Service to provide adequate stewardship of these precious and fragile resources. This project will help provide the Forest Service with a wilderness staff necessary to manage the wilderness areas in Fresno County in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Forest Service policy.

<b>20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?</b> (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

**21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials?**  Yes  No

<b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b>
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$47,000.00
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:** The High Sierra Ranger District will provide funding for supervision of employees and monitoring employee accomplishments. The High Sierra Ranger District will also provide housing and transportation as well as funding for any work-related supplies needed by the rangers, including PPE (personal protective equipment) and tools.

**24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)** See attached sheets (pages 5 and 6).

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

**25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.**

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- Other, please explain: Unused funds, which are not expended, will be held over to FY2011 to fund temporary wilderness rangers.

**Project Recommended By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Chairperson**

Resource Advisory Committee

**Project Approved By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Forest Supervisor**

National Forest

## **24. Monitoring Plan:**

### **a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.**

This project will be monitored by three primary methods:

1. Wilderness Rangers carry wilderness data summary cards on which they record the activities of each day. Rangers may also create accompanying reports that their detail work and visitor incidents. The information collected on these summary cards includes:
  - Visitor contacts
    - Number of individuals
    - Number of parties
    - Locations of contacts made
    - Wilderness Permit – Y or N
    - Entry Date
    - Entry location
    - Party size
    - Permit party name
    - Number of stock
  - Waterbars cleaned
  - Waterbars reconstructed
  - Rock removed from trail (in linear feet and hours spent)
  - Trees removed from trail (number of trees and hours spent)
  - Brushing of trail (in linear feet and hours spent)
  - Trail tread repair (in linear feet and hours spent)
  - Signs installation/repair (number of signs and hours spent)
  - Litter removal (lbs)
  - Fire rings eradicated (number of rings)
  - Campsites inventoried
  - Miles hiked (if hiking)
  - Miles ridden (if on horse)
  - Citations issued
  - Written warnings issued
  - Verbal warnings issued
2. The wilderness manager as well as the four permanent wilderness rangers will frequently accompany the temporary wilderness ranger and trail crew members to assist in their development and provide a model from which the temporary employees can learn.
3. The public provides feedback on wilderness ranger's actions and professionalism to VIS centers. When feedback is received, it is an excellent tool we can use to monitor how effective wilderness rangers are at interacting with the public as well as providing accurate information to the public.

### **b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:**

Monitoring of wilderness rangers will be conducted primarily by the wilderness manager and four permanent wilderness rangers, but also by the public through feedback to VIS staff.

### **c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):**

See page 6 below.

# Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys				
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries	\$15,500.00	\$40,504.00		
j. Materials & Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$500.00		
k. Monitoring				
l. Other (per diem, vehicles, supplies)	\$3,000.00	\$5,996.00		
m. Project Sub-Total	\$15,000.00	\$47,000.00		
n. Indirect Costs	\$6,239.20	\$0.00		
<b>o. Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>\$21,239.20</b>	<b>\$47,000.00</b>		

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.