

IDAHO PANHANDLE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING

August 18, 2026

The Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee was convened for its meeting at 9:00 A.M. on August 18, 2026, at the Interagency Natural Resource Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Forest Supervisor Timothy Gilloon, Designated Federal Official, represented the Forest Service. Chuck Roady served as chairperson and Julie Kallemeyn served as co-chair.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Committee members present:

Al Casile
Richard Fuller
Julie Kallemeyn
Regan Plumb
Liz Wargo
J Edward Short
Gary Fountain
Kristin Burges
Chuck Roady
Fritz Wiedenhoff
Jeff Zimmerman
Mark Sauter
Laura Wolf

Staff of the U.S. Forest Service attending were:

Ashley Nettles
Tim Gilloon
Josh Jurgensen
Abby Carroll
Jim Gebhardt
Chris Bilbrey
Patrick Lair

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

Sean Mirus (Friends of the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center)
Emily Strizich (Northern Rockies Trail Project)
Gabe White (Friends of the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center)
Geoff Harvey (Hayden Lake Watershed Association)

Todd Walker (Hayden Lake Watershed Association)
Savannah Willison (Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness)
Barbara Samut (Idaho Trails Association)
Melanie Vining (Idaho Trails Association)
Cathy Gidley (Trout Unlimited)
Colleen Rosson (Shoshone County)
Bill Hargrave (Shoshone County)
Christine Sandahl (Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club)
Haven Davis-Martinez (Idaho Project Learning Tree)

RAC OVERVIEW

Tim Gilloon informed the members and proponents of changes to federal cost principles that would impact project approvals, namely an agency requirement for 20 percent matching contributions from recipients and a limit of no more than 50 percent subcontracts in any award.

Patrick Lair provided an overview of the Secure Rural Schools Act and the role of resource advisory committees in the dispensation of Title II funding. He shared that the estimated sum of funding available to the RAC for this year was a combined \$1,027,189.98 from FY24 and FY25 allocations, based on historic timber receipts by county. The group also discussed the criteria set forth in the Secure Rural Schools Act for project eligibility and that 50 percent of the funding should be used on projects that benefit roads or watersheds.

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

RAC members then heard presentations on all 13 project proposals. Each proponent was allotted up to 15 minutes for a presentation and then RAC members had opportunities to ask questions of the project proponents. The RAC members had previously received all project application materials and had one week to read and review the materials prior to hearing the presentations.

PROJECT AND FUNDING SELECTION

The RAC spent the rest of the meeting discussing the project proposals and voting on funding recommendations.

FY26 IDAHO PANHANDLE RAC RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Number	Project Name	County	Amount Requested	Amount Funded
26_01	Scotchman Peak Mountain Goat Trail Ambassador Program	Bonner	\$7,461.50	\$7,461.50
26_02	TU North Idaho Road Stream Crossing Assessments	Bonner, Boundary	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

26_03	Forest Tours for Educators and Thought Leaders	Kootenai, Bonner, Boundary, Benewah, Shoshone, Latah	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
26_04	Idaho Project Learning Tree	Kootenai, Bonner, Boundary, Benewah, Shoshone, Latah	\$8,500.00	\$0.00
26_05	Idaho Panhandle Trail Maintenance, Construction, and Stewardship	Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone	\$500,000.00	\$402,727.50
26_06	Scenic Bay Spawning Bed Restoration	Kootenai	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
26_07	Shoshone County Noxious Weed ID and Control Booklet	Shoshone	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
26_08	Hayden Creek Parking Area Improvement	Kootenai	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
26_09	Idaho Trails Association Trail Clearing and Maintenance	Shoshone, Kootenai, Benewah, Boundary, Bonner	\$24,800.00	\$24,800.00
26_10	Balanced Rock Trailhead	Bonner	\$15,200.00	\$15,200.00
26_11	Motorized Avalanche Education and Outreach Program	Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00
26_12	Dunn Peak Communications Infrastructure and Public Safety Repeater Project	Shoshone	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
26_13	IPNF Road Maintenance	Shoshone, Kootenai, Benewah, Boundary, Bonner	\$400,000.00	\$480,000.00
	TOTAL AVAILABLE \$1,027,189.98	TOTAL REQUESTED \$1,182,961.50		TOTAL SPENT \$1,027,189.98

Below are explanations for the decisions not to fund five proposals. The RAC noted that all project submissions were beneficial projects, but chose not to fund certain proposals based on the criteria below.

26_03 Forest Tours for Educators and Thought Leaders: Some project work takes place outside the five counties this RAC serves. The RAC would consider funding this project if funding could be directed specifically to Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties.

26_04 Idaho Project Learning Tree: Some project work takes place outside the five counties this RAC serves. The RAC would consider funding this project if funding could be directed specifically to Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties.

26_06 Scenic Bay Spawning Bed Restoration: The RAC feels the project is outside the scope of Title II criteria. SRSA directs the RAC to use Title II funds for projects occurring on National Forests System lands or on adjacent lands that demonstrate a benefit to the natural resources on National Forest System lands. The RAC does not believe this project demonstrates a benefit to natural resources on federal lands.

26_08 Hayden Creek Parking Area Improvement: This project was not funded because federal cost principles require any project with 50 percent or more subcontracting must be a contract rather than a grant or agreement. This project utilizes more than 50 percent subcontracting.

26_12 Dunn Peak Communications Infrastructure and Public Safety Repeater Project: This project fits under Title III rather than Title II. The RAC recommends the proponent work with Shoshone County to adjust its Title III allocation to fund the emergency repeater.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public comment period was announced at 3:30 P.M. but no members of the public spoke.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

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

Chuck Roady
Chairperson
Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee