

2025 RAC Projects

	Project name	Partner	FS point of contact	Project POC	Email	Request	Counties
1	Continental Divide Access Improvements MacDonald Pass Cross-Country Ski Trails	Montana Conservation Corps	Rory Glueckert	Adam Hein	adam@mtcorps.org cliff.sheets@outlook.com	\$140,000	Lewis and Clark
2	Access and Safety Porphyry Peak Noxious Weed	Last Chance Nordic Ski Club	Mandy Alvino	Cliff Sheets	luke.jaraczski@g mail.com	\$36,000	Lewis and Clark
3	Control	Showdown Montana	TBD	Luke Jaraczski	luke.jaraczski@g mail.com	\$20,000	Meagher
4	Porphyry Peak Hiking Trail	Showdown Montana	Rory Glueckert	Luke Jaraczski	luke.jaraczski@g mail.com	\$56,600	Meagher Lewis and Clark, Pondera, Powell and Teton
5	Volunteer Stewardship in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex	Bob Marshall Wilderness Association	Barb Long or Ivy Baker	Clifford Kipp	clifford@bmf.org blangsather@helena mt.gov	\$102,134.90	Lewis and Clark Lewis and Clark, Broadwater Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Powell, Jefferson, and Meagher
6	DeFord Trail Improvement Project	City of Helena	Mandy Alvino	Brad Langsather	daniel.woods@usda.g ov	\$27,240.00	Lewis and Clark Lewis and Clark, Broadwater Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Powell, Jefferson, and Meagher
7	Road maintenance on the HLF	Forest Service	Dan Woods	Dan Woods	ashleymazzullo@mtc orps.org	\$50,000	Lewis and Clark Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Powell, Jefferson, and Meagher
8	Helena Youth Corps	Montana Conservation Corps	Rory Glueckert/Matt Ferrell	Ashley Mazzullo	ashleymazzullo@mtc orps.org	\$83,500	Lewis and Clark Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Powell, Jefferson, and Meagher
9	Continuation of South Hills Maintenance	Prickley Pear Land Trust	Mandy Alvino	Tim Lawrence	tim@pricklypearlt.org	\$20,000	Lewis and Clark
Total requested						535474.9	

Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

HLF Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: Continental Divide Access Improvements	3a. State: Montana 3b. County(s): Lewis and Clark
4. Project Submitted By: Adam Hein, Montana Conservation Corps	5. Date: 07/25/2025
6. Contact Phone Number: 509-768-1304	7. Contact E-mail: adam@mtcorps.org

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Helena-Lewis and Clark	b. Forest Service District: Helena, Lincoln, Rocky Mountain
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Multiple locations: T9N R6W S02 T9N R5W S17 T15N R6W S23 T19N R10W S14	

9. Project Goals and Objectives:

This proposal targets key sections of Continental Divide Trail and its access trails that are in urgent need of maintenance and repair. This work will meaningfully improve a trail system that will directly benefit multiple user groups, both local and visiting, including bikers, stock users, thru hikers, hunters, backpackers and more. Importantly, this proposal showcases a collaborative partnership between two beloved local non-profits: Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) and Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC). Working together, MCC and CDTC will leverage their expertise and resources to ensure a high-quality product is achieved that aims to increase access and elevate user experience.

This proposal and financial plan are designed around 6 hitches of crew work and CDTC support. It can easily be scaled down if limited funds are available.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)

Helena Ranger District
Switchback Ridge Reroute
Macdonald Pass South Erosion Control

Lincoln Ranger District
Flescher-Rogers Pass CDT Deferred Maintenance

Rocky Mountain Ranger District

Straight Creek Retaining Wall and deferred maintenance

b. Detailed:

Switchback Ridge CDT Access Reroute: build reroute on bottom of Switchback Ridge Trail (#348) connecting Moose Creek Campground to existing #348 trail. Approximately 1/3Mile of new trail construction. The current access to the trail is through private land and not marked for public access. This reroute moves the trailhead to an existing campground entrance.

Macdonald Pass CDT South Erosion Control: Build reroute or install drainage/check steps for CDT Access (#337). This popular trail section is experiencing heavy erosion and washout issues which is increasing the environmental degradation. This section should be rebuilt to manage the high use and create a sustainable and safe route.

Flescher-Rogers Pass CDT: Deferred Maintenance has accumulated, especially in the middle of this 14-mile section of the CDT. Heavy Brushing, tread and drainage work. (#440). This project will require scouting to prioritize the specific needs.

Straight Creek CDT Access: This section of trail requires heavy deferred maintenance from the junction of #212 / #248 heading south. The main priority is a 300 ft section, half mile from this junction that requires installing a retaining wall/curb log/stabilizing materials to support the trail tread around a limestone slab.

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)

Road Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

Road Decommission/Obliteration

Trail Obliteration

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above):	

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:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained: Estimated 0.5 mile of new trail reroutes and 22 miles of Trail Maintenance.
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 6 ppl x 12 weeks + 1 person x 6 weeks = 78 weeks = 1.5 FTEs
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): Up to 18 Crew members learning about public lands stewardship through hands on conservation service.
Direct economic activity benefit: Opening and improving trails enables increased recreation opportunities and outfitting services.
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: June 1, 2026	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: October 31, 2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

MCC has a long and successful history of partnering with the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest. We engage young people to serve on Forest projects where they learn about Forest management needs and recreation use. MCC coordinates directly with area managers at the Ranger District level for planning and logistical support.

This Project is in full cooperation between the Montana Conservation Corps and the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC). MCC is providing crew labor, and CDTC is serving as technical advice and support to ensure high quality results on these high-impact trails.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

These projects will benefit local day hikers from the Helena, Lincoln and Rocky Mountain Front communities, backcountry outfitters, wilderness users, CDT hikers, and the hunting community. These trails also provide important travel corridors for firefighting personnel when needed.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

The USFS cannot maintain their trail infrastructure without the help of partners, and this project directly impacts a large area and several trails. Providing more boots on the ground tackling deferred maintenance, in a place, and at a time when federal lands/resources are seeing an unprecedented increase in user impact.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input checked="" 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 Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$140,000 (this project is scalable if limited funds are available)
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

Americorps National Service Program
 Montana Conservation Corps

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- 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.

MCC and CDTC will work with USFS personnel to perform trail maintenance that takes into account long-term sustainability, trail maintenance issues, and user experience. MCC crews will fill out hitch reports to help quantify and track their progress in completing this project.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

MCC crews will fill out project accomplishment documents for each hitch completed on this project. The data collected will include miles of maintenance or construction, number of trees cleared, and number of drainage structures cleaned or improved. CDTC personal will provide guidance and oversight on this project. They will monitor the crew's progress and provide feedback on the crew's performance. MCC and CDTC hitch reports will be collected by the USFS.

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

No additional funding will be needed for monitoring.

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:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

_____ National Forest

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				
Salaries	7,000.00			7,000.00
MCC Crew members		54,000.00	46,195.00	100,195.00
CDTC technical support		28,560.00	7,440.00	36,000.00
j. Materials & Supplies		191.55		191.55
Food		3,240.00		3,240.00
Travel		12,600.00		12,600.00
k. Monitoring				
l. Other				
Training and Program		31,056.34		31,056.34
Admin/overhead		10,352.11		10,352.11
m. Project Sub-Total	7,000.00	140,000.00	53,635.00	200,635.00
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	7,000.00	140,000.00	53,635.00	200,635.00

Note on scalability. MCC's cost per hitch is \$16,600 and CDTC's estimated contract costs are \$6700, for a combined total cost per hitch of approximately \$23,300.

This proposal is for 6 hitches, so can be scaled down easily in increments of roughly \$23,300.

NOTES :

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

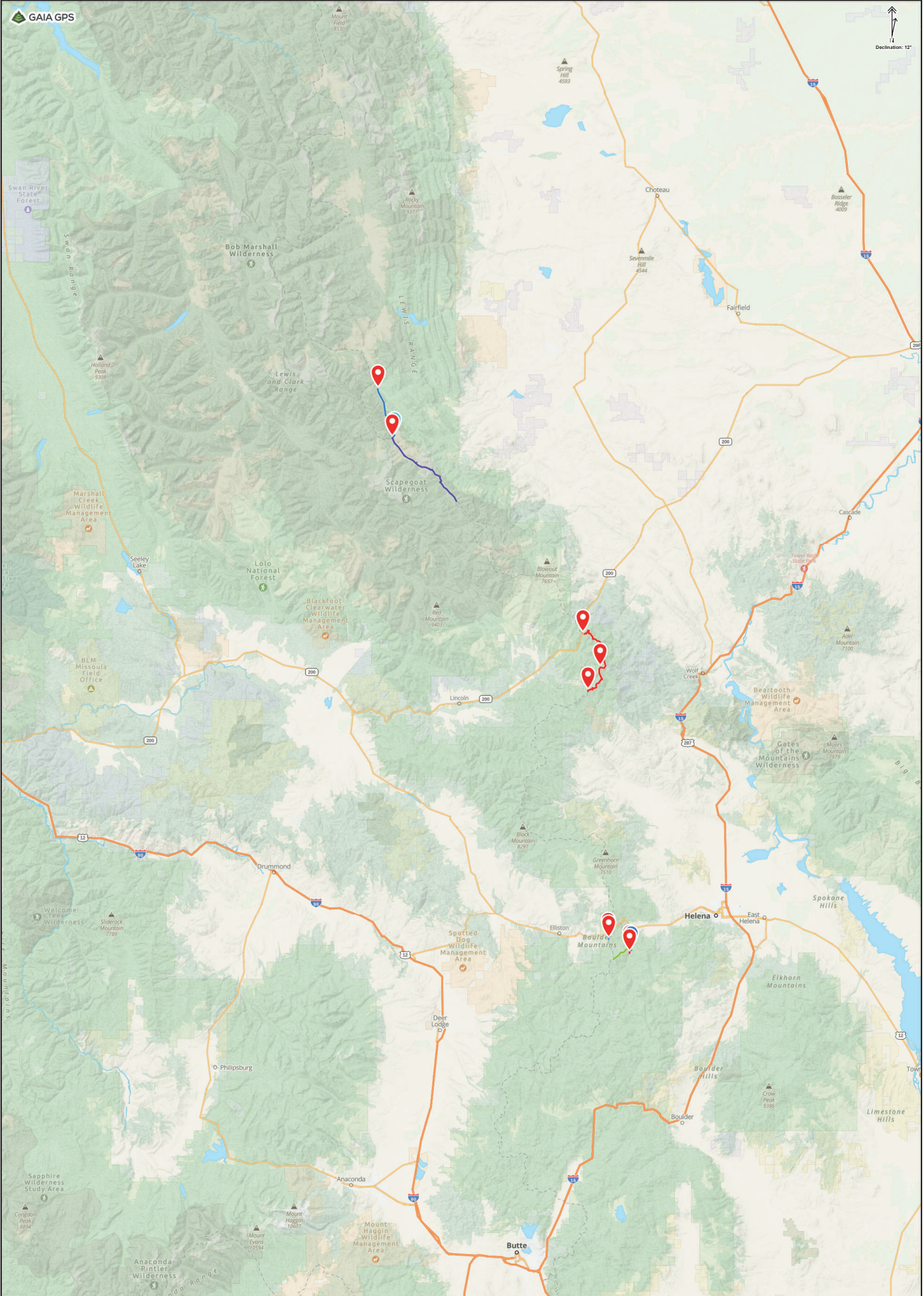
Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

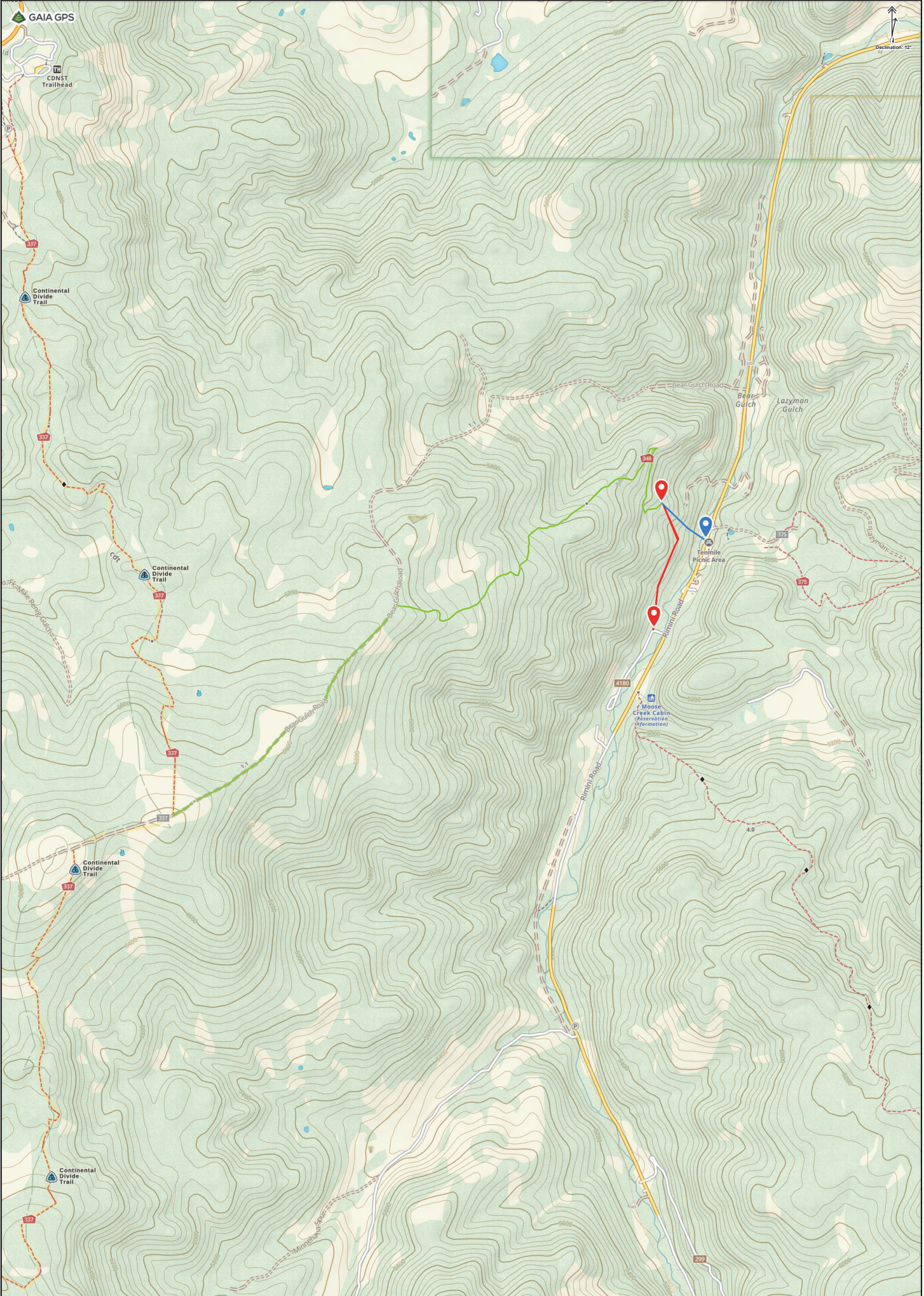
Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

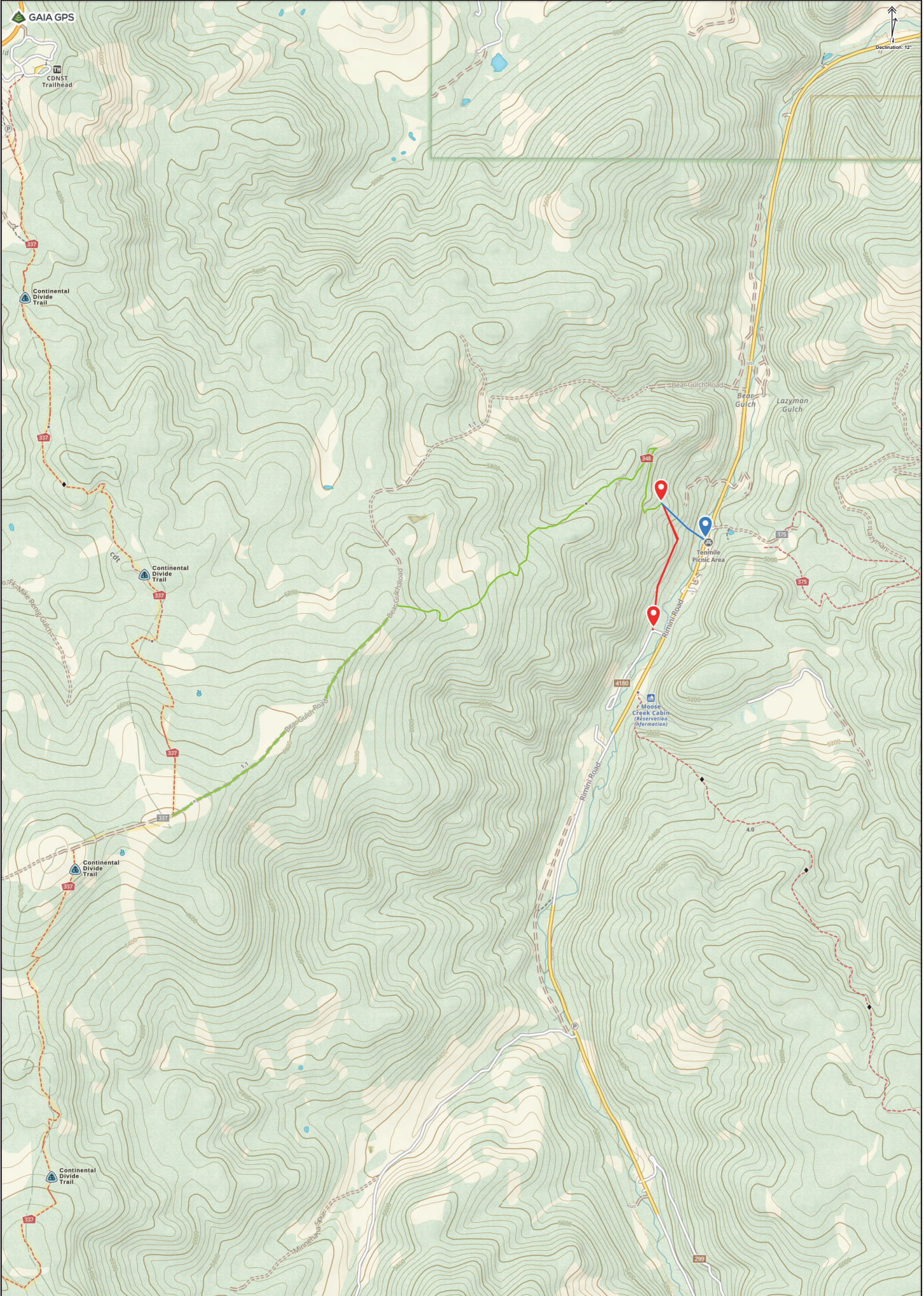
Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

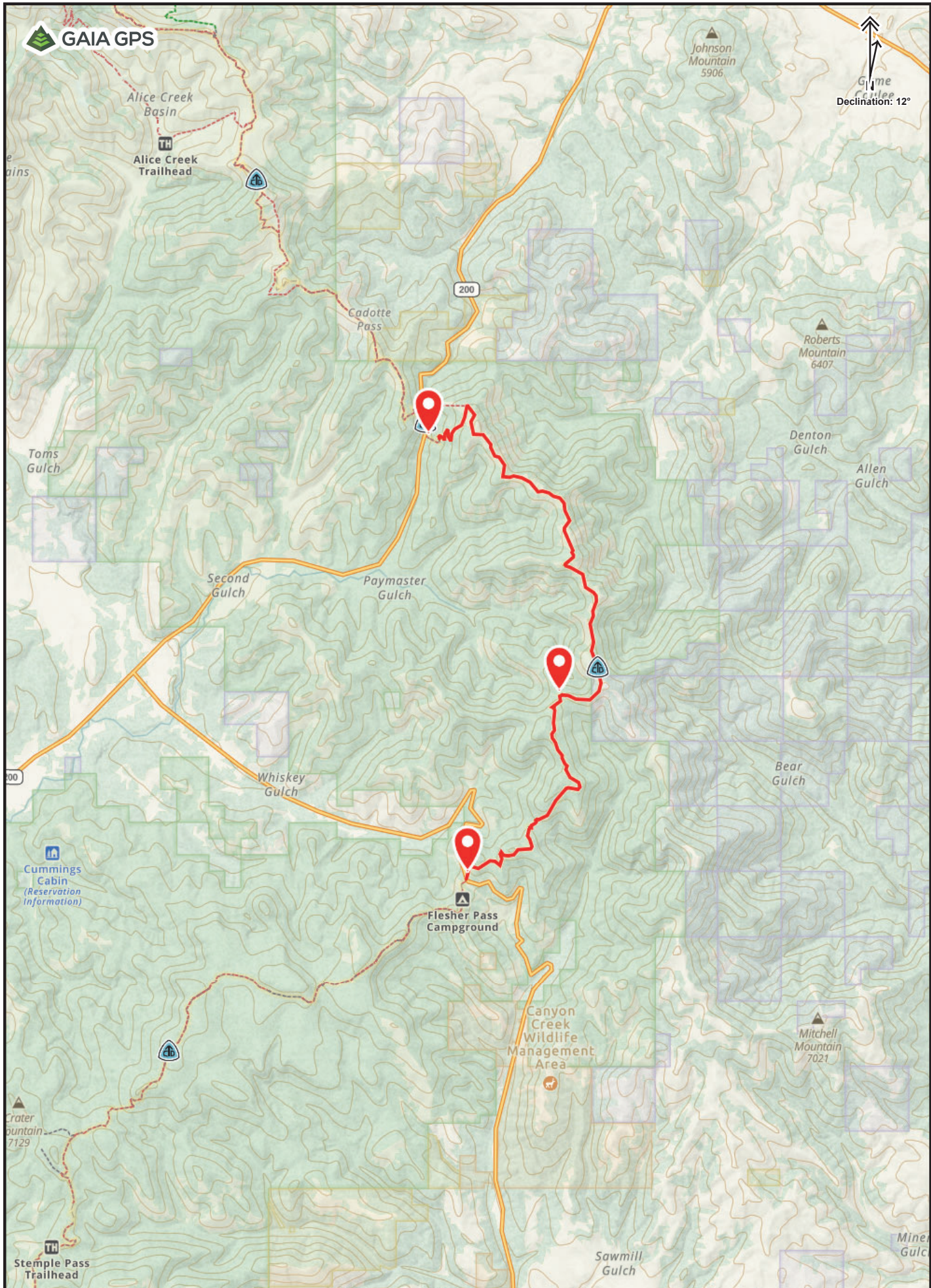
Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

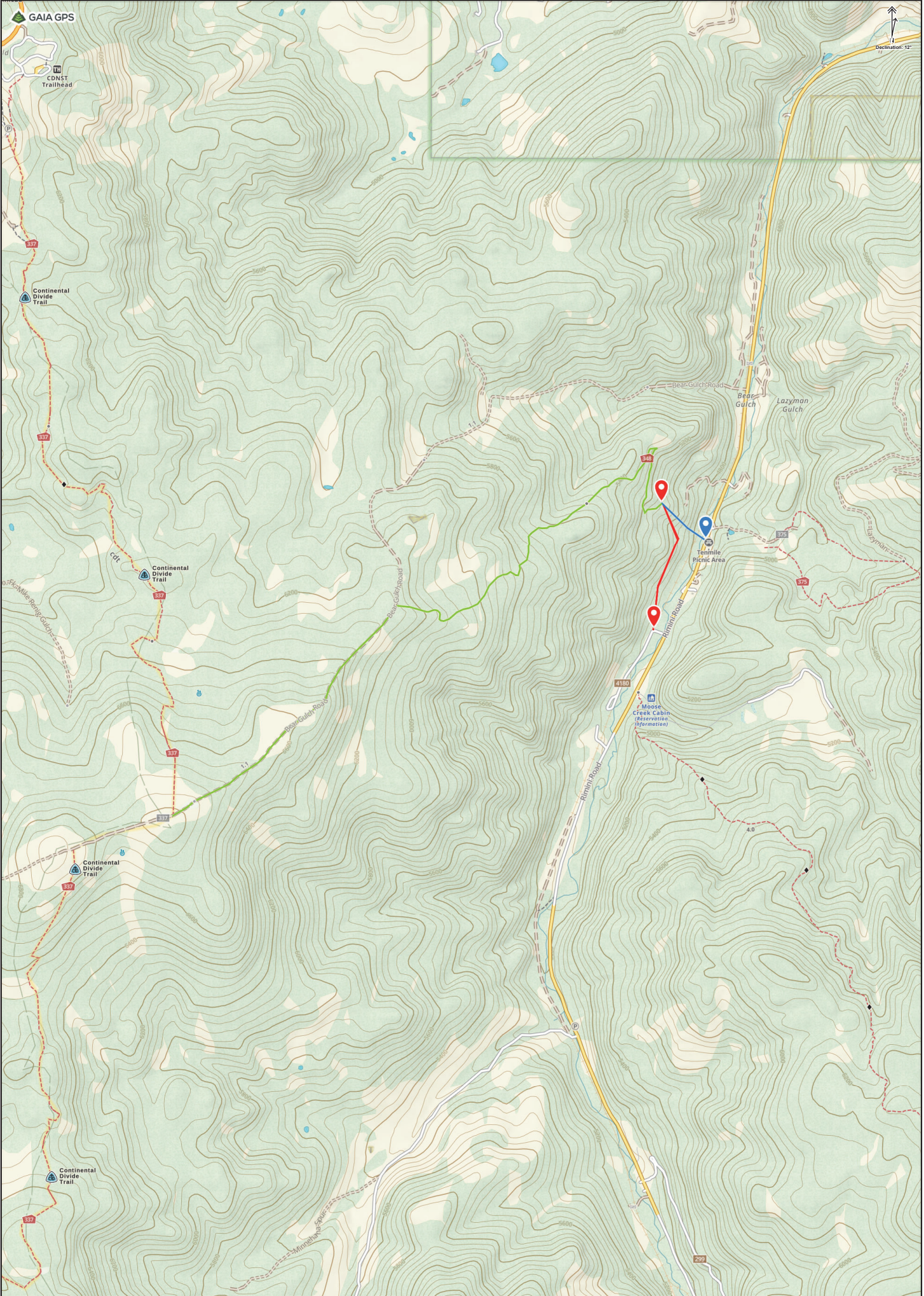
Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.











Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

HLF Resource Advisory Committee
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: MacDonald Pass Cross-Country Ski Trails Access and Safety	3a. State: Montana 3b. County(s): Lewis & Clark
4. Project Submitted By: Last Chance Nordic Ski Club (LCNSC); Cliff Sheets, Club Treasurer	5. Date: 7/30/2025
6. Contact Phone Number: 406-461-3443	7. Contact E-mail: cliff.sheets@outlook.com

8. Project Location: MacDonald Pass Ski Trails (see attached map of trail system)	
a. National Forest(s): Helena - Lewis & Clark	b. Forest Service District: Helena
c. Location (Township-Range-Section): Township 10N, Range 6W, Sections 36 & 25	

9. Project Goals and Objectives: The objective is to replace equipment kept at MacDonald Pass to assure continued winter access to National Forest lands for cross-country skiers and to provide a reliable means of evacuating injured skiers.

10. Project Description:

a. **Brief:** Acquire a new tracked UTV for use in grooming the cross-country ski trails so they are accessible to all levels of skiers, and to have the UTV available for use in the evacuation of injured skiers on the trail system at MacDonald Pass.

b. **Detailed:** The club needs a new tracked UTV for use in maintaining the access to groomed cross-country ski trails at MacDonald Pass. Further, this machine is needed to facilitate the evacuation of injured skiers that may require emergency help while using the trails. This machine would help maintain continued access to established cross-country ski trails by maintaining groomed trails throughout the winter months. Mac Pass is a popular cross-country destination with an average 5,000 skier visits per season.

The club owns a tracked Polaris Ranger, model year 2012, which it has used for regular snow grooming purposes at the pass over the last 13 years. The machine was acquired new in 2011 from accumulated reserves and contributions at the time, at a cost of half the present-day price of a similar machine. Because of its use in pulling heavy grooming implements, this machine has accumulated much wear and tear and now requires frequent repairs in addition to a regular annual maintenance routine. These repairs have taken the machine out of service periodically and have become more extensive and costly over time.

Other equipment purchases in the past 10 years included utility snowmobiles and grooming implements that were mostly funded through the state's RTP program. Those purchases, while significant in total, were smaller individually and spread over several years. The expected cost of this new machine is much higher. The availability of RTP funds in 2026 is uncertain given dependence on federal highway sourced funds, and is, of course, highly competitive.

Recently (beginning 2023) the club entered into an arrangement with the Baxendale Volunteer Fire Dept. to allow it to use club snow machines if it is called upon in emergency situations to transport medical help and evacuate any injured skiers on the trail system. The existing UTV has been utilized twice in two years (3/19/23 & 1/26/25) to do exactly that when individual skiers suffered injuries from falls on the groomed trails. The use of this machine was critical to a timely response and rescue by Baxendale. They estimate that the alternative of waiting for Search & Rescue personnel might have required an additional hour to respond to these situations. A letter of support from Baxendale is available but not attached here per submission instructions.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No

Land Status: Existing National Forest System trails on National Forest System land

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)

Road Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

Road Decommission/Obliteration

Trail Obliteration

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

Soil Productivity Improvement

Forest Health Improvement

Watershed Restoration & Maintenance

Wildlife Habitat Restoration

Fish Habitat Restoration

Control of Noxious Weeds

Reestablish Native Species

Fuels Management/Fire Prevention

Implement CWPP Project

Other Project Type (specify): Emergency response

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): trail maintenance

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:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained: Approx 8.5 miles
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. (One FTE is 52 forty-hour weeks): 0.2 for a seasonal part-time paid groomer.
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit: The only direct economic impact would be that of the purchase amount to the benefit of an equipment dealer and manufacturer.
Other: Indirect benefit of enhanced safety of trail users

15. Estimated Project Start Date: March, 2026 (order date)	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: November, 2026 (delivery date)
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities. This project will support existing partnerships with the USFS and Montana FWP which have both supported the trail maintenance and grooming efforts of the LCNSC at MacDonald Pass over many years. A memorandum of understanding was entered into with Baxendale Volunteer Fire Dept. in 2023 to allow usage of the club’s snow machine for emergency response on the ski trails at MacDonald Pass.

18. Identify benefits to communities. MacDonald Pass is the only groomed ski trail network in the Helena area. When conditions permit, the LCNSC also grooms the Bill Roberts golf course in Helena, but otherwise the nearest groomed trails are in Butte (Homestake), Anaconda (Mt. Haggin), and King’s Hill Pass (Silvercrest). MacDonald Pass is a popular winter recreation area for both Helena area residents

and visitors and sees approximately 5,000 skier-days per year. By acquiring this machine, winter access will be improved and skier safety will be enhanced.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources? The project will help maintain winter trail access and assure a timely response to emergency situations.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input 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 Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$36,000. This amount is based on an average of two different machines, one made by Polaris, and the other Can Am. Both included the base UTV model with tracks and plow added.
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: At this time there are no other specific funds earmarked for this project other than the volunteer time required by the ski club to find and purchase the proposed equipment. However, if the requested RAC grant funds are only partially awarded, or considered insufficient, then the LCNSC would consider adding some of its own funds. Any future expenditure would depend on the club’s future financial resources and approval of the expenditure by its governing board. At the time of this application, the club’s financial resources are projected to be sufficient to make the purchase in Fall, 2026, with the expectation of a timely reimbursement under the grant before snow season expenses pick up. An award amount of at least \$25,000 would be welcomed and likely sufficient for the club to proceed even if some of its own funds were required.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- 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.

The effect of this project in meeting the general goal of ongoing winter access and safety would be known via the general usage of the cross-country ski trails as measured by user data collected by the club, and any actual instances of usage of the equipment in the evacuation of injured skiers as tracked by LCNSC and Baxendale Volunteer Fire Dept.

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Last Chance Nordic Ski Club
- 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:

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 (PT paid groomer)			\$4,500	
j. Materials & Supplies		\$36,000		
k. Monitoring				
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost (Acquisition/admin; volunteer grooming hours)			\$4,500	
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate		\$36,000	\$9,000	\$45,000

NOTES :

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

MacDONALD PASS CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Revised October 2016

- Groomed Trail
- - - Ungroomed Route
- Easiest
- More Difficult
- ◆ Most Difficult
- 🏂 Ski Direction of Icon on Weekends and Holidays



LAST CHANCE NORDIC SKI CLUB
HELENA, MONTANA



Helena National Forest

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

For Emergencies
9-1-1

NEW Electronic Map Download

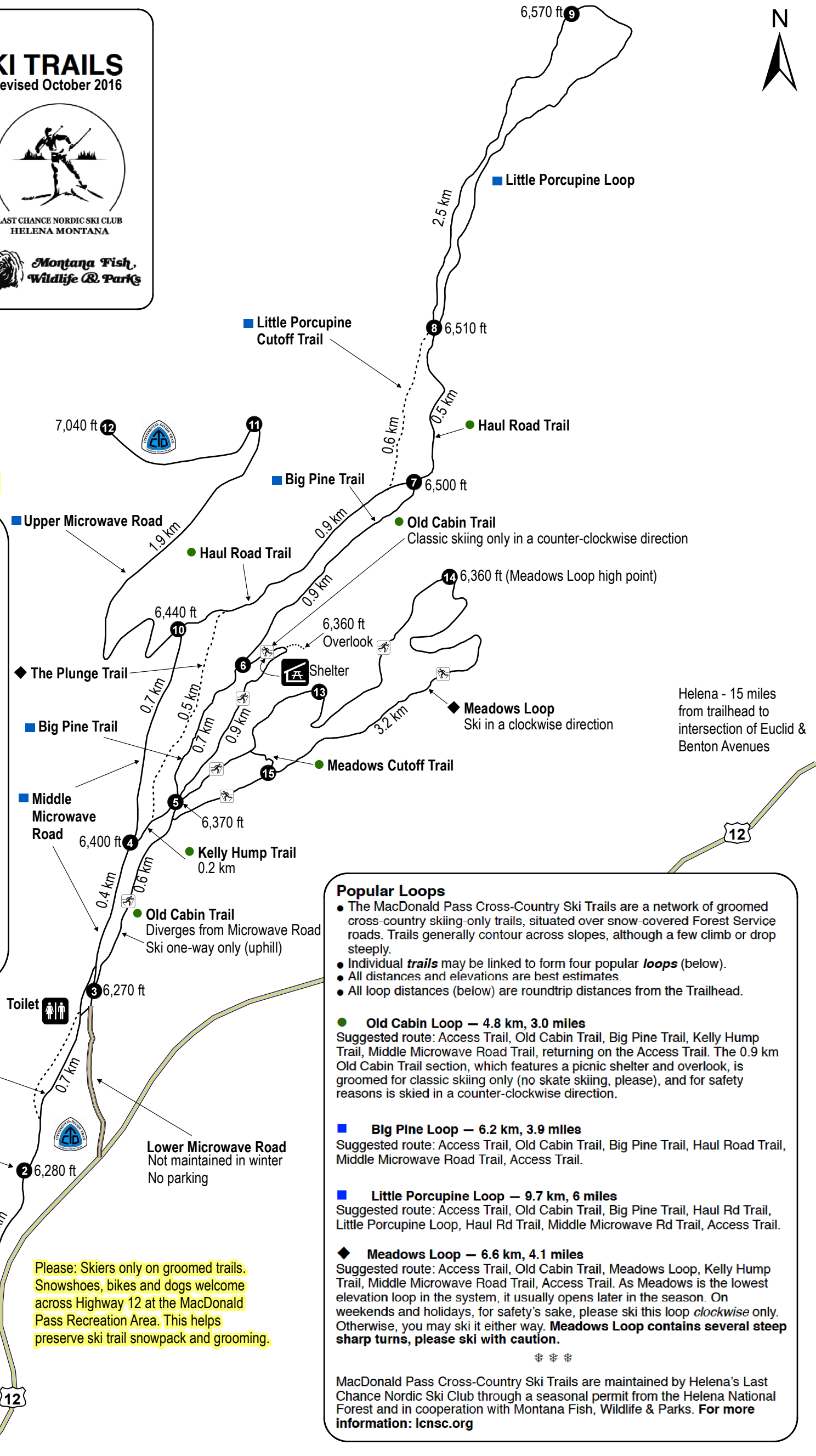
Step 1: Download the free 'Avenza PDF Maps' App or similar product from the App Store or Google Play on your smartphone device. Allow App access to your location and camera.

Step 2: Open App to 'Maps' screen, click the plus icon (+) to add the MacPass Ski Trail Map by either scanning the QR Code below or entering the following URL: lcncs.org/wp-content/uploads/maps/macpassmap.pdf



Step 3: Go Skiing! App tracks your location, distance, time, and elevation.

Visit lcncs.org/macdonald-pass/maps for more information. App will use GPS to locate your general location with or without cell service. **DO NOT USE THE APP FOR EMERGENCIES - KNOW YOUR SURROUNDINGS.**



Popular Loops

- The MacDonalD Pass Cross-Country Ski Trails are a network of groomed cross-country skiing only trails, situated over snow covered Forest Service roads. Trails generally contour across slopes, although a few climb or drop steeply.
- Individual **trails** may be linked to form four popular **loops** (below).
- All distances and elevations are best estimates
- All loop distances (below) are roundtrip distances from the Trailhead.

● **Old Cabin Loop — 4.8 km, 3.0 miles**
Suggested route: Access Trail, Old Cabin Trail, Big Pine Trail, Kelly Hump Trail, Middle Microwave Road Trail, returning on the Access Trail. The 0.9 km Old Cabin Trail section, which features a picnic shelter and overlook, is groomed for classic skiing only (no skate skiing, please), and for safety reasons is skied in a counter-clockwise direction.

■ **Big Pine Loop — 6.2 km, 3.9 miles**
Suggested route: Access Trail, Old Cabin Trail, Big Pine Trail, Haul Road Trail, Middle Microwave Road Trail, Access Trail.

■ **Little Porcupine Loop — 9.7 km, 6 miles**
Suggested route: Access Trail, Old Cabin Trail, Big Pine Trail, Haul Rd Trail, Little Porcupine Loop, Haul Rd Trail, Middle Microwave Rd Trail, Access Trail.

◆ **Meadows Loop — 6.6 km, 4.1 miles**
Suggested route: Access Trail, Old Cabin Trail, Meadows Loop, Kelly Hump Trail, Middle Microwave Road Trail, Access Trail. As Meadows is the lowest elevation loop in the system, it usually opens later in the season. On weekends and holidays, for safety's sake, please ski this loop *clockwise* only. Otherwise, you may ski it either way. **Meadows Loop contains several steep sharp turns, please ski with caution.**

MacDonalD Pass Cross-Country Ski Trails are maintained by Helena's Last Chance Nordic Ski Club through a seasonal permit from the Helena National Forest and in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. **For more information: lcncs.org**

Please: Skiers only on groomed trails. Snowshoes, bikes and dogs welcome across Highway 12 at the MacDonalD Pass Recreation Area. This helps preserve ski trail snowpack and grooming.

Helena - 15 miles from trailhead to intersection of Euclid & Benton Avenues



Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
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Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

HLF Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: Porphyry Peak Noxious Weed Control	3a. State: Montana 3b. County(s): Meagher
4. Project Submitted By: Luke Jaraczski	5. Date: 7/21/2025
6. Contact Phone Number: (406)781-8812	7. Contact E-mail: luke@showdownmontana.com

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Helena Lewis and Clark	b. Forest Service District: Belt Creek White Sulphur Springs
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) S33, T13 N, R08 E, ALL S OF COUNTY LINE - 372.232 ACS, S34, T13 N, R08 E, ALL W OF COUNTY LINE - 80.736 ACS, S03, T12 N, R08 E, LOTS 1-4, S2N2, S2 - 562.009 ACS, Showdown Montana Special Use Permit Area	

9. Project Goals and Objectives:

The primary goal of this project is to reduce the presence and spread of non-native and invasive plant species—specifically noxious weeds—along the heavily traveled Porphyry Peak Road and Kings Hill Scenic Byway corridors, which are located adjacent to the Showdown Ski Area. These areas experience high year-round use from recreationists and forest visitors, making them especially vulnerable to weed introduction and transport. The project aims to target and manage infestations at critical points, including parking areas, and roadside shoulders within the Showdown Ski Area boundary, in order to protect native vegetation, maintain ecosystem health, and prevent further encroachment into the surrounding Lewis and Clark National Forest.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)

Initiate a 2 year comprehensive noxious weed spraying and management program focused on reducing the spread and establishment of invasive plant species within Showdown Ski Area on National Forest System Lands.

b. Detailed:

This project proposes the implementation of a targeted noxious weed control program within the bounds of Showdown Ski Area and along adjacent high-use corridors, including Porphyry Peak Road and the Kings Hill Scenic Byway. These areas are key access points for recreation and receive significant year-round traffic from skiers, hikers, bikers, and motorists. As a result, they are highly

susceptible to the introduction and spread of invasive plant species through vehicle movement, foot traffic, and wind dispersal.

The focus of the project is to identify, treat, and monitor noxious weed populations in the area using best practices in vegetation management. The primary treatment method will be herbicide application by contracted professionals during appropriate seasonal windows. In addition to spraying, the project will include regular monitoring to evaluate treatment effectiveness.

The first year of the program will primarily focus on treating known infestation areas and identifying others through both reports from Ski Area Staff and contracted weed spraying professionals. The second year of the program will complete cleanup in the known infestation areas, treat newly discovered areas, and monitor previously sprayed zones.

By reducing the presence of invasive weeds, this project will support the resilience of native plant communities, reduce competition for water and soil nutrients, and protect the visual quality and ecological function of the Kings Hill landscape. This is particularly important in areas near trailheads, recreation nodes, and scenic corridors where weed infestations can spread rapidly if not actively managed.

Overall, the proposed weed spraying and management program will contribute to the long-term health of the forest ecosystem, enhance visitor experience, and demonstrate a proactive approach to natural resource stewardship in a high-profile recreational area.

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)

Road Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

Road Decommission/Obliteration

Trail Obliteration

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

Soil Productivity Improvement

Forest Health Improvement

<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above):	

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:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 100 ac
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: July 2026	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: October 2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

None

18. Identify benefits to communities.

The project promotes community well-being by preserving native landscapes and reducing fire risk associated with invasive plant species, which can alter fire behavior. By investing in the health of shared public lands, this project strengthens the connection between the forest and the communities that depend on and enjoy it.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

This project directly supports the health, resilience, and sustainability of federal lands within the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Noxious weeds pose a significant threat to forest ecosystems by outcompeting native species, reducing biodiversity, degrading wildlife habitat, and increasing the risk of erosion and wildfire. By targeting high-risk areas such as roadside corridors and recreation sites near Showdown Ski Area, the project will help prevent further spread of invasive plants into adjacent federal lands.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input 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 Timber? Yes No

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

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

None

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- 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:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

_____ National Forest

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		\$21,000		\$21,000
i. Salaries				
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring				
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost				
m. Project Sub-Total		\$21,000		\$21,000
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate		\$21,000		\$21,000

NOTES :

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.

Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

HLF Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2026

2. Project Name: Porphyry Peak Hiking Trail	3a. State: MT 3b. County(s): Meagher
4. Project Submitted By: Luke Jaraczski	5. Date: 7/30/2025
6. Contact Phone Number: (406)781-8812	7. Contact E-mail: luke.jaraczski@gmail.com

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Helena - Lewis & Clark	b. Forest Service District: Belt Creek White Sulphur Springs
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) S33, T13 N, R08 E, ALL S OF COUNTY LINE - 372.232 ACS, S34, T13 N, R08 E, ALL W OF COUNTY LINE - 80.736 ACS, S03, T12 N, R08 E, LOTS 1-4, S2N2, S2 - 562.009 ACS, Showdown Montana Special Use Permit Area	

9. Project Goals and Objectives:
The goal of the project is to construct a new hiking trail utilizing MCC Crews in the Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest to create a more enjoyable route of travel to forest facilities at the summit and provide educational opportunities along its route.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: Construct and maintain a new trail to the summit of Porphyry Peak.

b. Detailed:

The proposed project involves the construction of a new non-motorized hiking trail beginning at the base of the Showdown Ski Area and terminating at the summit of Porphyry Peak, where a historic fire lookout is located. While the summit is currently accessible by a forest service road intended for motorized vehicles, there is no designated trail for hikers or other non-motorized users. As a result, many visitors seeking to reach the peak on foot create informal paths, leading to off-trail use that damages fragile alpine vegetation, causes erosion, and disrupts wildlife habitat. This trail will provide a sustainable, well-marked, and managed alternative that enhances both access and resource protection.

The trail is envisioned as a moderate day hike that will traverse subalpine forest and meadow environments, providing users with scenic views, educational opportunities, and access to Porphyry Peak. The total trail length is estimated to be approximately 3 miles with a vertical gain of approximately 1,400 feet. Trail design will follow best practices outlined by the U.S. Forest Service Trail Fundamentals Guide for a Class 3 hiker/pedestrian trail. The trail will be constructed with

sustainable construction practices, including proper grading, switchbacks where needed, and erosion control features to minimize long-term maintenance needs.

This project is located within a high-use recreation corridor along the Kings Hill Scenic Byway. It supports the Forest Service's goals of expanding non-motorized access to public lands, promoting resource stewardship, and reducing user conflict. The trail will relieve pressure on nearby trail systems by offering a new, compelling destination that disperses foot traffic more evenly across the landscape. The new trail will offer hikers a route to the most easily accessible highpoint in the range offering scenic views along its entirety.

Interpretive signage will be installed along the route and will highlight topics such as forest ecology, forestry and fuels reduction projects, lookout tower operations, and the importance of responsible recreation.

The trail to Porphyry Peak will reduce motorized/non-motorized conflict by creating a separate, dedicated corridor for hikers, who currently must either walk on the road or find their own path to the summit. It will also reduce environmental impacts from current off-trail users, providing a designated and sustainable access point for summit visitors. In doing so, the project will help conserve soil stability, native plant communities, and wildlife habitat while enhancing the recreational experience.

By improving access to public lands, creating new summer recreation opportunities, and promoting education about forest management and history, this project addresses multiple priorities of the Forest Service and the Resource Advisory Committee. Once completed, the Porphyry Peak Trail will serve as a lasting recreational asset for residents, tourists, school groups, and all who seek to experience the Little Belt Mountains on foot.

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)

Road Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

Road Decommission/Obliteration

Trail Obliteration

<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify): New Trail Construction, Forest Stewardship Education
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): New Trail Construction	

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:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained: 3 mi
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other: Trail Construction - 3 mi

15. Estimated Project Start Date: June 2026	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: September 2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

MCC Crew will be constructing the trail, with coordination from the US Forest Service. See addenda for MCC agreement.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

The Kings Hill Scenic Byway Corridor is a popular year-round destination, but many of its summer recreation resources are concentrated along a few key trails and access points. This new hiking trail will help diversify the area's recreational offerings, providing a fresh and attractive opportunity for summer visitors. Its unique destination, a historic fire lookout and scenic mountain peak, adds both recreational and cultural value, appealing to a broad range of outdoor enthusiasts and contributing to increased summer use in an already popular area.

The proposed hiking trail will significantly reduce conflict between motorized and nonmotorized users by providing a designated, separate pathway for hikers and other nonmotorized recreationists. Currently, access to the Porphyry Peak fire lookout and surrounding facilities is limited to a forest service road primarily intended for motorized travel. This project will establish an official non-motorized trail that offers hikers a scenic, sustainable, and safe alternative route to reach these forest resources. In addition to improving accessibility, this trail aligns with forest service goals to increase infrastructure that supports diverse recreation opportunities.

In addition to its recreational value, the trail will serve as an outdoor classroom for forest management and ecosystem education. Interpretive signage along the route will highlight topics such as forest health projects, wildfire prevention, native plant species, and the role of fire lookouts in historical and modern resource management. These educational elements will help foster public appreciation and stewardship of National Forest Lands.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

Currently, visitors seeking to summit Porphyry Peak on foot often do so without the benefit of a designated trail, resulting in unmanaged use that has led to vegetation loss, soil compaction, noxious weed spread, and erosion. By constructing an official, sustainably designed hiking trail to the summit, this project will concentrate foot traffic to a single, managed corridor, therefore reducing ecological damage and preserving the integrity of the surrounding landscape.

The Kings Hill region and surrounding forest lands are a well-loved destination for year-round recreation, but there remains a need to expand the variety of experiences available to visitors. This new trail project will establish a unique recreational opportunity by providing a non-motorized route to a scenic and historically significant destination, while being easily accessible to the general public not willing to venture far off the highway. As trail-based recreation continues to grow in popularity, especially among hikers and families seeking accessible yet rewarding outings, this addition will help meet demand while enriching the area's overall recreation opportunities.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input 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): MCC Crew

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? Yes
 No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$56,600
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

None

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment) (See Addenda)

- 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:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

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		\$800		\$800
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost		\$49,800 (MCC Crew)		\$49,800
i. Salaries				
j. Materials & Supplies		\$2,000 (Signage)		\$2,000
k. Monitoring		\$4,000		\$4,000
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost				
m. Project Sub-Total		\$56,600		\$56,600
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate		\$56,600		\$56,600

NOTES :

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.



July 30th, 2025

Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) writes to enthusiastically support the RAC proposal submitted by Luke Jaraczski to complete construction of a new non-motorized hiking trail from the base of Showdown Ski Area to the summit of Porphyry Peak. This project provides an excellent opportunity for MCC to engage young adults in meaningful project work and is exactly the type of partnership we seek to help us service our mission to inspire young people through hands-on conservation to be leaders, stewards of the land, and engaged citizens who improve their communities.

Currently, at the Showdown Ski Area, visitors who seek to hike to the top of Porphyry Peak have no designated route and are creating social trails that are damaging the fragile alpine ecosystem and vegetation by causing erosion issues and disrupting wildlife habitat. MCC crews will create a safe and sustainable trail that will enhance access for visitors and protect the surrounding ecosystem from further disruption. MCC Crews are trained in trail construction and will follow all USFS guidelines for trail construction, utilizing hand tools and years of expertise from staff to see this project through.

We are beyond pleased to be a part of this project that would expand access, promote resource stewardship, and reduce user conflict. As a part of the grant implementation, we will engage a young adult crew for 24 days of work in 2026 to construct three miles of trail to complete this important project.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this important funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Pfaff".

Amanda Pfaff

Greater Yellowstone Regional Director
Montana Conservation Corps
amanda@mtcors.org



Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
Reauthorized by Public Law 116-94
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: Volunteer Stewardship in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

3a. State: MT

3b. County(s): Lewis & Clark, Pondera, Powell and Teton

4. Project Submitted By: Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation (BMWF)

5. Date: 07-25-25

6. Contact Phone Number: 406-387-3847

7. Contact E-mail: clifford@bmf.org

8. Project Location: Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas

a. National Forest(s): **Helena, Lewis & Clark**

b. Forest Service District: **Rocky Mountain and Lincoln**

c. Location (Township-Range-Section) **various**

9. Project Goals and Objectives: To bolster USFS resource management efforts in 2026 by engaging up to 120 citizen volunteers in as many as 12 priority backcountry stewardship projects in the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: **To complement US Forest Service efforts by leveraging as many as 7,000 hours of citizen volunteer service to improve trail access, restore habitat and watersheds, and maintain backcountry facilities in alignment with USFS priorities, while the federal workforce is expected to remain relatively restricted compared to recent years.**

b. Detailed: **During the Fall/Winter of 2025, in collaboration with the Rocky Mountain and Lincoln Ranger Districts, the BMWF will identify as many as 12 priority backcountry stewardship projects suitable for volunteers that meaningfully advance trail access, user safety, native habitat, watershed integrity and administrative facility objectives.**

BMWF will thereafter recruit, hire and train professional crew leaders, schedule projects, coordinate volunteer pack support and other logistics, recruit and engage as many as 10 citizen volunteers per project, communicate closely with district personnel throughout the planning season, and ultimately implement each of the identified projects.

This is an effort to look ahead to 2026 circumstances, and certain details are not currently available. For instance, while we know the districts are enthusiastic about engaging BMWF to coordinate, implement and support volunteer stewardship projects (in accordance with our nearly 30-year partnership), we do not know which trails, campsites, creek crossings, or facilities will emerge as the priority project sites until the 2025 season culminates.

Project work will include, but not be limited to, clearing of seasonal blowdown, brushing back encroaching vegetation, improving tread, installing/maintaining trail drainage features, constructing trail structures, and updating signage on some of the many hundreds of miles of primary, secondary, and tertiary trails in both the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall Wildernesses.

Additional project objectives could include improving and armoring water crossings to enhance safety for both human and equestrian travelers, campsite restoration, and administrative site maintenance.

11. Types of Lands Involved? Federally Designated Wilderness Areas

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No

Land Status: All projects will fall within FS-managed lands

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 type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): Administrative Site maintenance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input checked="" 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): Restoration of overused campsites (ie. human waste, fire rings, litter, etc)

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): **Trail Maintenance**

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish

Number of structures maintained/improved: **2 admin sites, 250 drains/check-dams**

Miles of stream/river restored/improved: **.25 (improved creek crossings and equestrian fords)**

Miles of trail maintained: **100-200**

Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty-hour weeks. 2 Crew Leaders at 21, 40+ hour weeks each = 1,680 hours = .8 FTE. 7,000 volunteer hours = 3.3 FTE equivalent
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): >120 volunteers in addition to all the member of the public engaged over the course of the 12 proposed stewardship projects.
Direct economic activity benefit: Well-maintained trails provide the public with increased opportunities which benefit local businesses traditionally affected by outdoor recreation related visitation and tourism (lodging, dining, groceries, outfitters/guides, livery, transportation, etc).
Safe and enjoyable trail access also benefits the many businesses tied to providing experiences to visiting public (ie. Outfitters/Guides offering hunting, fishing and floating opportunities). In addition, maintaining and restoring native habitat conserves the BMWC such that it remains an iconic Wilderness attraction for visitors, as well as for Wilderness preservation advocates who will support its ongoing existence.
Other: In our nearly 30 year existence, many BMWF crew leaders have gone on to serve the USFS in a professional capacity, developing a viable career pathway for up to 3 potential future natural resource professionals. Also, this proposal brings additional personnel working in the interests of USFS districts which are facing workforce reductions despite challenging resource management circumstances (ie. remoteness).

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 01Nov25	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 31Oct26
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

- USFS trails and Wilderness personnel at both Rocky Mountain and Lincoln Ranger Districts
- Volunteer Packers which often includes members of local Backcountry Horsemen chapters
- Citizen Volunteers which often include groups like Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance, the Piikuni Lands Crew (Blackfeet), Boy Scouts of America, Mission Mtn. Youth Crew.
- Local trainers who provide Natural and Cultural history education and certification to BMWF staff and leaders.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Trails that offer improved passage to and through Wilderness landscapes contribute significantly to visitor enjoyment and safety. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex is iconic for the State of Montana and the treasured “backyard” of many surrounding communities.

Tourism in Montana is a well-known economic driver, especially for the smaller “gateway communities” like Depuyer, Choteau, Augusta, and Lincoln where BMWF volunteers often stage for a night or two before and after their projects. Purchases related to lodging, fuel, gear, permits, and groceries, as well as restaurant and bar visits all contribute to those local economies. This is true throughout the Spring/Summer/Autumn when tourism spikes, but it is especially true throughout hunting season given the renown the Bob Marshall Wilderness holds as a hunting destination.

Despite their commitment to the resource and expert delivery of professional skills, the USFS simply does not have the capacity to address all the priority trail concerns in the 1,700+ mile network of Wilderness trails in the BMWC, especially considering how relatively short the project season is. BMWF volunteer trail crews are a proven resource to supplement the work of the agency and increase workforce capacity on the ground.

Improved and cleared trails shed water efficiently and keep use concentrated to an identified corridor. By completing routine maintenance of trail drainage features, sedimentation in nearby waterways from rain/snow events is reduced.

Improved trail access results in improved visitor experiences, which results in advocates for both Wilderness recreation and the agency tasked with managing that landscape.

Perhaps most impressively, providing opportunities for volunteers to participate in active Wilderness stewardship results in ardent advocates for the work of land managers. BMWF volunteers routinely comment on the sense of accomplishment and contributing to something greater than themselves, derived from participating in trail projects.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

Public lands management and access are priority concerns for Westerners, for Montanans, and residents understand well the connection between stewarding the incredible natural resources encompassed in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, so that it can persist for future generations.

A [recent study conducted by Montana company OnX](#) coined the term “Stewardship Gap” while determining the following:

- 96% of outdoor enthusiasts believe that maintenance of public lands is important.
- 92% rely on public lands for quality of life.
- 77% visit public lands 12 or more times each year.
- **A mere 19% give back by donating money, advocating, or volunteering. This is the Stewardship Gap.**

In addition to completing meaningful stewardship work in the field, BMWF participants experience the added benefit of Outdoor mentorship. The goal is to encourage more outdoor adventurers to embrace stewardship as a personal responsibility, and weave it into their outdoor pursuits. By mentoring other outdoor enthusiasts, we can inspire a cultural shift from being a “user” and “visitor” of the outdoors to becoming a “protector” and “steward.”

We offer the following testimonials from 2025 volunteers when asked about a highlight of their stewardship experiences:

“The Bob is one of the most humbling and awe inspiring landscapes in the country and there's no better way to experience it than giving back and getting your hands dirty with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation”.

“Volunteering with the BMWF is one of the best things I've ever done in my life. It was sweaty, and fun, and outdoors, and very fulfilling, improving backcountry access”.

“In a world that focuses on material things it is always heartwarming to be surrounded by like minded individuals that want to preserve and give back”.

“Volunteering with the BMWF gave me so much perspective on nature and the history of the various societies that lived in that area”.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract (Packers receive a stipend)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input checked="" 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):

Note that the BMWF reimburses volunteer packers what amounts to a fraction of their actual expenses related to packing our volunteers' camps in/out. We consider this reimbursement a "contract". Also, BMWF maintains a couple Agreements with USFS which help fund Program and Field staff who are principally responsible for coordinating volunteer projects.

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$102,134.90
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: BMWF may be able to apply for Trail Stewardship Grant dollars to support volunteer Packer reimbursements, and private funding to support a portion of the requisite Program/Field staff time.

Monitoring will occur by both BMWF and FS personnel in the course of normal duties, and is therefore in-kind. Due to the likelihood that monitoring won't take place for some time, we chose not to estimate the cost/value of that in-kind for inclusion in this proposal's budget.

As any partner must when entering into a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with the USFS, BMWF will commit to match at least 20% of the overall project costs. In order to fund that match, BMWF regularly pursues private funding through individual and business donations (unrestricted), as well as foundation grants (ie. Greater Helena Gives).

24. Monitoring Plan (see attachment)

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: Given the breadth of stewardship activities undertaken in partnership with Rocky Mountain and Lincoln Ranger Districts, BMWF would endeavor to identify ways to utilize any awarded RAC funds that align with stated objectives for field work, are condoned by district personnel, and fit within the scope of our agreement.

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Forest Supervisor

_____ National Forest

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		\$13,200.00		\$13,200.00
i. Salaries	\$5,508.00	\$58,608.00	\$20,690.00	\$84,806.00
j. Materials & Supplies		\$13,440.00	\$1,000.00	\$14,440.00
k. Monitoring				
l. Partner Indirect Cost (15%)		\$16,866.90	\$16,866.90	\$33,733.80
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	\$5,508.00 (4%)	\$102,134.90 (70%)	\$38,576.90 (26%)	\$146,179.80 (100%)

NOTES: Detailed budget available upon request.

FS contribution includes 12 hours of GS-9 per project, and 3 hours per project for radio check-ins and Volunteer Service Agreement processing.

Budget does not include the value of volunteer labor on the match side, which, at the time of this submission, is \$34.79/hour; consider again, the relative monetary value of 7,000 hours of volunteer labor (\$243,530!!).

BMWF match is currently built on BMWF's commitment of anticipated year round staff time to coordinate, implement and support 12 backcountry volunteer service projects, as well as a portion of housing, field supplies and fuel/mileage costs.

Materials and Supplies includes food for volunteers (\$15/person/day), field supplies (ie. replacement saw blades, PPE) and mileage reimbursements for the use of personal vehicles by Crew Leaders and Packers.

BMWF assesses the de minimis allowable Indirect Cost at 15% of the total project cost. According to FS Grants and Agreements, this rate is applied in both the BMWF's reimbursable request, as well as BMWF's match amount.

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.

Helena, Lewis & Clark RAC 2025
Monitoring Plan –BMWF Volunteer Stewardship Projects

- 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.**
- i. BMWF routinely tracks and reports project accomplishments to our FS partners for inclusion in their database.
 - ii. For all work/programming supported by an FS agreement, BMWF submits annual narrative reports detailing project accomplishments and status.
 - iii. As often as possible, BMWF updates the BMWC Trail Conditions map linked from our website.
 - iv. BMWF routinely seeks feedback from FS personnel regarding the quality of work performed by our interns, as well as interaction with BMWF staff.
 - v. BMWF routinely surveys volunteers to gather feedback regarding their experience in the hope of refining our volunteer opportunities for future participants.
 - vi. USFS personnel are responsible for reviewing and evaluating any field work conducted by Interns during their term.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring.**
- i. BMWF and FS ranger district personnel will conduct monitoring during the regular course of duties. Given the challenge of visiting some of the more remote work locations, it is possible monitoring doesn't take place until the following field season.
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):**
- i. We have not identified any additional funding required for monitoring due to the nature of the proposed work, which will be visited/viewed during the normal course of duty by BMWF personnel.

**Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
 Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
 Title II Project Submission Form
 USDA Forest Service**

HLF Resource Advisory Committee
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: DeFord Trail Improvement Project	3a. State: MT 3b. County(s): Lewis & Clark
4. Project Submitted By: City of Helena, MT	5. Date: 07-28-2025
6. Contact Phone Number: 406-447-8454	7. Contact E-mail: blangsather@helenamt.gov

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Helena-Lewis & Clark	b. Forest Service District: Helena
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Township 10. North, Range 3 West, Section 31	

9. Project Goals and Objectives: Provide safe hiking, biking, and bicycling opportunities on adjacent City of Helena, USFS, and BLM properties.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief:
Relocate a trailhead parking area and realign/resurface one mile of the lower DeFord Trail.

b. Detailed:
In the spring of 2001, the City of Helena, in cooperation with the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, constructed the DeFord Trail and parking area which were located adjacent to Davis Gulch Road in the southwestern portion of the city. Please refer to the attached map. The DeFord Trail was originally designed to provide hikers, runners, and bicyclists pursuing recreational opportunities on over 10 miles of adjacent USFS trails with a safe alternative to traveling in the main traffic lane of Davis Gulch Road. Located in a rather narrow draw, Davis Gulch Road lacks traversable shoulders along the vast majority of its length. At their time of inception, DeFord Trail and its associated trailhead parking area were both cornerstone additions to Helena’s South Hills trails system. During their first decade of use, both the DeFord Trail and its associated trailhead parking area served their intended purpose of facilitating recreational access to both the Mt Ascension and Rodney Ridge areas. Currently, however, substantial increases in vehicular traffic volume on Davis Gulch Road have correspondingly decreased safety to the point where numerous near-miss collisions involving pedestrians and/or vehicles departing the DeFord Trailhead parking area have occurred. A portion of the problem involves runners and cyclists who choose to stay on Dry Gulch Road rather than utilizing the DeFord Trail. The primary issue, however, involves vehicles backing up blindly into the Dry Gulch traffic lane when departing from the DeFord Trailhead parking area. To remedy this situation, the City of Helena is proposing to upgrade the condition of the DeFord Trail by resurfacing degraded

portions and realigning the trail to lesson gradients. These proposed trail improvements will be focused on improving DeFord Trails’ overall functionality. Additionally, the City of Helena proposes realigning the existing DeFord Trailhead by constructing a crescent shaped parking area to effectively remove the need for departing vehicles to back up into the Dry Gulch roadway. The revised trailhead parking area will include a northern entry point where the existing DeFord trailhead parking area resides, one way south bound traffic, a paved surface, and 18 paint marked, diagonal parking stalls. The trailhead parking area construction, paving, parking stall striping, signage, trash receptacles, mutt mitt dispensers and an informational kiosk, will all be the City of Helena’s match contribution to the project. The City of Helena’s request for funding involves a request for assistance in purchasing trail and parking area surfacing material and staff salary related to the surfacing and realignment of the DeFord Trail and its associated trailhead parking area.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No
Land Status: City of Helena Municipal Ownership

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 type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): Trailhead Parking Area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): Trail & Trailhead Maintenance

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish

Miles of road maintained:

Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved: 2
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained: 1mile
Miles of trail obliterated: 0.1 miles
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 2 Acres
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty-hour weeks: 0.41
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): A trail usage and value study of Helena's South Hills trail system conducted in 2017 by the University of Montana revealed that on average, up to 3,876 people annually will be exposed to environmental education, trail etiquette, pet management, and fire prevention messages at the DeFord Trailhead.
Direct economic activity benefit: \$120,000.00 (annual community expenditures by 3% of non-local users utilize the DeFord trailhead to access the South Hills Trail system).
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 05-01-2026	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 07-01-2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities. The City of Helena and the Helena National Forest (aka Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement regarding cooperative management of Helena's South Hills Trail System in 2003

18. Identify benefits to communities. The DeFord Trail and associated trailhead parking area are key components of Helena Montana's South Hills Trail system. According to a 2017 trail usage study conducted by the University of Montana, the DeFord Trailhead accounts for nearly 8.5% of all trailhead usage within Helena's South Hills. In 2017, the direct economic benefit to the Helena area by non-resident trail users totaled approximately 4.03 million annually. Future trail development plans by the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest that propose to directly link the Park City Trailhead to the DeFord Trail will increase the annual usage of this site significantly. Improving the

functionality of existing recreational facilities such as the DeFord Trailhead is consistent with the active living focus that leaders in the community of Helena are currently promoting.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources? The DeFord Trail & Trailhead provide access and parking for recreationalists accessing Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest Trails located on both Rodney Ridge which is situated to the west of the parking area, and Mt Ascension which is located to the east. In future years, DeFord Trail will serve as a departure/arrival point for those trail enthusiasts who are exploring the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Trail that will potentially provide connectivity to the Park City Trailhead.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Municipal Workforce

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$27,240.00
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: City of Helena Open Space Maintenance Fund – Municipal Tax

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- 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:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

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		\$1,520.00		
b. NEPA/CEQA		\$440.00		
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation		\$880.00		
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost			\$38,500.00	
i. Salaries		\$16,147.00		
j. Materials & Supplies		\$3,200.00		
k. Monitoring		\$1,500.00		
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost		\$3,553.00	\$3,375.00 Excavator Depreciation	
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate		\$27,240.00	\$41,875.00	\$69,115.00

NOTES :

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.

DeFord Trail Improvement Project Monitoring Plan

a. Environmental and community goal tracking plan for the DeFord Trail Improvement Project:

- Trail Obliteration Effectiveness – Following the completion of trail removal and drainage installation activities, periodic inspections of the closed route will be completed to ensure that the route has not been reopened by the public. Reclose as needed.
- Drainage Installation Effectiveness - Inspect water bars installed within the closed trail route to ensure that they are functioning properly. Complete hand repair of water bars as needed.
- Grass Seeding – Monitor seeded areas occurring within both the closed and rerouted trail routes to confirm that they are revegetating adequately. Reseed in the subsequent spring/fall as needed.
- Noxious Weed Control – Check disturbed areas located within the areas subjected to trail obliteration, reroute construction, and trailhead parking area relocation to document the presence or absence of noxious vegetation. Complete herbicide applications as needed.

b. Identify who will do the monitoring: 10 hours/year for 3 years.

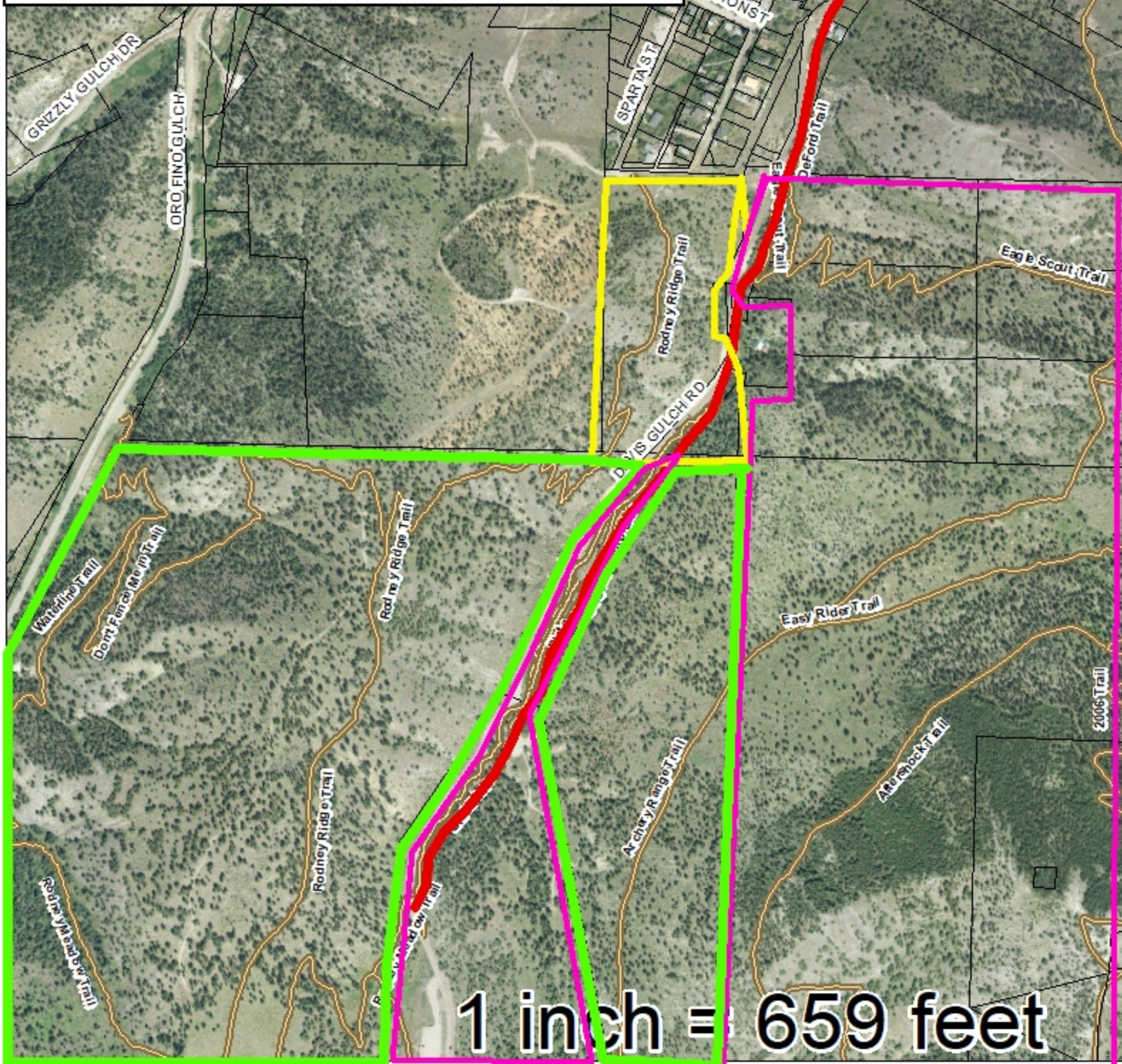
- Trail Closure – City Staff
- Drainage Effectiveness – City Staff
- Grass Seeding Effectiveness – City Staff
- Noxious Weed Control – City Staff

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks:





- Monitoring - Trail Closure, Drainage, Grass Seeding, Weed Control – \$1,500.00 (Three Years, 14 hours per year, City of Helena Open Space Maintenance Funding)

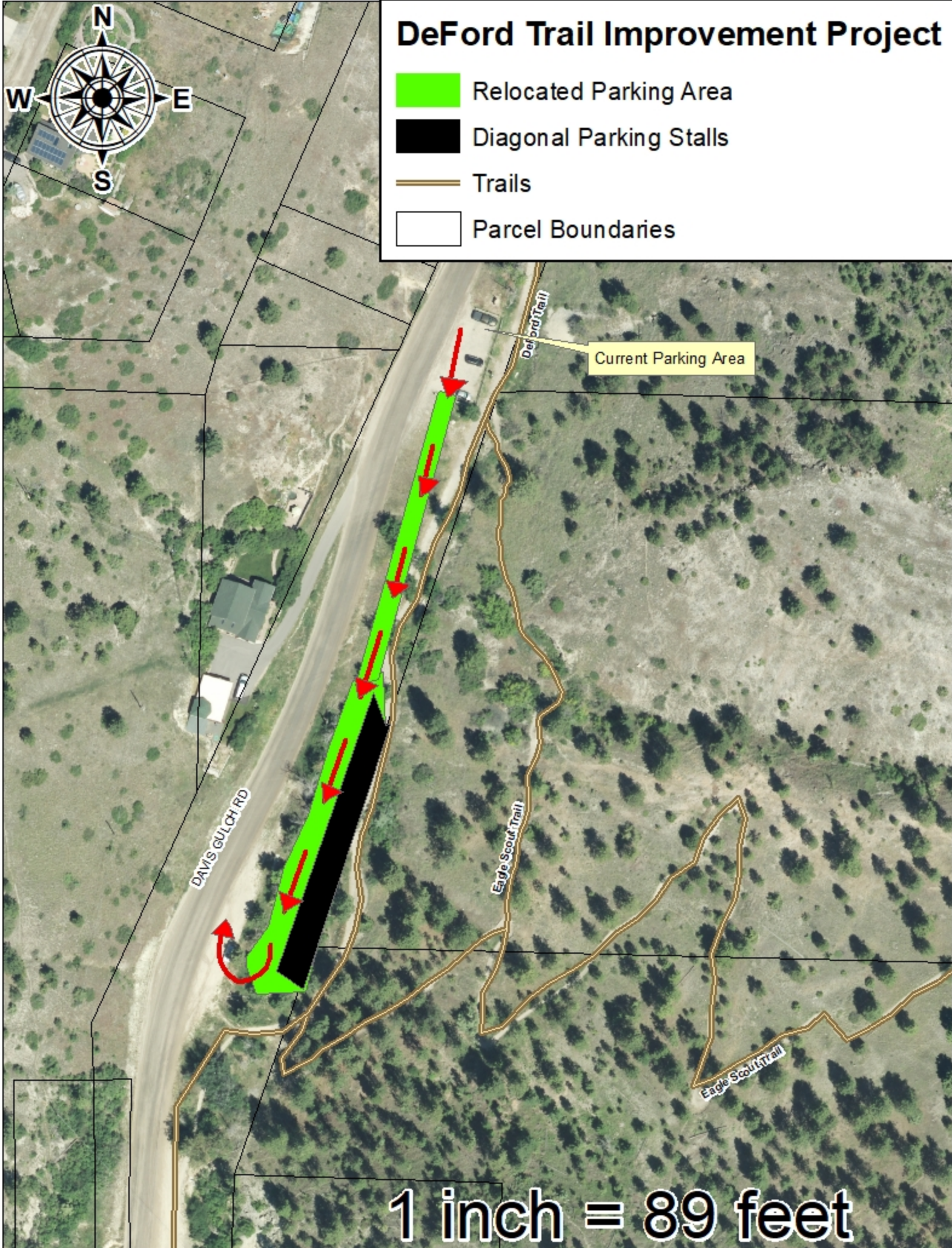
DeFord Trail Improvement Project

-  DeFord Trail Realignment & Resurfacing
-  USFS
-  BLM
-  City of Helena
-  Trails
-  Parcel Boundaries



DeFord Trail Improvement Project

-  Relocated Parking Area
-  Diagonal Parking Stalls
-  Trails
-  Parcel Boundaries



1 inch = 89 feet

**Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
 Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
 Title II Project Submission Form
 USDA Forest Service**

HLF Resource Advisory Committee
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2025-2026

2. Project Name: Road Maintenance on the Helena-Lewis and Clark NF	3a. State: MT 3b. County(s): L&C and Broadwater
4. Project Submitted By: Dan Woods	5. Date: 7/30/2025
6. Contact Phone Number: 406-791-7750	7. Contact E-mail: daniel.woods@usda.gov

8. Project Location: Hellgate & Elk Creek	
a. National Forest(s): Helena-Lewis and Clark	b. Forest Service District: Townsend and Rocky Mountain
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) T18N, R8W & T10N, R1E	

9. Project Goals and Objectives: Road maintenance to improve user comfort and safety.
--

10. Project Description:
a. Brief: (<i>in one sentence</i>) Road maintenance on forest system roads.
b. Detailed: With reduced allocated roads funding, road maintenance continues to an issue and this project would help with the maintenance of roads that are in dire need of improvements.

11. Types of Lands Involved?
State/Private/Other lands involved? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Land Status:
If Yes, specify: Roads also access private end holdings.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
<input type="checkbox"/> Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
<input type="checkbox"/> Restores and improves land health.
<input type="checkbox"/> Restores water quality

13. Project Type	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above):	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained: 5-15 miles
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: June 1, 2026	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: September 30, 2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities. NA

18. Identify benefits to communities. Improved access to the forest and recreation sites.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources? Improved infrastructure.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input 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 Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$20,000-\$50,000 (Miles of maintenance would be adjusted based on funding)
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: Allocated CMRD

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- 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:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ Daniel E. Woods

Project Approved By:

/s/ Mike Munos & Arron Webber

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	\$600*			\$600
g. Contract/Grant Administration	\$1200*			\$1200
h. Contract/Grant Cost		\$20,000- \$50,000		\$20,000- \$50,000
i. Salaries	*Contract Prep and Admin			
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring				
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost				
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	\$1800	\$20,000- \$50,000		\$21,800- \$51,800

NOTES :

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

**Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
 Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
 Title II Project Submission Form
 USDA Forest Service**

HLF Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: Helena Youth Corps

3a. State: Montana

3b. County(s): Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Powell, Jefferson, and Meagher

4. Project Submitted By: Ashley Mazzullo

5. Date: 07/28/2025

6. Contact Phone Number: 406-334-6317

**7. Contact E-mail:
 ashleymazzullo@mtcorps.org**

8. Project Location:

a. National Forest(s): Helena-Lewis and Clark

b. Forest Service District: Helena, Lincoln, Rocky Mountain, Judith-Musselshell, Townsend, and Belt-Creek White Sulphur Springs, Pondera, Teton and Judith Basin

c. Location (Township-Range-Section)
 Forest-wide

9. Project Goals and Objectives:

To complete conservation-based projects across the Lewis & Clark National Forest while providing an enriching experience for youth ages 17-18 to deepen their connection to public lands, give back to the community and learn about working in natural resources. Youth will be enrolled as Americorps members and will earn a living stipend and an educational award upon successful completion of the program.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: *(in one sentence)*

Crews will complete a variety of projects across the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest to serve the community, allow for more recreation access and offer an engaging stewardship experience for youth from Helena and surrounding communities.

b. Detailed:

Project work will be outlined by the Helena Lewis & Clark National Forest which might include: trail maintenance, invasive species removal, habitat restoration and recreation access improvements.

\$80,000 pays for 8 weeks of project work including 6 youth members and 2 Youth Crew Leaders.

11. Types of Lands Involved? Federal Forest Service Lands
State/Private/Other lands involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Land Status:
If Yes, specify:

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restores and improves land health.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above):	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved: 20
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment:
Miles of trail maintained: 100
Miles of trail obliterated:

Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction): 50
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: 20
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 20
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 7 ppl x 8 weeks/52 weeks = 1.1 FTE
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 6 youth crew member's learning about public lands stewardship through hands-on conservation service.
Direct economic activity benefit: Improves access for recreation economy
Other: This is a learning opportunity for youth in our local community. Much of the projects listed will be labor intensive and there is much that can be taught through that labor. This crew would benefit all districts on the forest not just Helena as they will mobilize at least two weeks to each unit.

15. Estimated Project Start Date: June 2026	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: August 2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

MCC has a long and successful history of partnering with the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest. We engage young people to serve on Forest projects where they learn about Forest management needs and recreation use. MCC coordinates directly with area managers at the Ranger District level for technical guidance and logistical support.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

The project will benefit recreationists and outfitters who use these trail systems to access public lands across the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest. This crew provides invaluable experience for youth ages 17-18 from Helena and surrounding communities to engage in a meaningful stewardship experience, give back to the community and learn about career opportunities in natural resources.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

The USFS cannot maintain their trail infrastructure without the help of partners, and this project directly impacts a large area and many trails. Providing more boots on the ground tackling deferred maintenance, in a place, and at a time when federal lands/resources are seeing an unprecedented increase in user impact.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input checked="" 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 Timber? Yes
 No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$83,500
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:
 Americorps National Service Program
 Montana Conservation Corps

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

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.

MCC will work with USFS personnel to perform a variety of conservation-based projects across the forest to improve recreation access. MCC crews will fill out hitch reports to help quantify and track their progress in completing this project.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

MCC crews will fill out project accomplishment documents for each hitch completed on this project. USFS personnel will provide guidance and oversight on this project. They will monitor the crew's progress and provide feedback on the crew's performance. MCC hitch reports will be collected by the USFS.

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

No additional funding will be needed for monitoring.

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:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

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 1. 8 days GS-9 2. 2 days of GS-11	1. 2581 2. 781	46,682 (2 leaders and 6 youth members)	31,248 (in kind) 6,117 (staffing)	116,725
j. Materials & Supplies 1. Food per diem 2. Crew Vehicle for Travel		1. 3,200 2. 12,000		15,200
k. Monitoring				
l. Other 1. Training and Program 2. Admin/overhead		1. 18,961 2. 6,320	1. 1,357 2. 452	27,090
m. Project Sub-Total	3,362	83,500	33,225	120,086
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	3,362	83,500	33,225	120,086

NOTES:

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

**Montana Conservation Corps
Youth YCC Project Budget**

	(C) Number	(D) Weeks	(E) Cost Per Week	With Payroll Taxes	Project Total	USFS RAC contribution	MCC contribution	(J) Weekly Value of Volunteer Labor \$ 34.79 per hour times 35 hours	(K) Weekly In Kind Donation (J-E)	(L) In Kind Value of Volunteer Labor (K*C*D)
Labor:										
Crewleader	2	8	\$680	\$830	\$13,274	\$13,274	\$0	\$ 1,217.65	\$388.05	6,209
Youth Members	6	8	\$600	\$696	33,408	33,408	0	\$ 1,217.65	\$521.65	25,039
Program Coordinator	1	1	\$920	\$1,214	1,214	0	1,214			
					47,896	46,682	1,214			31,248
Travel and Transportation										
	Weekly Cost	Nbr of Weeks								
Vehicle Travel:										
Crew	1100	8			8,800	8,800	0			
Food:	Number of People	Days	Cost Per Day							
Spike Meals	8	40	\$10.00		3,200	3,200	0			
Total Transportation					12,000	12,000	0			
Supplies and Tool Repair:					150	61	89			
Subtotal					60,196	58,804	1,392			
Training and Program Admin Overhead					18,961	18,522	438			
					6,320	6,173	146			
Totals					<u>\$85,476</u>	<u>\$83,500</u>	<u>\$1,977</u>		Total In Kind Contribution:	<u>\$31,248</u>
RAC Contribution					\$83,500					
MCC Contribution					\$1,977					
USFS Column A In Kind Contribution					\$3,362					
					\$31,248					
Total Project Value					<u>\$120,086</u>					

Column K calculation uses the following website data for the calculation:
http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

HLF Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

1. Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2026-2027

2. Project Name: Continuation of South Hills Maintenance

3a. State: MT

3b. County(s): Lewis & Clark

4. Project Submitted By: Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT)

5. Date: 7/31/2025

6. Contact Phone Number: 847 212 1765

7. Contact E-mail: tim@pricklypearlt.org

8. Project Location:

a. National Forest(s): Helena-Lewis & Clark

b. Forest Service District: Helena

c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Affected Forest Service lands include Township 10 North, Range 4 West, Sections 34 & 35 and Township 9 North, Range 4 West, Sections 1-5, 8-17, 19-24, 26-30; affected City lands include Township 10 North, Range 4 West, Sections 25, 26, 36 and Township 9 North, Range 3 West, Sections 3-7.

9. Project Goals and Objectives: PPLT proposes to sustain and enhance its partnerships with the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest and user groups to maintain and improve the popular South Hills Trail System near Helena. To do this, PPLT seeks RAC's assistance to continue to organize and implement on-the-ground trail construction and trail maintenance activities (including signage, litter removal, weed control, etc.) throughout the South Hills trail system.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) PPLT seeks to implement trail maintenance activities and priority construction projects on National Forest in Helena's South Hills.

b. Detailed: Since 2010, the Helena-Lewis & Clark RAC has supported PPLT's efforts to maintain and enhance the South Hills Trail System. PPLT continues to partner with the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest and the City of Helena in improving this popular Helena amenity. Through these efforts, the trail system has become nationally recognized for both the trail experience and its accessibility from Helena's urban core. Because of the South Hills trails, Helena has also received recognition as a Silver-designated Ride Center (IMBA) and a Runner-Friendly Community (RRCA). The Mount Helena Ridge trail is a designated National Recreation Trail. In addition to runners and mountain bikers, trail users include hikers, dog walkers, and other recreational users. With the RAC grant, PPLT hopes to continue to enhance this partnership to refine this system for this next year and the next.

For over twenty years, Prickly Pear Land Trust has worked with the City of Helena and the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest to create and maintain one of the nation’s finest trail systems. PPLT hosts numerous volunteer trail workdays every season—over 30 in 2024. We have already recorded over 250 hours of volunteer labor on USFS lands this summer. In addition to the robust volunteer program, PPLT utilizes groups like the Montana Conservation Corps and professional trail contractors to assist on trail projects. In addition, PPLT is actively working to acquire lands and trail easements that provide logical links between or extensions of trail segments.

PPLT proposes to continue its work on the maintenance and construction of trails on Forest Service lands in the South Hills, including necessary reroutes, trail obliteration, and structure repairs. In addition to regular, annual maintenance, PPLT also proposes replacing and repairing signage, as needed, throughout the system, including both informational and wayfinding signs.

In 2026:

- Hosting volunteer trail workday(s) on H-L&C NF lands
- Hosting MCC crew(s) or contract crew(s) for trail development and/or maintenance activities
- Complete signage inventory

In 2027:

- Hosting volunteer trail workday(s) on H-L&C NF lands
- Hosting MCC crew(s) or contract crew(s) for trail development and/or maintenance activities
- Make necessary signage repairs

If awarded, the RAC grant will not only benefit the trail system, but the community as a whole. It will sustain this robust program and allow this trail system to thrive. Depending upon the timeline for USFS approval of proposed trails, the tasks outlined may be adjusted.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): signage, kiosks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above):	

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:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained: 30 USFS
Miles of trail obliterated: less than 1
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 0.5
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 2,000+
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 4/1/2026	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 11/30/2027
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

In its 30-year history, Prickly Pear Land Trust has consistently built goodwill and collaborations among diverse groups, individuals, and agency personnel. Prickly Pear Land Trust actively partners with or involves the following groups on its work on the South Hills Trail system:

- Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest
- Helena Outdoor Club
- Helena Dynamos
- Girls Thrive
- Helena Cyclones
- Montana Conservation Corps
- Bureau of Land Management
- Montana Bicycle Guild
- Project for Alternative Learning
- Helena Public Schools
- Numerous local businesses
- Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (Montana WILD, Spring Meadow Lake State Park)
- Fort Harrison
- Lewis % Clark and Jefferson Counties
- City of Helena
- Helena Trails Alliance
- Helena Hikes
- Department of Veteran Affairs
- Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Helena Tourism Alliance
- Private landowners
- Public volunteers
- Helena Vigilante Runners
- HURL (Helena Ultra Runners League)

18. Identify benefits to communities.

The South Hills Trail System is a treasured amenity for the Helena area, providing numerous benefits to the local community. Careful planning and stewardship of this resource, in accordance with the South Hills Trails Plan and partnerships with local governments, federal and state agencies, and private landowners, will provide a lasting impact on this region for generations to come.

Local businesses benefit from the influx of new patrons attracted by this priceless amenity. There are few places in the West where you can park your car at a local eatery, jump on your bike or lace up your boots, hit the over 75 miles of trail, and then return to sample the local fare. Study after study continues to show that trails, bikeways, and open space immensely benefit the communities that invest in them. In addition to increased business from out of town visitors, proximity to trails and open space increases the values of homes and home sites. Developers and realtors know that locations near protected open spaces are a key selling point for properties listed with them. Helena's real estate listings reveal that location relative to the South Hills Trails system is commonly used as a primary selling point and increases property values. Headwaters Economics completed a 2018 study showing over 63,000 annual trail users and over \$4,000,000 generated for the Helena community from the trail system. This

number has only grown in recent years, particularly, following the post-covid outdoor recreational boom.

One of the most tangible benefits of the trail system is the increased quality of life for thousands of people. Many in the community rely on this trail system as part of their daily routine - be it for exercise, recreation, or simply because of the scenic and restorative view the open land provides. The trails and open space system has become part of the fabric of this region's unparalleled landscape.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

The South Hills trails have become increasingly popular over the last decade, especially during and after Covid, as evidenced by the increasing use and publicity the trails have received. Yet, with the increasing popularity comes the responsibility to maintain and improve this system. Ensuring this trail system is adequately maintained will benefit our public lands. Improved trail maintenance means less erosion and better forest health. Projects may include decommissioning unneeded or redundant trails that may impact wildlife. Removing unused features will benefit general public safety and aesthetics/experience of the trail users. Lastly, the building and maintaining this system will provide additional partnership opportunities among the US Forest Service (H-L&CNF), the City of Helena, PPLT, and other organizations.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input checked="" 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 Timber? Yes **No**

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$20,000
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:
Prickly Pear Land Trust, Montana Trails Stewardship Grant

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- 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:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

_____ National Forest

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	\$400			\$400
g. Contract/Grant Administration	\$500			\$500
h. Contract/Grant Cost		\$16,000 (MCC contract crew)		\$16,000
i. Salaries	\$5,000	\$3,500 PPLT staff time	\$20,000 (PPLT staff time and volunteer labor)	\$28,500
j. Materials & Supplies		\$500 (tools and signage, including posts and signs)		\$500
k. Monitoring	\$500		\$500	\$1,000
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost				
m. Project Sub-Total	\$3,900			\$3,900
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	\$6,400	\$20,000	\$20,500	\$46,900

NOTES:

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.

ATTACHMENT A - Monitoring Plan

2026 Helena- Lewis & Clark RAC Grant Proposal 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:

Trails in Helena’s South Hills are close to the PPLT and City of Helena offices and are well used. PPLT regularly meets with local user groups and hears directly from the public through our social media platforms about items such as trail condition and maintenance needs. In addition, City of Helena and PPLT staff and volunteers are on the trails multiple times each week. In addition, PPLT will track and record all volunteer and trail maintenance activities that take place in the South Hills and will be prepared to supply the USFS with an end-of-season report showing what was accomplished in the South Hills at the end of each trail season.

PPLT will work closely H-L&C NF staff to communicate issues related to the trails. PPLT and H-L&C NF staff will visit project sites at least once per year to determine project success, further needs and follow up actions.

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

PPLT staff and H-L&C NF staff will conduct the monitoring.

- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks:

We have estimated about \$500 per year for USFS and PPLT monitoring time, or a total of \$1,000. PPLT’s time is part of its contribution to the project.

ATTACHMENT B

Project Area Map

