

# Meeting Minutes for RAC Meeting #2

A Federal Advisory Committee Act meeting related to Title II of the Secure Rural Schools Act

## HOOD-WILLAMETTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) SUMMARY OF MEETING

December 2, 2024

The Hood-Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) convened for its second meeting of calendar year 2024 at 9:00 A.M. on December 2, 2024, in a hybrid format at the Keizer Civic Center in Keizer, Oregon and on Microsoft Teams. Meta Loftsgaarden was present in her role as the committee's Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The meeting was open to the public from 9:30 A.M. to 2:35 P.M. The meeting was closed to the public for the coffee social from 9:00-9:30 A.M.

For the record, it is noted that committee members abstained from discussion and voting on applications from their respective institutions or in which a conflict of interest could occur, and committee members signed a statement to this effect in advance of the meeting.

### Committee members present:

Name	Category	Term	Attendance
Alyssa Brownlee	A	1st	Virtual
Heather Buch	C	1st	In-person
Patrick Davis	B	2nd	In-person
Kurt Doctor	A	1st	In-person
Mark Gourley	A	1st	In-person
Melanie Kate-Mason	B	2nd	In-person
Jeff Parker	B	2nd	In-person
Cheryl Pouley	C	1st	In-person
Richard Ragan	A	2nd	In-person
Katherine Stanton	B	1st	In-person
Frank Vehafric	A	1st	In-person
Steven Wilent	C	2nd	Virtual
Rebecca Wolf	B	1st	In-person

### Staff of the USDA Forest Service present:

Name	Position	Attendance
Meta Loftsgaarden	RAC Designated Federal Officer and Mt. Hood NF Forest Supervisor	In-person
Eileen Kitayama	RAC Coordinator and Willamette NF Partnership Coordinator	In-person
Colleen Urban	RAC Assistant Coordinator and Mt. Hood NF Partnership Coordinator	In-person
Michelle King	Willamette NF District Ranger for Detroit Ranger District	In-person
Omero Torres	Willamette NF Staff Officer for Recreation, Heritage, Lands, Minerals, & Partnerships	In-person

## **MEETING PURPOSE**

The purpose of this meeting was to deliberate and vote on the Hood-Willamette Resource Advisory Committee's funding recommendations for project proposals received in response to the FY21-23 Secure Rural Schools Act Title II funds solicitation.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Meta Loftsgaarden, the Designated Federal Officer, and Eileen Kitayama, the RAC Coordinator, provided a review of the agenda and a recap of the first meeting on November 7, when project proposals were presented to the RAC. They also shared the following information:

- The RAC reviewed approximately 50 project proposals requesting approximately \$6.5 million, and was tasked with awarding \$3.4 million in available funding.
- The \$3.4 million was split among 10 pots of money for counties.
- RAC overhead expenses, including meeting space, refreshments, hotel rooms, mileage, etc. over the next three years would be covered by a 0.6% overhead rate (approximately \$20,000) taken off the top fairly across all counties.
- Each subcommittee would have 40 minutes to share and discuss their draft recommendations at the meeting.
- A quorum had been met today, allowing the committee to proceed with casting votes today.
- Voting would be by the full committee with majority vote.
- Each committee member could vote 'yes', 'no', or 'present', and a record of how each committee member voted would be kept for each vote.
- Voting would be by "slate" (batch) of projects for each county instead of by individual project; there would be 10 slate votes total.
- No public comments were received prior to today's meeting.

Jeff Parker, the RAC Chairperson, acknowledged the challenges of having disagreements during discussions and of having some projects that would receive zero funding. He encouraged committee members to ask questions and highlighted that although the RAC broke into subcommittees for efficiency, everyone's vote counted today. He reminded everyone that there were some projects where members would recuse themselves to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. And finally, that it was important to complete the votes today so that the Forest Service could start building agreements to get the funds awarded.

Meta echoed that disagreement was okay and open conversation was important. She encouraged committee members to share any concerns or challenges they had when reviewing projects or getting additional information from project sponsors/points of contact.

Committee members voiced their concerns about the security and timeline of the funding being awarded to the projects; they were reassured that the funding was secure although the timeline of the Forest Service's Grants & Agreements process could be delayed. They also asked how they should use the Forest Service's project feedback; they were informed it was completely up to the committee to vote as they chose, and that the Forest Service had ranked internal projects only to help provide some guidance because some committee members had requested it.

Mark Gourley reminded the Forest Service that there was a suggestion at the last meeting to share which herbicides have been cleared through NEPA for use by the Forest Service. Eileen Kitayama

obtained a copy of the herbicides list and shared it with the concerned committee member via email and with the meeting group via Microsoft Teams. Melanie Kate-Mason voiced that there were several members whose second terms would be expiring after 8 years. She said it had been rewarding to fund projects, and very challenging to not be able to fund all projects. She thanked everybody for participating. Meta Loftsgaarden reinforced her appreciation for everybody participating and doing the hard work to review and make tough recommendation about what projects to approve.

There was discussion about the process for when and how to vote for projects. Some proposals covered multiple counties and subcommittees. There was a suggestion to hold votes until the end of meeting. However, the greater preference was to “vote as we go” while the discussion was fresh in everyone’s mind, and to deal with challenges as they arose rather than having to go back.

## **DELIBERATION AND VOTING**

### **Douglas County Projects**

There were two projects proposed for Douglas County, where \$96,285 was requested and \$95,991 was available. The Lane-Douglas subcommittee recommended \$47,996 for the road maintenance project and \$47,995 for Cascade Volunteers. The motion was proposed by Jeff Parker, and seconded by Rebecca Wolf. All voted yes.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Douglas	Willamette NF	Willamette National Forest Deferred Road Maintenance	1	\$48,285	\$47,996
Douglas	Cascade Volunteers	Willamette National Forest Volunteer Program Management	2	\$48,000	\$47,995
<b>Douglas County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$96,285</b>	<b>\$95,991</b>

### **Lane County Projects**

There were two projects proposed for Lane County, where \$2,617,380 requested and \$1,471,147 was available. Melanie Kate-Mason and Heather Buch reported out that the subcommittee considered prioritization from the Forest Service, if the project was scalable, and the purpose of project. The subcommittee’s formula for allocation was 0% funding for low priority projects, 50-75% funding for medium priority projects, and 75-100% funding high priority projects. Heather Buch recused herself from discussing the Lane County Youth Services proposal because she was the Lane County Commissioner. Two projects were recommended by the subcommittee for funding at 100%; these were the portable toilet request, since it is high priority and relatively low cost, and the Tharp Memorial Bridge. Projects that were recommended by the subcommittee for zero funding were mostly ranked as low-priority projects by the Forest Service itself. Some committee members also felt that timber should pay for timber projects.

Jeff Parker clarified the RAC could not vote on one slate of projects for this county because some committee members preferred to recuse themselves from voting on projects with potential conflicts of interest. He motioned to fund the slate minus 3 projects - (1) Lane County Youth Services Forest Team, (2) NYC H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest Project, and (3) NYC Invasives Removal and Turtle Habitat Improvement – at the amounts recommended by the subcommittee. His motion was seconded by Heather Buch. All voted yes.

Jeff Parker then motioned to fund Lane County Youth Services project at the amount recommended by the subcommittee, which was seconded by Patrick Davis. All voted yes except for 1 abstention by Heather Buch.

Patrick Davis then motioned to approve the two Northwest Youth Corps projects at the amount recommended by the subcommittee, which was seconded by Kurt Doctor. All voted yes except for 1 abstention by Jeff Parker.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Lane	Willamette NF	Road Maintenance and Hazardous Fuels Removal – Lane Co – McKenzie River Ranger District	3	\$224,281	\$168,211
Lane	Willamette NF	Young Stand Density Management – Lane Co – McKenzie River Ranger District	4	\$55,000	\$0
Lane	Willamette NF	Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Abatement	5	\$100,000	\$75,000
Lane	Willamette NF	Middle Fork Ranger District- Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)	6	\$95,000	\$71,250
Lane	Willamette NF	UMFWR Aquatic Restoration Plan	7	\$254,920	\$191,190
Lane	Willamette NF	Willamette National Forest Deferred Road Maintenance	1	\$390,014	\$195,007
Lane	Willamette NF	Willamette National Forest – Road 1506 Repairs	8	\$350,000	\$175,000
Lane	Willamette NF	Wilderness and Special Habitat Invasive Plant Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) - Middle Fork Ranger District	9	\$35,000	\$0
Lane	Willamette NF	Forestwide Priority Trails Deferred and Annual Maintenance	10	\$110,000	\$55,000
Lane	Willamette NF	Portable Toilet Rentals	11	\$23,500	\$23,500
Lane	Willamette NF	Forestwide Priority Developed and Dispersed Recreation Site Deferred Maintenance	12	\$140,000	\$105,000
Lane	Willamette NF	Recreation Roads maintenance	13	\$15,000	\$0
Lane	Willamette NF	Wilderness and Special Habitat Invasive Plant EDRR (Early Detection, Rapid	14	\$39,775	\$0

		Response) - McKenzie River Ranger District			
Lane	Willamette NF	Middle Fork Meadow Restoration	15	\$125,000	\$0
Lane	Lane County Youth Services	Lane County Youth Services Forest Team	16	\$123,258	\$92,444
Lane	Northwest Youth Corps	Northwest Youth Corps HJA Experimental Forest Project	17	\$127,835	\$95,876
Lane	Northwest Youth Corps	Northwest Youth Corps Invasives Removal and Turtle Habitat Improvement	18	\$95,177	\$47,589
Lane	Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Middle Fork Willamette Riparian Restoration & Recreation	19	\$155,120	\$77,560
Lane	Oakridge Trail Alliance	Tharp Memorial Bridge & Parking Area Resurfacing Project	20	\$41,500	\$41,500
Lane	Cascade Volunteers	Willamette National Forest Volunteer Program Management	2	\$117,000	\$57,020
<b>Lane County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$2,617,380</b>	<b>\$1,471,147</b>

### **Linn County Projects**

For Linn County, \$1,979,685 was requested and \$765,821 was available. Cheryl Pouley reported out for the subcommittee and stated that a similar approach had been used in this county as in Lane County in terms of looking at the feedback and project prioritization by the Forest Service. She voiced her concern that the Santiam Pass Ski Lodge proposal had stated that no State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence was required; however, she found that the road appears in SHPO and National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element. She reached out to Willamette National Forest archaeologists and neither of them was aware of the proposal. Friends of Santiam Pass Ski Lodge replied in writing back to her regarding what had been covered by NEPA.

Mark Gourley provided feedback and the recommendation to open up roads for fire access. Recreation was another of his priorities. Weed abatement was a low priority for him, because while it gets youth in woods, in his view it does not have a lot of effectiveness on weeds. He also provided feedback about previous work with beavers. In his view, the proposal Advancing Beaver Restoration could have done more homework in the research and done a better job of presenting the implementation and viability of the work. Other concerns included moving animals, Wildlife Society guidance, spreading disease, the sustainability of enough willow/vine maple food source, and what success would look like and how it would be measured. In addition, he voiced his view that thinning needs to happen, because un-thinned forest is vulnerable to beetle kill. The RAC felt thinning is important, but wanted the Forest Service to consider additional places to get funding other than SRS Title II.

Alyssa Brownlee mentioned that there was good preparation and discussion among the subcommittee. She asked the Forest Service questions about the stand density project to help inform recommendations. She advocated for funding projects as close to 100% as possible, because in her view, giving everybody a little bit wouldn't accomplish a lot of work. She expressed strong support for youth groups.

Jeff Parker discussed several projects that the subcommittee recommended for 0% funding. He said the Forest Service's Young Stand Density Management project could be delayed, and Road 1506 was already partially funded on the Lane County side where most of it was located. Invasive plant species treatment was not heavily supported by the committee members.

The subcommittee recommended funding the following three projects at 100%: portable toilets, abandoned vehicles & trash abatement, and Willamette NF road maintenance. They recommended partially funding the Clear Lake Watershed Protection project, because the amount requested was so high.

When it came time to vote, Melanie Kate-Mason made a motion to fund the Santiam Pass Ski Lodge access road at 50% (\$25,000), saying she wanted to support preserving the site and helping to fund some of the project work. Her motion was seconded by Cheryl Pouley. Brief discussion followed about whether this proposal was ripe for implementation and whether funding half of the project would be enough to do as much good as using that funding elsewhere. Steve Wilent voiced his support for partially funding the project to help mitigate water moving into the facility. After a voice vote, the motion did not carry; with 2 abstaining (Mark Gourley and Jeff Parker), 4 voting yes (Steve Wilent, Richard Ragan, Melanie Kate-Mason, Cheryl Pouley), and the other 7 voting no.

Cheryl Pouley motioned to approve the slate and fund Cascade Volunteers at \$23,750, and Kurt Doctor seconded her motion. All voted yes.

Cheryl Pouley then motioned to fund the NYC Meadow Restoration project at \$71,335, and Alyssa Brownlee seconded her motion. All voted yes, except for 1 abstention by Jeff Parker.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Linn	Willamette NF	Young Stand Density Management – Linn Co – McKenzie River Ranger District	21	\$55,500	\$0
Linn	Willamette NF	Dispersed, OHV Site Rehabilitation, Maintenance, and Lake Sweeping	22	\$29,000	\$14,500
Linn	Willamette NF	Invasive Weed Survey and Treatment – SHRD	23	\$27,500	\$20,000
Linn	Willamette NF	Willamette National Forest Deferred Road Maintenance	1	\$310,222	\$310,222
Linn	Willamette NF	Willamette National Forest – Road 1506 Repairs	8	\$75,000	\$0
Linn	Willamette NF	Forestwide Priority Trails Deferred and Annual Maintenance	10	\$150,000	\$56,500

Linn	Willamette NF	Portable Toilet Rentals	11	\$8,500	\$8,500
Linn	Willamette NF	Forestwide Priority Developed and Dispersed Recreation Site Deferred Maintenance	12	\$145,000	\$54,764
Linn	Willamette NF	Recreation Roads maintenance	13	\$35,000	\$0
Linn	Willamette NF	Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Abatement	5	\$30,000	\$30,000
Linn	Willamette NF	Sweet Home Ranger District Roadside Brushing and Hazard Tree Removal	24	\$45,000	\$33,750
Linn	Willamette NF	Detroit Ranger District Roadside Brushing and Hazard Tree Removal	25	\$90,000	\$67,500
Linn	Willamette NF	Invasive Plant Species Treatments – Detroit and McKenzie River Ranger Districts	26	\$163,200	\$0
Linn	Friends of Santiam Pass Ski Lodge	Santiam Pass Ski Lodge Access Road and Drainage Repairs	27	\$50,000	\$0
Linn	Northwest Youth Corps	Northwest Youth Corps Prairie and Meadow Restoration Project	28	\$205,338	\$71,335
Linn	Linn County Parks & Rec	Clear Lake Water Quality Protection	29	\$410,000	\$75,000
Linn	Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Advancing Beaver Restoration in the North Santiam Beaver Emphasis Area	30	\$75,425	\$0
Linn	Cascade Volunteers	Willamette National Forest Volunteer Program Management	2	\$75,000	\$23,750
<b>Linn County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$1,979,685</b>	<b>\$765,821</b>

#### Marion County Projects on the Mt. Hood National Forest

There were three projects proposed for Marion County on the Mt. Hood National Forest, where \$113,805 was requested and \$91,588 was available. Jeff Parker motioned to approve full funding for two of the projects and partial funding (\$37,435) for Ollalie Lakes Replanting. The motion was seconded by Steve Wilent. All voted yes except for 1 abstention by Rebecca Wolf.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Marion MHNF	Mt. Hood NF	CRRD Olallie Lakes Replanting	35	\$59,200	\$37,435
Marion MHNF	Mt. Hood NF	CRRD Road Maintenance/ Decommissioning Within a Priority Watershed	36	\$43,400	\$43,000

Marion MHNF	Trailkeepers of Oregon	Trailkeepers of Oregon Stewardship and Ambassador Program	37	\$11,205	\$11,153
<b>Marion County in Mt. Hood NF Subtotal</b>				<b>\$113,805</b>	<b>\$91,588</b>

### Marion County Projects on the Willamette National Forest

In Marion County on the Mt. Hood National Forest, there was \$296,525 was requested and \$190,275 available. Cheryl Pouley provided the report out for the subcommittee. She said that they recommended full funding for the watershed, engineering, portable toilets, and hot springs restoration projects. Meanwhile, they recommended 0% funding for invasive weeds and beaver restoration due to concerns about effectiveness of their methods. They recommended allocating the remaining funds to the three other projects to fund them at partial levels. Rick Ragan motioned to approve the proposals, which was seconded by Cheryl Pouley. All voted yes.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Lower Breitenbush Hot Springs Restoration Phase 1	31	\$61,000	\$61,000
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Willamette National Forest Deferred Road Maintenance	1	\$30,000	\$30,000
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Aquatic restoration in the Breitenbush River watershed	32	\$30,000	\$30,000
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Portable Toilet Rentals	11	\$7,000	\$7,000
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Forestwide Priority Developed and Dispersed Recreation Site Deferred Maintenance	12	\$30,000	\$21,000
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Abatement	5	\$10,000	\$8,175
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Detroit Ranger District Roadside Hazard Tree Removal	33	\$25,000	\$25,000
Marion WNF	Willamette NF	Marion County Invasive Plant Species Treatments – Detroit Ranger District	34	\$18,100	\$0
Marion WNF	Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Advancing Beaver Restoration in the North Santiam Beaver Emphasis Area	30	\$75,425	\$0
Marion WNF	Cascade Volunteers	Willamette National Forest Volunteer Program Management	2	\$10,000	\$8,100
<b>Marion County in Willamette NF Subtotal</b>				<b>\$296,525</b>	<b>\$190,275</b>

## Clackamas County Projects

In Clackamas County there was \$498,839 requested and \$280,315 available. Frank Vehafric provided the report out for the subcommittee, which recommended funding Mt. Hood NF Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Disposal for Multnomah County, but not for Clackamas County, and funding AntFarm for Clackamas County instead. Mark Gourley recommended voting no on the Mt. Hood Seed Orchard because he believed the Forest Service proposal had no plan to control bugs/worms that eat the cones and he believed insecticide would be needed to ensure viable seed protection and propagation. Jeff Parker clarified that the project proposal was for the orchard campus more than the seeds themselves.

There was a motion by Heather Buch to approve the Mt. Hood NF Seed Orchard proposal at the \$20,000 amount, and the motion was seconded by Katherine Stanton. The motion was approved; Mark Gourley, Kurt Doctor, and Patrick Davis voted no, Jeff Parker abstained, but all the rest voted yes.

Next there was a motion by Jeff Parker to approve the remaining slate of projects at the amounts shown in the table, minus Mt. Hood Abandoned Vehicle and AntFarm Clean Up. The motion was seconded by Patrick Davis. All voted yes.

Then there was a motion by Jeff Parker to approve the AntFarm Community Youth Crews Clean up at \$50,000, and the motion was seconded by Cheryl Pouley. All voted yes except for an abstention by Steve Wilent.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Clackamas	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood National Forest Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Disposal	38	\$12,500	\$0
Clackamas	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood and CRGNSA Road Maintenance	39	\$75,225	\$75,000
Clackamas	Mt. Hood NF	High Use Trailhead Improvements on the Zigzag Ranger District	40	\$120,000	\$40,000
Clackamas	Mt. Hood NF	Partnership for Deferred Trail Maintenance on the Mt. Hood National Forest	41	\$25,000	\$10,000
Clackamas	Mt. Hood NF	Wet Meadow Restoration in Riverside Fire Scar	42	\$22,100	\$17,315
Clackamas	Mt. Hood NF	Native Plant Materials Development	43	\$20,150	\$10,000
Clackamas	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood National Forest – Seed Orchard Resiliency and Protection	44	\$39,130	\$20,000
Clackamas	Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District	Clackamas-Mt. Hood: Give Invasive Weeds the Brush Off	45	\$46,780	\$35,000

Clackamas	AntFarm	Community Youth Crews Clean Up National Forest	46	\$100,000	\$50,000
Clackamas	Trailkeepers of Oregon	Trailkeepers of Oregon Stewardship and Ambassador Program	47	\$37,954	\$23,000
<b>Clackamas County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$498,839</b>	<b>\$280,315</b>

### **Multnomah County Projects**

There were four projects proposed for Multnomah County, where \$75,754 was requested and \$43,890 was available. Three proposals came from Mt. Hood NF and the fourth came from Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO). Frank Vehafric reported out for the subcommittee and recommended to approve the Forest Service proposals but not the TKO proposal because there was not enough funding. Patrick Davis motioned to approve the slate, and Kurt Doctor seconded the motion. All voted yes.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Multnomah	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood National Forest Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Disposal	38	\$12,500	\$9,000
Multnomah	Mt. Hood NF	CRGNSA invasive plant work	49	\$10,000	\$5,190
Multnomah	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood and CRGNSA Road Maintenance	39	\$30,000	\$29,700
Multnomah	Trailkeepers of Oregon	Trailkeepers of Oregon Stewardship and Ambassador Program	48	\$23,254	\$0
<b>Multnomah County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$75,754</b>	<b>\$43,890</b>

### **Hood River County Projects**

In Hood River County there was \$373,757 requested and \$139,510 available. Patrick Davis provided the report out for the subcommittee and an overview of the proposals. The group had coordinated with District Ranger Kameron Sam. Richard Ragan provided the overview for Hood River County Proposals.

The subcommittee recommended not funding TKO, since they felt TKO was able to fund through other methods; supporting invasive plant work and deferred maintenance trail work; providing some funding for native plant materials and support for Next Door Summer Youth Employment Program; funding abandoned vehicle and trash disposal proposal at about 80%; and funding road maintenance at \$70,000 (about 67%). Funding for road maintenance would be ensured by providing bare-minimum funding to many other projects. Mark Gourley voiced that roads are very important for fire access and recommended funding road maintenance over invasive weeds and river habitat restoration with large wood. Patrick Davis made a motion to approve the slate for Hood River County, and Melanie Kate-Mason seconded the motion. All voted yes.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Hood River	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood National Forest and CRGNSA Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Disposal	38	\$12,500	\$10,000
Hood River	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood and CRGNSA Road Maintenance	39	\$105,000	\$70,510
Hood River	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood National Forest Invasive Plant Control	53	\$27,500	\$10,000
Hood River	Mt. Hood NF	Partnership for Deferred Trail Maintenance on the Mt. Hood National Forest	41	\$25,000	\$10,000
Hood River	Mt. Hood NF	Native Plant Materials Development	43	\$20,150	\$5,000
Hood River	Mt. Hood NF	The Next Door Summer Youth Employment Program	50	\$15,000	\$10,000
Hood River	Trailkeepers of Oregon	Trailkeepers of Oregon Stewardship and Ambassador Program	51	\$120,757	\$0
Hood River	Hood River Watershed Group	Upper West Fork Hood River Habitat Restoration Large Wood Acquisition	52	\$47,850	\$24,000
<b>Hood River County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$373,757</b>	<b>\$139,510</b>

### Wasco County Projects

In Wasco County there was \$422,204 requested and \$314,028 available. Patrick Davis provided the report out for the subcommittee. He shared that District Ranger Kameron Sam had been very helpful providing information about Forest Service projects, and had told them all projects were probably equally important and the Forest Service prioritization that had been assigned was flexible.

The subcommittee inquired why the Forest Service not the permittee was spending funds on allotment fence, and learned there were many factors leading up to the proposal. The Forest Service planned to provide materials and have the permittee do most of the installation. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was concerned about protecting wildlife and keeping cattle out of the meadow to protect sensitive species. Ranger Sam confirmed the Tribes had been informed of the projects. Mark Gourley commented that the Camas Meadow fence proposal was presented very effectively and showed all the components of multiple use. Katherine Davis asked why the proposal ranked 8<sup>th</sup> by the Forest Service should receive more money than the proposal ranked 4<sup>th</sup> by the Forest Service; she proposed changing funding for Mt. Hood Invasive Plant Control to \$20,724 and the Native Plan Development to \$15,200. Richard Ragan made a motion to approve the slate with exclusion of the Mt. Hood East Zone Forest Collaboratives proposal, which was seconded. All voted yes. Then Jeff Parker motioned to approve the Mt. Hood East Zone Forest Collaboratives proposal, which was seconded by Alyssa Brownlee. All voted yes except one abstention by Patrick Davis.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Recommended
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood National Forest and CRGNSA Abandoned Vehicle and Trash Disposal	38	\$12,500	\$12,500
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	NFSR 4890 Culverts and Road Maintenance	54	\$55,000	\$55,000
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood and CRGNSA Road Maintenance	39	\$45,000	\$45,000
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	Mt. Hood National Forest Invasive Plant Control	53	\$27,500	\$20,724
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	Protecting Wildlife and Improving Grazing Management at Camas Prairie	55	\$72,500	\$72,500
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	Gate Fuels Reduction Pre-Commercial Thinning and Brushing	56	\$94,504	\$48,104
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	Partnership for Deferred Trail Maintenance on the Mt. Hood National Forest	41	\$50,000	\$0
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	Native Plant Materials Development	43	\$20,200	\$15,200
Wasco	Mt. Hood NF	The Next Door Summer Youth Employment Program	50	\$15,000	\$15,000
Wasco	Wasco Soil & Water Conservation District	Mt. Hood East Zone Forest Collaboratives	57	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>Wasco County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$422,204</b>	<b>\$314,028</b>

### Jefferson County Projects

There was only one project proposed for Jefferson County, where \$3,000 was requested and \$2,656 was available. The motion to approve the request with the amount of available funds was proposed by Melanie Kate-Mason, and seconded by Jeff Parker. All voted yes.

County	Sponsor Organization	Project Name	Project Number	Amount Requested	FY19-23 Funding Available
Jefferson	Mt. Hood NF	CRRD Olallie Lakes Replanting	35	\$3,000	\$2,656
<b>Jefferson County Subtotal</b>				<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$2,656</b>

### CLOSING REMARKS

Meta Loftsgaarden stated that she would take all the RAC's voted recommendations from today and make them her final decision.

She also shared that the total percentage of road and watershed funded projects was 60%, so the RAC had met the required minimum 50% threshold. She agreed that the Forest Service would share committee member feedback with Forest Service specialists regarding beaver dams, weed

treatments, thinning, and seed orchards, and follow up on sharing the herbicide lists for the Mt. Hood National Forest and the Willamette National Forest with the RAC.

Various committee members shared feedback about their experience of the process; they did the following:

- expressed appreciation for working with everyone,
- encouraged the RAC to consider breaking up subcommittees by specialty as well as county,
- encouraged Forest Service staff and partners to start thinking about their next RAC proposals now, and to always have something in mind,
- encouraged Forest Service to develop a public relations strategy to talk about the successes of the projects and SRS Title II,
- expressed concern about herbicides, their timing, and the effectiveness of replanting efforts without their use, and
- expressed interest in optional RAC field trips to visit the sites of previously awarded projects.

Meta Loftsgaarden and Eileen Kitayama announced the cancellation of the February meeting because all the project recommendations had been completed at the December meeting.

Committee members were reminded that if their 1st term was expiring and they would like to serve a 2nd term, or if they would like to resign, they must notify Eileen Kitayama in writing before March.

Meta Loftsgaarden thanked Jeff Parker and Patrick Davis for serving as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the members who had reached the end of their RAC service after 8 years, and all the committee members for their commitment. Jeff Parker commended the group. Various members gave kudos to the Forest Service for the great job organizing the meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Meta Loftsgaarden

Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Hood-Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

Jeff Parker

Chairperson

Hood-Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)



8/15/2025

*These minutes will be formally considered by the committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.*