

Idaho Panhandle RAC

Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2020

Attendees:

Category A

- Don Capparelli
- Alan Harper (Vice-Chair)
- Ed Short

Category B

- Rich Feickert
- Phil Hough
- Brad Smith
- Rebecca Stevens
- Laura Wolf

Category C

- Jeff Connolly
- Glen Bailey (Chair)
- Dan Dinning
- Leslie Marshall

Forest Service RAC Leadership

- Jeanne Higgins (Outgoing DFO)
- Kim Pierson (Incoming DFO)
- Phillip Blundell (Coordinator)

Meeting is being held virtually utilizing the Zoom platform due to the State of Idaho and USDA meeting restrictions in response to COVID-19. RAC members and project proponents attended virtually while all members of the public were able to attend via conference line (no members of the general public were in attendance).

09:01 – Meeting is called to order by the Chair, Glen Bailey.

Chairman Bailey and Jeanne Higgins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Jeanne described how she was transitioning out of the DFO role and was being replaced by Kim Pierson.

Kim introduced herself and outlined her previous experience as a DFO on another RAC.

Panel members proceed to introduce themselves.

A quorum was reached.

09:20 – Chairman Bailey began leading a discussion on project funding. The following is a summary of the project discussion, votes, and recommended funding amounts in the order in which they occurred.

- 20-02 – all voted to fully fund this project
- 20-03 – all voted to fully fund the project
- 20-04 – all but two members voted to fund the project at \$75,000. The two “no” votes wanted to discuss the reduced funding amounts later in the meeting. This was addressed at the end of the meeting in the discussion of project 20-05 and all other remaining USFS recreation and trails projects.
- RAC members decided to focus on Roads and Watersheds (RW) projects due to the requirement that 50% of all funding go to projects whose primary purpose is to address these issues.
- 20-07 – discussion focused on fully funding this project while not all other RW project. Instead, the Forest Service would decide how to allocate funding to other RW projects listed, if at all. The members voiced general support for all other RW projects. Project 20-24RW was found to be unable to receive funding since it would be acquiring equipment, which RAC cannot do. All voted to fund project at \$265,000 with the requirement that the Forest Service also make an attempt to fund projects 20-08 and 20-17 thru -21. The Forest Service agreed to get back to the RAC with a list of what projects would be funded through this recommendation as well as seek out other sources of funding for these projects.
- RAC members decided to focus on non-USFS projects before addressing funding of FS projects.
- 20-09 – all voted to fully fund the project
- 20-10 – all voted to fund the project at \$15,000 for the 20-21 winter season only
- 20-14 – all voted to fund the project at the reduced level of \$6,000
- 20-15 – all voted to fund the project at \$3,200 for one season
- 20-16 – project was withdrawn by proponent
- 20-23 – all voted to fund the project at \$6,600 for one season. RAC Member Phil Hough recused himself from discussion and voting (would only answer questions) as he is a member of the proponent organization.
- 20-29 – all voted to fully fund the project
- 20-01 – all voted to fully fund the project
- 20-26 – all voted to fund \$6,600 for bear boxes only
- 20-27 – all voted to fund the project at \$5,000
- 20-22 – all voted to not fund the project as other sources of funding may be available
- 20-28 – all voted to fund the project at \$20,000 for two weeks of work for the upcoming season
- 20-05 – all voted to fund the project at \$51,527.29 (remaining balance of RAC funding) with the stipulation that, much like with RW projects, the Forest Service would have the discretion to distribute funding to the remaining projects (20-06, -11 thru -13, -25). The Forest Service agreed to provide a list of what projects were funded from this recommendation.

12:48 – Previous meeting minutes from August 6, 2020 were approved.

No member of the public was in attendance to raise any comments.

12:50 – Meeting was closed by Chairman Bailey