



File Code: 1350

Date: July 16, 2024

Route To:

Subject: Helena-Lewis and Clark Resource Advisory Committee Funding FY24

To: Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest employees

I have reviewed the projects that the Helena-Lewis and Clark Resource Advisory Committee (HLF RAC) has recommended for funding under the Secure Rural Schools and Self-determination Act of 2008, also known as the Payments to States Legislation. I have reviewed these projects to determine that they meet the intent of the Act. For each project this evaluation determined if:

- The projects comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations;
- The projects are consistent with the applicable resource management plan and any subsequent plan developed pursuant to the resource management plan;
- The projects have been recommended by the resource advisory committee in accordance with section 203;
- The projects meet the Secure Rural Schools criteria.

The HLF RAC met on June 26, 2024, to evaluate twenty-seven (27) submitted proposals and to make a recommendation for the distribution of funds, as provided for under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-determination Act of 2008. The current estimate of available funds is \$739,543.25. The twenty-seven submitted proposals totaled \$1,088,678.20.

PROJECT APPROVAL based on HLF RAC recommendation:

Based on the HLF RAC recommendation provided on June 26, 2024, I am approving funding for nineteen (19) projects as described in the table below:

Project Number	Project Name	Proponent	Funds Requested	HLF RAC Recommended Funding	Once funding Becomes available
1	Remote Access Weather Station	Internal	10,000	10,000	



2	Maintenance of trails at rock climbing areas on the HLCNF	Helena Climbers Associations	17,700	17,700	
3	MacDonald Pass Cross-Country Ski Trails- Access Trails Improvements	Last Chance Nordic Ski	54,000	54,000	
4	Cataract Falls Trail Improvement	Internal	75,00	75,000	
5	Falls Creek Viewing Platform	Internal	20,000	20,000	
6	Wood Lake Boat Launch and Accessible Trail	Internal	50,000	50,000	
8	Roger Fuchs Trail Reroute Project	City of Helena	6,023	6,023	
9	Smith River Noxious Weed Control	Internal	35,000	35,000	
10	Gipsy Lake Picnic Area/Day Use	Internal	20,000	20,000	
11	Judith Basin Trail Maintenance	Montana Conservation Corps	128,000	128,000	
12	Last Chance Backcountry Horsemen trail clearing/packing support	Last Chance Backcountry Horsemen	27,691.20	27,691.20	
13	Central Montana Bear Aware Education Program	Montana Discovery Foundation	34,050	34,050	
14	Youth Forest Monitoring Program	Montana Discovery Foundation	34,000	33,679.05	
15	Helena Youth Corps	Montana Conservation Corps	75,000	75,000	
16	Continuation of South Hills Maintenance	Prickly Pear Land Trust	30,000	30,000	

17	Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Trail Access	Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation	21,600	21,600	
19	Helena/York Trail Maintenance & Improvement	Montana Bicycle Guild	58,800	58,800	
21	Jeep Trail Dozer Rental	Bob Gliko	40,000	20,000	20,000
22	Landers and Silver King Invasives	Forest Moulton	23,000	23,000	
Total			1,088,678.20	\$739,543.25	20,000

There were eight projects that the RAC did not recommend for funding at this time:

1. Clary Coulee Trail Head, Project Number 7;
2. Students in Cultural Preservation, Project Number 18;
3. Jefferson Division Travel Plan Education & Trail Maintenance-UTV, Project Number 20;
4. Historic Cabin Preservation with Preserve Montana Trades Corps, Project Number 23;
5. Wheatland County Sheriff's Forest Service Patrol Salary/Supplies, Project Number 24;
6. Meagher County Sheriff's Forest Service Patrol Communication Equipment-Radios, Project Number 25;
7. Wheatland County Sheriff's Forest Service Patrol Communication Equipment-Radios, Project Number 26;
8. Scott Dersam, Director, Alpine Ecosystem Research Institute (AERI)'s Investigation in the Clouds, Project Number 27.

Timing for project implementation will be informed by the completion of environmental (NEPA) analyses, developing and amending grants/agreement or contracts, and USFS staff capacity.

I appreciate the time and effort of the HLF RAC members in reviewing and recommending projects as well as the forest and community engagement in submitting proposals for funding.

Emily Platt

EMILY PLATT
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