

**Idaho Panhandle RAC Meeting**  
**June 7, 2013**  
**0900-1200**

**Committee Attending:** Jon Cantamessa, Barbara Botsch, Terry Steiner, Jackie McAvoy, MariBeth Lynch, Neil Smith, Robin Stanley, Christine Dawe (for Mary Farnsworth), Bob McCoy, Patty Perry **Others Present:** Kim Johnson (USFS), Linda McFaddan (USFS), Wade Sims (USFS), Erick Walker (USFS), Jay Kirchner (USFS), Ed Morgan (USFS), Barb Hansen (USFS), Jim Gebhardt (USFS), Leslie Stanley (Shoshone County Commissioner), Sandy Podsaid (Resource Coordinator)  
**Note Taker:** Shoshana Cooper

**Jon Cantamessa** opened the meeting with introductions and updates. **Jack Buell** attended the Forest Products meeting. Emphasized the importance of managing the dead and dying timber. State wants to take over the Forest grounds to “run” it better, however regulations won’t allow them to be successful either. **Jackie McAvoy** is active in the Idaho Women in Timber group. The group voted to travel to Washington D.C. to talk about issues facing the timber industry. **Terry Steiner** hosting a Poker Ride at Pee Wee Creek and has a lot going. **Robin Stanley** expressed his regards for the passing of Joe Peak. Commended Jack Buell and the other Benewah Commissioners for their support in getting the jet boat races back on the St. Joe River. **Neil Smith** talked about the amount of timber going under the Douglas Fir Bark Beetle. **Bob McCoy** Trout Unlimited just had their banquet and raised over \$12,000 to fund stream and habitat improvement. **Patty Perry** talked with Risch and Crapo about the Farm Bill. They do think that there will be a Farm Bill this year and that it may be modified. Both are thinking we won’t get a budget this year. Met with Tom Tidwell and Leslie Weldon about the needs in North Idaho and what the issues are. Talked with Tony Tooke, the Forest Planning Official for the FACA Committee. Tony has good ideas to try to negotiate the NEPA issues. **Christine Dawe (for Mary)** thanked the RAC members for making the time to meet. **Jon Cantamessa** if Title II funds are not reauthorized, the counties will feel the impact.

- I. RAC Funding Scenarios:** There are three different projected budget scenarios which the RAC will consider to help prioritize the 2013 approved projects. These are only projections and it is understood they may be wildly different from the actual allocation:

**Original Amount Funded:** \$631,490

**31% Reduction:** \$435,728

**42% Reduction:** \$366,264

**56% Reduction:** \$277,855

**II. Current List of Idaho Panhandle RAC Approved Projects:**

**13\_01 Forestwide Road Maintenance (\$67, 354):** Thousands of mile of roads on the forest depend on this funding to provide safe access for the public.

**13\_02 Forestwide Flood Damage Repair (\$67, 354):** Have not had the funding to perform complete fixes, money available only covers quick patch jobs at this point.

~~13\_03 Selkirk Grizzly Bear Remote Cameras (\$10,000):~~ No longer viable due to seasonal hiring time constraints

~~13\_04 Treasured Landscapes (\$5,000)~~ No longer viable

**13\_05 IPNF Youth & Seasonal Program (\$152,684)**

**13\_06 Forestwide Recreational Ambassadors (\$54,000):**

**13\_07 Forestwide Sanitation (\$20,000)**

**13\_08 Bonners Senior Employment Support (\$22,554)**

**13\_09 Forestwide Timber Layout and Prep (\$61,054):** Forest-wide program with far reaching impacts and immediate funding needs. Approximately 50% of seasonals would be funded by RAC dollars. The timber program is currently projected to be overspent by 9%. Profits from timber sale are

**13\_10 Magee Host (\$3,300)**

**13\_11 NFK CDA Clean-Up and Rec Support (\$12,900):** This project is a priority for the CZ and Shoshone County as this project funds the CDA River Ranger position. A key position to educate people and monitor the river corridor.

**13\_12 Bell Bay Water (\$5,000)**

**13\_13 Forest Archeology Crew (\$22,290):** Directly impacts timber sales on the required archeology funds.

**13\_14 Forestwide Weeds (\$55,000)**

**13\_15 Boundary County Weeds (\$20,000)**

**13\_16 IFPC Project Learning Tree (\$5,000)**

**13\_17 IFPC Opinion Leaders (\$5,000)**

**13\_20 Fuelwood Manager (\$14,000)** Another key project as it funds a position that interfaces with the public and provides education.

**13\_21 Cabinet Yaak Grizzly Bear DNA Study (\$10,000)**

**13\_22 N. Fork of the CDA River Toilet (\$14,000)**

**III. Forest Prioritized Projects:** Mary Farnsworth (Forest Supervisor) and Christine Dawe (Deputy Forest Supervisor) worked with the districts to prioritize the approved RAC projects that were proposed by the forest. The forest did not feel it would be appropriate to provide their opinion of externally proposed projects. The Forest's top eight priorities were as follows:

1. **13\_07 Forestwide Sanitation (\$20,000)**
2. **13\_09 Forestwide Timber Layout and Prep (\$61,054)**
3. **13\_05 IPNF Youth & Seasonal Program (\$152,684)**
4. **13\_06 Forestwide Recreational Ambassadors (\$54,000)**
5. **13\_08 Bonners Senior Employment Support (\$22,554)**
6. **13\_14 Forestwide Weeds (\$55,000)**
7. **13\_01 Forestwide Road Maintenance (\$67, 354)**
8. **13\_02 Forestwide Flood Damage Repair (\$67, 354)**

**IV. RAC Prioritized Projects:** The RAC worked together to prioritize the following projects with the understanding that when and if the Title II funds come in, the projects will be funded in

the order (and the amount) listed below: The River Ranger, Youth, Seasonal, Senior and Maggee Host projects were lumped into one line item and funding would be distributed at the discretion of the Forest Service if enough funding is available to fund all, or a portion of those projects.

1. **13\_07 Forestwide Sanitation (\$20,000)**
2. **13\_22 N. Fork of the CDA River Vault Toilet (\$14,000)**
3. **13\_21 Cabinet Yaak Grizzly Bear DNA Study (\$10,000)**
4. **13\_15 Boundary County Weeds Truck (\$20,000)\*\*\*If Boundary County has another means of obtaining a truck or spending less money on a truck, then the additional RAC funding will be applied into the funding mix.**
5. **13\_09 Forestwide Timber Layout and Prep (\$61,054)**
6. **13\_01 Forestwide Road Maintenance (\$67, 354)**
7. **13\_11 NFK CDA Clean-Up and Rec Support-River Ranger**  
**13\_06 Forestwide Recreational Ambassadors**  
**13\_05 IPNF Youth & Seasonal Program**  
**13\_08 Bonners Senior Employment Support** (All 4 proposals have been lumped together for total funding of \$206,000)
8. **13\_02 Forestwide Flood Damage Repair (\$67,354)**
9. **13\_16 IFPC Project Learning Tree (\$5,000)**
10. **13\_17 IFPC Opinion Leaders (\$5,000)**
11. **13\_13 Forest Archeology Crew (\$22,290)**
12. **13\_20 Fuelwood Manager (\$14,000)**
13. **13\_12 Bell Bay Water (\$5,000)**
14. **13\_14 Forestwide Weeds (\$55,000)\*:** Helps leverage the funding the forest provides

**Public Forum:**

Sandy Podsaid, new Shoshone County Resource Coordinator, would like to assist and utilize the benefits of the county and streamline the process. Here to learn who everyone is and introduce himself to everyone. Leslie Stanley, Shoshone County Commissioner: Number one priority is timber and getting logs to the sawmill followed by the river cleanup.

**Robin Stanley made a motion to accept the above funded RAC project priorities and caveats. MaryBeth Lynch seconded the motion. The RAC voted unanimously to approve the motion.**