

Sierra County RAC Operating Guidelines and Project Criteria 2010

Legislative Criteria – Projects will improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality.

50% of all project funds are to be used for projects that are primarily dedicated to 1) road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration or 2) restoration of streams and watersheds.

SC RAC Criteria –

- A. Is there an opportunity to leverage additional funds?
- B. Are there other partners? Is a letter of support included? (not required for first round of project approval)
- C. Is the NEPA work completed or is the project NEPA compliant?
- D. What is the risk of doing nothing?
- E. How severe is the problem that the project would correct?
- F. Will this address a problem that Sierra County and the Forest Service are committed to? Is there a letter of support from the District Ranger?
- G. Is there a project champion with passion for completing the project?
- H. Is there a high likelihood of success?
- I. Will it be accomplishable within: 1) a year? 2) by 2012?

Prescreening of Project Proposals: Once proposals are received by the DFO, he will review them to be sure that the form has been completed, that the project meets the intent of the legislation, and that the funding identified is accurate. In future rounds of project proposals, a letter from the local District Ranger will also accompany each project to indicate that the project will benefit the National Forest.

Meeting Format for Reviewing Projects: Normally, project proponents are invited to attend the meetings. Project proponents, if desired, can give a short overview of their project to the RAC and then be available for any questions that arise during discussion. After all projects have been presented and discussed, the RAC will vote on the projects.

Community and NGO Emphasis: The projects proposed by non-governmental organizations and the local communities/agencies will be presented to the RAC members first before those from the Forest Service in order to give emphasis to the NGO's and local community needs.

Deferral of Projects: Projects can be deferred to later in the meeting if a project proponent can not attend, but will not be deferred to another day.

Revising Project Funding: The RAC may decide to allocate a reduced amount to a project if this would accomplish a portion of the project goals.

Conflict of Interest: If a member of the RAC would benefit financially from a project, they will recuse themselves from voting. A RAC member could be a project proponent however.

Replacement Members: The RAC voiced support to have the replacement members attend all meetings and be an active part of the discussion until the vote was taken. The legislation does not allow replacement members to vote.

Attendance: If a member is absent for 2 meetings, the DFO, Chair, or Committee Coordinator will contact the member to see if they still want to remain on the RAC. It may be necessary for the RAC to vote regarding the continuation of the member on the RAC.

A week before the meetings, the Forest Service will confirm that a quorum will be in attendance and alert the RAC if the meeting needs to be cancelled.

If a member can not attend in person, they could participate via conference call if facilities are available.

Proxy Voting: It is important for RAC members to attend the meetings. Proxy voting will not be used.

Research/Assessment Projects: These types of projects will not be automatically eliminated by the RAC, but will be considered based on the merit of the project. If a project would likely come out of the research/assessment, then it could be considered for Title II funding.