

Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

June 26, 2024
9:00 AM-4:00 PM PST
La Grande Ranger District Office
Conference Room
3502 US-30
La Grande, OR 97850
Microsoft Teams meeting

Call meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Introductions:

In-Person: Teena Ballard (TB - Chairperson), Zach Williams (ZW), L. Brent Kerns (BK), Stephen Munkers (SM), Mike Gorman (MG), Ted Davis (TD), Robert Klavins (RK), Paul Anderes (PA), John Williams (JW), Todd Nash (TN).

- **Supporting Staff:** Darren Goodding (DFO), Acacia Probert (Lead RAC Coordinator), Amy Franklin (Malheur RAC Coordinator), Krystal Collins (Umatilla RAC Coordinator), Ann Niesen (Forest Supervisor), Colleen Malaney (Regional RAC and SRS Coordinator), Betsy Koncerak (Grants and Agreements Specialist).
- **Presenters:** Sandra Rice, Chris Camarena, Joe Hintz, Scott Schaefer, Bob Hassmiller, Doni Bruland, Jeff Fowlds, Terry George, Lucas Glick, Marci Schreder, Marty Gardner and Jay Moore

Virtual: Jerry Moore and Dick Nichols.

- **Presenters:** Kelby Witherspoon and Melody Faden

Absent: Travis Henslee, Gary Humphreys and USFS Budget Officer

DFO & Chairperson Welcome

(DFO) Welcome and round robin of introductions. Call for the co-chair position.

(DFO) Review of qualifying proposal criteria. Meant to benefit the local community. Funds applied to Federal Lands or close by.

Proposal Presentations and Review

The NEOF RAC reviewed 23 project proposals. One additional project was added to the master spreadsheet, it was accidentally missed when creating the master spreadsheet. A total of 19 projects were recommended by the NEOF RAC.

Request from RAC Members regarding increasing monitoring of projects from previous years. RAC would like additional information such as how many youths were hired on youth crews, or what work was able to be accomplished with Title II funds.

Presentation requested from Morrow County for County Commissioners by Gorman.

(DFO) on Eligibility:

“If a project is not going to occur on Federal land, it must have clear direct or indirect benefits to resources on Federal land to be eligible for Title II funding. Clear direct benefits can be to Forest Service infrastructure, forest ecosystems, land health, water quality, or fish and wildlife habitat. These benefits must be clearly stated in the project proposal. If the project’s benefits to Federal land resources are not clearly identified in the project proposal, the project will not be eligible for Title II funding”

Discussion and Vote:

(Chairperson) Reiterated what projects qualify for Title II, DFOs quote above. For counties over requesting for funds is it possible to scale each project down? Yes. Can we follow up with recommending a project even if we don’t fund? Yes.

Malheur National Forest Grant and Harney County Projects

RAC members expressed concerns over project GR-MAL24-003 and felt that there were too many questions that required answers before moving forward with approving Title II funding.

Voting Record:

Motion: Approve all of the Malheur Nation Forest Grant County Projects with the exception of GR-MAL24-003.

Zach William abstains from voting on this motion due to inclusion of project number GR-MAL24-003 in the motion. Zack Williams expressed support of the youth crew project proposals.

Aforementioned motion approved.

Amended Motion: Decline funding for GR-MAL24-003.

Zach William abstains from voting on this motion due to inclusion of project number GR-MAL24-003 in the motion.

Amended Motion approved: Approve all of the Malheur National Forest/Grant County Projects with the exception of GR-MAL24-003.

(Forest Supervisor) Chairperson and Malheur National Forest, Forest Supervisor will meet with Prairie City and follow up about their project proposal.

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Motion: Approve HA-MAL24-001 & 002.

Motion approved.

Umatilla National Forest Grant and Morrow County

Voting Record:

Motion: Approve MO-UMA24-001 & GR-UMA24-001.

Motion approved.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Baker and Union County

Discussion:

Question about project BA/UN/GR-WW24-001, and the jurisdiction of the youth crew. Funding for this project is requested from Baker, Union, and Grant County within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. This is due to the youth crew working within all three counties throughout their season.

Question about BA-WW24-002 – Does NEPA work fall within the bounds of what Title II funds are intended for? This question is based on verification of the interpretation of FACA 7124 (B) (1).

Concerned about funding this when it's a Forest Service Project which should already be funded by the Forest Service. Congress should fund them, not the RAC pot of money.

BA-WW24-004 – Concerned about some parts of projects. Concerned that project hasn't consulted tribes, yet tribes were mentioned.

BA-WW24-005 – There's a need for more money there, if there is money left over. It seems like there is support from the Forest Service side. Sensitive area application makes sense, perimeter collar not usable yet. Real fences vs virtual. Less impact on land with a virtual fence. Once in a

lifetime technology that will transform the landscape. This is a game changer for controlling livestock.

Between UN-WW24-003 and UN-WW24-004, the priority for funding, as mentioned by the presenter would be UN-WW24-003 for support to Heritage work.

Voting Record:

Motion: Decline funding for BA-WW24-001.

Motion approved.

Amended Motion: To approve funding for BA-WW24-001 at half, totaling \$8,102.

Amendment approved.

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Motion: To approve the motion to fund BA-WW24-001 at half funding (\$8,102)

Motion approved.

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Motion: Fund BA-WW24-004 at half, totaling \$43,160 with an emphasis on fixing water troughs and rebuilding fencing first.

Motion approved.

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Motion: Fund BA-WW24-005 to the full amount.

Motion approved.

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Motion: Fund BA-WW24-003 to the full amount.

Motion not approved. The NEOF RAC does not recommend this project.

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Motion: Fund BA-UN-GR-WW24-001 with \$13,693 coming from Baker, Union and Grant

County Wallowa-Whitman Funds.

Motion approved.

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Motion: Fund BA-WW24-002 for the full amount.

Motion not approved. The NEOF RAC does not recommend this project

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Motion: Apply remaining \$24,693 of funding from Baker County to project BA-WW24-005. This is in addition to the already approved \$46,800.

Motion fails. Not recommended.

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Motion: Fund UN-WW24-001 for \$7,228, UN-WW24-005 for \$4,784 and UN-WW24-004 for the remaining balance, \$37,751.

Motion approved.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Wallowa County

Recommending to fund all projects and remaining surplus added to the Defend and Grow the Core project.

Voting Record:

Motion: To approve the Wallowa County/Wallowa Whitman projects as proposed with the addition of remaining funding going to project WA-WW24-001. This would be an increase from \$10,400 to 52,815.00.

Motion approved.

Table 1. Projects and Funding Recommendations

Project No.	County	Forest/Sponsor	Project Name	NEOF RAC Total Recommendation
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GR-MAL24-001	Grant	Malheur NF	BMRD Youth Crew	\$90,790
GR-MAL24-002	Grant	Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance	Magone Trail Network	\$30,160
Project Total				\$120,950
HA-MAL24-001	Harney	Malheur NF	OYCC TEC Crews 2025	\$97,911
HA-MAL24-002	Harney	Malheur NF	Range Water Improvements	\$7,893
Project Total				\$105,804
MO-UMA24-001	Morrow	Umatilla NF	Lake Penland Access Road Improvement	\$29,652
Project Total				\$29,652
GR-UMA24-001	Grant	Umatilla NF	Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program	\$38,400
Project Total				\$38,400
BA-WW24-001	Baker	Wallowa-Whitman NF	OHV Trail Invasive Plant Management	\$8,102
BA-WW24-004	Baker	Baker County Parks	Fizz Springs Forest and Watershed Restoration Project	\$43,160
BA/UN/GR-WW24-001	Baker	Wallowa-Whitman NF	Youth Crew Tri-County	\$13,693
BA-WW24-005	Baker	Wallowa-Whitman NF	Pine Valley Bull Trout Fencing	\$46,800
Project Total				\$111,755
UN-WW24-001	Union	Wallowa-Whitman NF	Fly Creek Restoration Invasive Plant Management Project	\$7,228
UN-WW24-004	Union	Wallowa-Whitman NF	Sheep Fuels Reduction Project	\$37,751
UN-WW24-005	Union	Wallowa-Whitman NF	Umapine OHV Trail Invasive Plant Management	\$4,784

BA/UN/GR-WW24-001	Union	Wallowa-Whitman NF	Youth Crew	\$13,693
Project Total				\$63,456
WA-WW24-001	Wallowa	Wallowa Resources	Invasive Annual Grass (Defend and Grow the Core)	\$52,815
WA-WW24-002	Wallowa	Wallowa Resources	Dougherty Campground Well Development	\$30,992
WW-WW24-004	Wallowa	Wallowa-Whitman NF	FSR 39 Drainage Maintenance	\$75,826
WA-WW24-003	Wallowa	Hells Canyon Recreation Collaborative	HCRC Jet Boat Support	\$5,200
Project Total				\$164,833
BA/UN/GR-WW24-001	Grant	Wallowa-Whitman NF	Natural Resource Youth Crew	\$13,693
Project Total				\$13,693

Administrative Discussions and Vote:

- **Chair and Co-chair nominations and vote:**
 - Teena Ballard was nominated to continue as Chair. There were no objections, and all were in favor: Teena Ballard, Ted Davis, Stephen Munkers, Jerry Moore, Brent Kerns, Mike Gorman, Paul Anderes, Rob Klavins, Richard Nichols, John Williams, Zach Williams, and Todd Nash.
 - Mike Gorman volunteered to be nominated as co-chair. There were no objections, and all were in favor: Teena Ballard, Ted Davis, Stephen Munkers, Jerry Moore, Brent Kerns, Mike Gorman, Paul Anderes, Rob Klavins, Richard Nichols, John Williams, Zach Williams, and Todd Nash.

General Discussion:

- Malheur National Forest, Forest Supervisor Ann Niesen, and Chairperson will meet up with Prairie City Officials about their project proposal titled, “West Side Sewer Expansion for Prairie Wood Products and CoGen (GR-MAL24-003)”. This project was not approved for funding, at this time.
- Request to have monitoring reports from accomplishments, for all previous projects.
- (Chairperson) There is support to continue having annual RAC meetings the last week of June to be held in Baker City.

Adjourn at 1610 PM.

Teena M. Ballard

Northeast Oregon RAC, Chairperson

Darren Goodding

Designed Federal Officer, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest