

**Tri County Resource Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
February 3, 2023
0800-1630
In person and virtual**

Committee Members Present:

Karen Porter; Britta Schillhammer; Ed Brusnvold; Maureen Conner (Chair); Karen Laitila; Dan Sager; Dave Krueger; Steve Flynn; Milo McLeod; Christina Barbacano; Murray Strong

U.S. Forest Service Staff Present:

Carol Hatfield – Designated Federal Official
Catherine Mcrae – RAC Coordinator / Facilitator / Public Affairs Officer
Jackie Dumke – Notes

Welcome Opening Remarks:

Cat Mcrae opened the meeting at 0832 by introducing herself and Carol Hatfield as Designated Federal Offical. Roll-call conducted by Chairperson Maureen Conner and determined that minimum required attendance and a quorum to conduct official business to vote and approve projects was met.

Cat provided to the group that the Pintler District returned funds in the amount of \$6,750 and that the total was now \$168,934 to allocate to projects.

Introductions & Agenda Review:

Cat Mcrae facilitated introductions and reviewed meeting agenda. At this time she also provided the to the group that the Pintler District returned \$6,750 and that the total available funds to allocate between the projects was \$168,934.

Elect Chairperson:

Maureen Conner

Review and Approve Operating Guidelines:

Maureen Conner reviewed the Operating Guidelines for the RAC. She also opened the floor for discussion if anyone had conflicts of interest among the group. With no concerns brought forward she continued with the presentation of projects.

Presentation of Submitted Projects:

Projects submittals presented:

Clark Canyon Virtual Fence (Kyle Schmitt, Megan Dawson and Reece Price)

- Use virtual fencing as boundaries for cattle. Help protect sensitive areas and allow for changes as needed
- Request \$5,000

Foster Creek Trail Rejuvenation (Will Shoutis)

- Rebuild upper Foster Creek trail and establish a new footbridge on Foster Creek at the Lost Creek Junction

- Requesting \$18,128

Gold Coin Fuels Reduction (Jared Russell)

- Roving the conifers in the meadows and expanding the grasslands to provide a larger area of more controllable fuel (grass)
- Requesting \$40,000

Copper Cr CG Expansion (Josh Lattin)

- Repair and install new infrastructure at an existing dispersed camping area adjacent to the Copper Cr. Campground.
- Requesting \$23,000

Tri-County RAC Bee and Butterfly Survey Project (Madi Crawford)

- Increase understanding of pollinators on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and document Western bumble bee, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee and Monarch butterfly occurrences
- Requesting \$25,243

East Zone Lolo Noxious Weed Ranger (Josh Heise)

- Hire a seasonal employee to inventory and treat noxious weed infestations along roads, trails and recreation sites
- Requesting \$17,000

Pintler Youth Conservation Corps Crew (Josh Lattin)

- Aims to engage local youth in management of Forest Service lands and infrastructure on the Pintler Ranger District. Hire 4-6 local youth for 10-week period to accomplish several objectives on NFS lands
- Requesting \$24,000

Beaverhead-Deerlodge Road Maintenance Compaction Equipment for Motor Grader (Jeremiah Sperry)

- Provide quality roadway maintenance to the Ranger Districts within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Counties the forest service has cooperative agreements with
- Requesting \$33,280

Total of all projects received: \$170,351

Title II funds currently available: \$168,934

Projects requests exceed available funds by: \$1,417

Discussion of Projects:

Cat Mcrae informed the committee that the forest received one public response via email for both RACS... grazing is illegal and should be stopped on all public lands

Group thoroughly discussed all projects presented:

Motion put forth by Karen Laitala that projects 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 be categorized into roads and watersheds. Christina Barbachano seconded the motions. Motion stands; vote 11-0

Project 1 (Clark Canyon Virtual Fence) Motion put forth by Karen Porter to fully fund this project. Milo McLeod seconded the motion. Motion stands to fully fund; vote 11-0

- Second motion put for by Dave Krueger to give additional \$3,000 to line J for a total of \$8,000. Dan Sager seconded the motion. Motion stands to fund \$8,000; vote 11-0

Project 2 (Foster Creek Trail Rejuvenation) Motion put forth by Dave Krueger to fully fund this project. Karen Laitala seconded the motion. Motion stands to fully fund; vote 11-0

Project 3 (Gold Coin Fuels Reduction) Motion put for by Karen Laitala to fully fund at \$30,000. Murry Strong seconded the motion. Motion stands to fully fund; vote 11-0

Project 4 (Copper Creek CG Expansion) Motion put for by Dave Krueger to fully fund at \$23,000. Steve Flynn seconded the motion. Motion stands to fully fund; vote 11-0

Project 5(Bee and Butterfly Survey) Motion put forth by Christina Barbachano to cut request by \$6,717 and fund at \$18,526. Milo McLeod seconded this motion.

- Britta question if funding Project 5 at 18,526 would that include funding the remaining projects at full request.
- Christina if we reduce project 5 at motion then look at project 6 and reduce to \$10,000 then go back to give leftover to project 1.
- Dan feels weed project needs the full funding and then give Bee project 15,000 and extra \$3,000 to fence project. Karen L feels the weeds need to be tackled and it is so hard to get projects on the ground.

Motion withdrawn by Christina Barbachano and Milo McLeod

Second motion put forth by Steve Flynn to reduce by \$3,000 and fund \$22,243. Karen Porter seconded the motion. Motion stands to fund \$22,243; vote 11-0

Project 6(E Zone Lolo Noxious Weed Ranger) Motion put forth by Steve Flynn to fund project at \$10,000. Dave Krueger seconded the motion. Motion stands to fund at \$10,000; vote 11-0

Project 7(Pintler YCC) Motion put forth by Ed Brunsvold to fully fund project at \$24,000. Karen Laitala seconded the motion. Motion stands to fully fund; vote 11-0

Project 8(Road Maintenance Compaction Equip.) Motion put forth by Ed Brunsvold to fully fund at \$33,280. Karen Porter seconded the motion. Motion stands to fully fund; vote 11-0

\$283 left for admin costs.

Recommendations:

All eight proposed projects for the RAC funding were thoroughly discussed between Tri-Country RAC committee members and a quorum was reached to approve the following funding:

- Clark Canyon Virtual Fence:
 - Recommend to fund project at \$8,000

- \$5,000 was original ask, extra \$3,000 to line J
- Foster Creek Trail Rejuvenation 2:
 - Recommend to fully fund project at \$18,128
- Gold Coin Fuels Reduction:
 - Recommend to fund at \$30,000
- Copper Creek CG Expansion:
 - Recommend to fully fund project at \$23,000
- Bee and Butterfly Survey:
 - Recommend to fund at \$22,243
- E Zone Lolo Noxious Weed Ranger:
 - Recommend to fund at \$10,000
- Pintler YCC:
 - Recommend to fully fund project at \$24,000
- Road Maintenance Compaction Equip.:
 - Recommend to fully fund project at \$33,280

Total: \$160,659

Discuss Fee Proposal Review Option:

Wrap up/Adjourn:

Cat Mcrae let committee know they don't need a federal register notice if they would like to have a meeting to see progress report, budget, etc.. Will going over each persons time on the committee. If you need/want something send to her

Maureen would like to schedule a meeting in the very near future to make sure everything is working, discuss different strategy to get information out for project proposals and would like to do a letter of support to FS and RO for road equipment, staff, funding.

Motion put forth by Dave Krueger to adjourn the meeting at 1404. Steve Flynn seconded the motion

Maureen Conner adjourned meeting at 1405

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DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL

Tri County RAC
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest