

IDAHO PANHANDLE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING

September 15, 2023

The Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee was convened for its second meeting at 9:00 A.M. on September 15, 2023, at the Interagency Natural Resource Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Acting Forest Supervisor Heather DeGeest, Designated Federal Official, represented the Forest Service and Julie Kallemeyn, co-chair, served as chairperson in Chuck Roady's absence.

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
Jeff Hildesheim
Julie Kallemeyn
Alan Harper
Regan Plumb (virtual)
Liz Wargo
Jason Welker
J Edward Short (virtual)
Laura Wolf
Erin Plue
Rebecca Stevens

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

Patrick Lair
Ashley Nettles
Heather DeGeest
Jody Pliley
Heather Fuller
Jed Friedman
Abby Carroll

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

Phil Hough (Friends of Scotchmans Peak Wilderness)
Jessica Stutzke (Shoshone County)
Jim Rolletto (Benewah County)

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The RAC reviewed the previous month's meeting and discussed any follow questions. One member asked how Title II funds differ from appropriated funds and how this funding is used differently from regular program of work. Heather DeGeest responded that the national forest has a lot of funding sources, but there are some projects that the national forest has difficulty funding through the regular sources. Recreation, invasive weeds removal, and road maintenance are some of the highest priority work that does not receive enough funding through appropriations and needs supplemental funds from the RAC and other grants.

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

RAC members then heard presentations on the remaining seven project proposals. The RAC heard presentations on 26 proposals at the previous month's meeting for a total of 33 proposals. Each proponent was allotted 3 minutes for a presentation and then RAC members had up to 10 minutes to ask questions of the project proponents. The RAC members had previously received all project application materials and had two weeks to read and review the materials prior to hearing the presentations.

Heather DeGeest and Jessica Stutzke representing Shoshone County also discussed a proposal to provide an additional \$100,000 to Shoshone County from previous year funds to correct a previous year's oversight. DeGeest and Stutzke explained that a previous RAC had recommended \$100,000 to Shoshone County for road work, but the funds were never spent. Through an oversight, the county spent \$100,000 of its own funds to mitigate a failing tunnel at Moon Pass that was blocking traffic at a major transportation corridor on National Forest System lands. Since the Title II funds had not yet been obligated when the work was done, the funds could not be used for their intended purpose. DeGeest and Stutzke proposed the RAC recommend an additional \$100,000 to Shoshone County this year to compensate for past work, and that additional money would not detract from the current funding available.

PROJECT AND FUNDING SELECTION

The RAC spent the rest of the meeting reviewing their individual rankings of project proposals and working to add a funding number to the highest priority proposals. This was accomplished using an Excel spreadsheet broadcast on the screen and online for virtual participants. RAC members worked their way through the priority list and decided on funding figures until the allotted entirety of funding (\$1.525 million) was exhausted. The group captured some notes in the margins instructing where they believe funding should be spent if more funding or previous year funding should become available. The group also unanimously agreed to recommend an additional \$100,000 of 2018 funds for Shoshone County based on circumstances related by the Forest Service and the County. The recommendations are captured in the table below.

FY23 IDAHO PANHANDLE RAC RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Number	Project Name/Sponsor	County	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Notes
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23_01	Boot brush Stations/Bonner County Noxious Weed Control	Bonner, Boundary	\$22,860	\$0	
23_02	Canfield Mountain OHV Trail Crew/IPNF	Kootenai	\$41,700	\$41,700	
23_03	CZ_CDA River Visitor Services/IPNF	Kootenai, Shoshone	\$80,400	\$40,200	If additional funds become available, this is number two priority
23_04	MCC Trail Crews/IPNF	Kootenai, Shoshone	\$75,000	\$30,000	Reduced by \$15K increments. If additional funds become available, this is number three priority
23_05	Prichard Bridge Day Use Area Repaving Project/IPNF	Shoshone	\$50,000	\$0	
23_06	Shoshone Park Restroom Replacement/IPNF	Shoshone	\$135,063	\$135,063	
23_07	Upper Lightning Road Improvement/IPNF	Bonner	\$200,000	\$0	
23_08	NZ Grizzly Bear Food Storage/IPNF	Bonner, Boundary	\$325,000	\$84,366	Prioritize front country boxes/FPO (no funds for private dumpsters at resorts)
23_09	Youth and Seniors/IPNF	Bonner, Boundary Kootenai Shoshone	\$152,600	\$75,000	Some help to leverage other grants. If additional funds become available, this is number four priority.
23_10	St Joe Lake to Heller Trail Maintenance/IPNF	Shoshone	----	\$0	
23_11	Robinson Lake Docks/IPNF	Boundary	\$32,500	\$21,775	One dock at a time (three docks requested)
23_12	Shorty Peak Lookout/IPNF	Boundary	\$28,500	\$28,500	
23_13	Access and Elk Security Maintenance/IPNF	Kootenai Shoshone	\$40,000	\$40,000	
23_14	NZ IPNF Road Maintenance/IPNF	Bonner Boundary Pendoreille	\$200,000	\$0	Funded forest-wide roads maintenance project in lieu of zone project
23_15	Idaho Trails Association	Shoshone Kootenai Benewah Boundary Bonner	\$24,800	\$24,800	
23_16	Snow Ranger	Bonner, Boundary	\$60,828	\$30,414	One year's worth of funding
23_17	ICC for Invasive Plant Management/IPNF/IPNF	All	\$84,000	\$56,280	If additional funds become available, this is number one priority

23_18	FSR537 Reconditioning/IPNF	Shoshone	\$35,720	\$0	Funded forest-wide roads maintenance project in lieu of zone project
23_19	Little Guard Lookout Restoration/IPNF	Shoshone	\$65,000	\$65,000	
23_20	Magee Rangers Cabin Vault Restroom/IPNF	Shoshone	\$75,000	\$75,000	
23_21	Old CDA River Road Restoration/ Shoshone County	Shoshone	\$200,000	\$200,000	
23_22	6 th Grade Forest Expo/Priest Community Forest Connection	Bonner	\$8,000	\$8,000	
23_23	Conrad Crossing/IPNF	Shoshone	\$130,000	\$0	
23_24	Marble Creek Interpreter Site/IPNF	Shoshone	\$65,000	\$65,000	
23_25	Spruce Tree Campground/IPNF	Shoshone	\$96,520	\$0	
23_26	Turner Flat Campground Outhouse/IPNF	Shoshone	\$91,020	\$0	
23_27	Little Sand Creek watershed trail/ Pend Oreille Pedalers	Bonner	\$50,000	\$50,000	
23_28	Trail Ambassadors/ Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness	Bonner	\$13,699	\$13,699	
23_29	Beaver Creek A Frame Improvements/IPNF	Shoshone	\$16,200	\$16,200	
23_30	Line Creek Stock Campground/IPNF	Shoshone	\$37,000	\$37,000	
23_31	Snow Peak Lookout Restoration/IPNF	Shoshone	\$16,000	\$16,000	
23_32	St. Joe River Trails Restoration/IPNF	Shoshone	\$64,000	\$32,000	
23_33	Forest-wide Road Maintenance/IPNF	All	\$400,000	\$400,000	
23_34	Emida Roadways/Benewah County	Benewah	\$40,000	\$40,000	

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. The Designated Federal Official and the Co-Chair signed each project application approved for funding.

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

Heather DeGeest

Designated Federal Official
Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.