

Southern Montana RAC Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

This meeting was held from 6-8:30 on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform. There were videoconference and phone line options.

RAC members present were:

- Category A: Corey Biggers, Randy Weimer (Chair), Bill Brownlee, Donald Sasse, Mary Rumph
- Category B: Shantell Frame-Martin, Liz Muhs Stone, John Lowell
- Category C: James Moody, Becky Grey (phone), Stanley Floyd.

After a general welcome and Introduction to the Teams platform, Randy officially started the meeting and briefly went over the agenda. We then did introductions and Randy determined that a quorum was present to hold the meeting.

Forest Service personnel present included:

- Kathy Minor, CGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor and RAC Designated Federal Official
- Kat Barker, CGNF RAC Coordinator
- Karen Tuscano, CGNF Budget Analyst
- Mariah Leuschen Lonergan, Public Affairs and Tech Support
- Marna Daley, Public Affairs and Tech Support
- Melissa Simpson, CGNF Recreation Program Manager
- Becca Hammargren, Yellowstone RD Recreation Program Manager
- Lauren Oswald, CGNF Services Staff
- Lawson Maclean, Yellowstone RD Recreation Staff
- Chauntelle Rock, Yellowstone RD Range and Weeds Program Manager

Kathy Minor, the Designated Forest Officer also gave a brief welcome and took a moment to explain the reauthorization of the RAC funding as well as the term expirations. This meeting would very likely be the last, since members' terms will expire in the fall of 2023 and we would not be prepared for another meeting in that time. Kathy reiterated the role of the Forest Service at this RAC meeting; that we were present for support and questions, but the meeting was the committee's to run.

Randy then reviewed the protocol for the meeting, how the members would go about deliberating and the voting/ranking process.

Karen Tuscano, the budget officer then went over the funding allocations and spreadsheet by each County. She then gave a brief review of each of the eight projects. There was little clarification from the committee at that time.

Public Comment period

Marna Daley helped facilitate the public comment period. Because of the abbreviated agenda, there was not time for proponent presentations. Rather, proponents could make a brief statement during this open public forum. most of the proponents spoke with the exception of Kim Vivian of Ashland RD, due to storm outages.

At 7:00, Kat framed up the process for break-out meetings. She described the technical side of the break-out rooms (held on separate Teams meetings set up for each Category). Each break-out room had a Forest Service representative present (Melissa, Mariah and Marna) for tech support and to answer or direct questions when necessary. Kathy remained in the main Teams meeting room and Kat moved between the break-outs. Randy also took a moment to remind the members of their voting and ranking responsibilities.

After the break-out sessions, all members came back to the main Teams meeting. With Karen working the spreadsheet in real time over the videoconference, the group started populating the spreadsheet and went through their voting process. Park County had the most projects, so spreading those County's funds elicited the most discussion, but there was robust consideration for all projects, with members sharing different ideas and thoughts. The group came to consensus after approximately 40 minutes. Additionally, two projects were identified as priorities should additional funding become available: Mud Turtle Road Project and the Dry Pine Connector Trail Project. Any additional funds would be split 50/50 between the two projects.

The motion was made to vote on the allocations as shown on the spreadsheet and it was seconded. The Yea votes were unanimous, there were no nay votes. The award allocations are attached to the meeting minutes.

Following the final recommendations, Kat gave a brief thank you with a promise to send on the final allocations along with an accomplishment report for the RAC's tenure.

Randy and Kathy closed the meeting out with thanks and appreciation. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Randy Weimer
RAC Chair

Kathleen Minor,
CGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor,
RAC DFO

FY23 So Montana RAC Project Submissions- Approved on 12/14/22	

County	Funds Available per County	Total Request per County
Sweet Grass County-	\$26,280	\$26,600
Stillwater County-	\$9,804	\$12,240
Powder River County-	\$47,413	\$65,523
Park County-	\$74,608	\$89,047
Totals	\$158,105	\$193,410

(mix of Sweet Grass and Stillwater proposal)

Project Name	Project Submitted By	County Benefitted	District Location	Title II Requested Amount	Amount Approved	Priority for any additional \$
1) Beartooth Face Noxious Weed Treatments	Chauntell Rock, AB zone weeds	Sweet Grass, Stillwater	Beartooth RD	\$12,240	\$12,240.00	
2) Sweet Grass County Noxious Weed Project	Connie Weston (Sweet Grass County)	Sweet Grass	Yellowstone RD	\$26,600	\$23,844.50	
3) Powder River County Weed District Noxious Weed Management and Training	Tammy Van Time (PRC Weed District)	Powder River	Ashland RD	\$35,522.96	\$23,706.96	
4) Mud Turtle Reservoir Road Resurfacing	Ashland RD	Powder River	Ashland RD	\$30,000	\$23,706.96	1
5) Dry Pine Connector Trail	Livingston Bike Club	Park	Yellowstone RD	\$33,000.00	\$30,000.00	2
6) Sheepherder Peak Trail #32 Erosion Control	Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation	Park	Yellowstone RD	\$17,031.00	\$12,755.58	
7) Specimen Creek Trail #84 Flood Damage Repairs	Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation	Park	Gardiner RD	\$16,516	\$14,000.00	
8) Shields River Area Noxious Weed Treatments	Yellowstone RD	Park/Meagher	Yellowstone RD	\$22,500	\$17,851.00	

\$193,410 \$158,105.00