

Idaho Panhandle RAC Meeting
February 19, 2016
0900-1600

Committee Attending: Jon Cantamessa, Mary Farnsworth, Mary Merrill, Almer "Al" Casile, Robin Stanley, Terry Steiner, Bob McCoy, Neil Smith, Barbara Botsch, MariBeth Lynch, Alan Harper, Jack Buell, Patty Perry; **Phone:** Ruth Watkins

Public Present: Judy Morbeck, Leslee Stanley, Sandy Podsaid, Bruce VanBroeke, Horis Greenfield, Steve Glad, and Colin Cools

Forest Service Employees: Macario Herrera, Shoshana Cooper, Jim Gebhardt, Dan Scaife, Tim Knight, Kevin Knauth, Erick Walker, Matt Davis, Sue Colyer, Josh Jurgensen Christine Plourde, Dan Gilfan

Note Taker: Wendy Bailey (Acting Executive Assistant) / **Assistant:** Maiv Z Moua (Budget Analyst)

Meeting called to order 9:05 a.m. by Jon Cantamessa

Jon Cantamessa opened the meeting with introductions and updates. Jon is a previous County Commissioner and served for 12 yrs. He is serving the RAC committee as the Chairman and represents County Officials. **Patty Perry** works for the Kootenai Tribe, and has been for the past 16 yrs. She is representing Tribal interests. **Jack Buell** has been a Benewah County Commissioner for 43 years and is an original member of the RAC. He is representing the timber industry. **Alan Harper** is a forester with the Idaho Forest Group and has lived in the Idaho Panhandle for the past 16 yrs. He has previous experience with the BLM's RAC, and also active with the Back Country Horsemen. He is representing the timber industry. **MariBeth Lynch** has served on the RAC committee since the beginning, and believes being part of the RAC is a great pleasure and honor. She is representing mining interests. **Barabara Botsch**, a member of the Bonner County Historical Society, has been a member since the beginning. She represents historical interests. **Neil Smith** has been a member since the beginning, and is employed as a professional forester. He is representing recreation, wildlife, and conservation. **Bob McCoy** has been a member since the beginning, and is regularly involved with similar groups. He is excited to proceed with a special project in July which will be an environmental project in Africa focusing on reforestation. **Terry Steiner** is a retired college professor, and a leave-no-trace master educator. He is extremely busy and is considering resigning from the RAC committee, and recommended Dale Shrimp as an applicant. He is representing recreation interests. **Robin Stanley** has been a member since the beginning; but his interest started in 1985, when he became a High School Principle. He serves the committee as Co-chair, and represents education interests. **Almer Casile** has 25 yrs of environmental and engineering experience and is an avid mountain biker, so he is interested in bringing mountain biker interests forward. He is representing outdoor recreation, and motor-vehicle use. **Mary Merrill** is a retired community college business manager. She is representing non-industrial private forest land owners. **Ruth Watkins (call-in)** has been a member since beginning, and lived in Bonner County for 25yrs. She

is a Grant Writer and writes proposals for organizations. She will be phoning in for the March 11th meeting.

Jon Cantamessa provided a background on the RAC program. The RAC has positions for 15 members, but due to the process it's difficult to replace members. The 15 members, are divided into 3 groups of which there are 5 members in each group. In order for the RAC to meet, three members out of five, from each category, must be in attendance to have a quorum. **Mary Farnsworth** has been with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest as the Forest Supervisor for 4 ½ yrs. and she is the designated Federal Official. She discussed the impact of the catastrophic 2015 fire season. Forest Service employees have been working hard towards post-fire restoration efforts.

Shoshana Cooper discussed and provided a power point presentation on RAC recruitment. The RAC has 11 vacancies in Oct 1, 2016, which puts the RAC committee in dire straits due to the long approval process and the need to recruit diverse members. Without an approved committee to make a quorum, the RAC is unable to meet and spend any title II funds in the future.

I. RAC Funding Amount:

The RAC received 42 proposals totaling \$2,227,934.64.

There is **estimated** \$1,137,206 in Title II funds available. Exact number pending.

II. Current List of Idaho Panhandle RAC Project Proposals with Title II \$ Amount Request:

16_1: IPNF Road Maintenance (\$150,000)

16_2: Save the Thorofare (\$50,000)

16_3: Laptop – Boundary County Noxious Weed Control (\$750)

16_4: IPNF Recreation Visitor Services (\$153,800)

16_5: IPNF Recreation Site Sanitation (\$30,000)

16_6: IPNF Seniors Employment Support Bonners RD (\$54,000)

16_7: IPNF Replacement Engines Priest Lake Sanitation Barge (\$40,000)

16_8: IPNF 2016 St. Joe Trail Crew (\$65,620)

16_9: IPNF Emerald Ck Garnet Improvements Phase I (\$200,000)

16_10: IPNF Heavy Brushing Snowmobile Trails CDA River RD (\$95,000)

16_11: IPNF Avalanche Center Director (\$40,000)

16_12: IPNF Shadowy St. Joe Dock Repair (\$25,000)

16_13: IPNF Bonner and Boundary County Youth Employment (\$48,000)

16_14: IPNF NZ Trail Maintenance Crew/Idaho Conservation Corps (\$121,300)

16_15: IPNF Parker Ridge Trail 221 Post-fire Rehab (\$54,700)

16_16: IPNF Noxious Weed Treatment Program (\$42,680)

16_17: North Kellogg Forest Health & Fuels Reduction Project (\$120,000)

16_18: Selkirk Grizzly Bear Remote Cameras and DNA Collection (\$28,400)

16_19: IPNF Bear Resistant Food Storage Boxes (\$10,000)

16_20: IPNF Toilet Vent Pipe Retrofit-Prevent Wildlife Entrapment (\$4,000)

16_21: Placer Creek Bridge (\$40,000)

16_22: Moon Pass Tunnel Seal Coats (\$16,000)

- 16_23: Pulaski Tunnel Trail Improvements and Repairs 2016 (\$10,000)
- 16_24: Lightening Creek Winter Warming Hut (\$18,860)
- 16_25: Lightening Creek Whitebark Pine Restoration Projects (\$112,750)
- 16_26: NP Trail/Mullan Pass Multi User Trailhead Parking Area (\$47,600)
- 16_27: IPNF Hughes Aquatic Restoration LIDAR (\$12,000)
- 16_28: IPNF Implementation Hughes Aquatic Restoration (\$50,000)
- 16_29: IPNF Waterway (Rec) Restoration and Improvement (\$50,000)
- 16_30: IPNF Beaver Creek Cabin Rental (\$12,900)
- 16_31: IPNF Trail Maintenance Rangers & Partner Coordinator CDA River RD (\$54,000)
- 16_32: IPNF New Flush Toilets Priest Lake Rec Sites (\$274,500)
- 16_33: IPNF Respect the River Program and OHV Education (\$47,000)
- 16_34: IPNF NZ Trail Maintenance, Reconstruction & Bridge Replacement (\$36,200)
- 16_35: IPNF Big Creek Cabin Roof & Flooring (\$4,100)
- 16_36: Bonner County Weed Truck (\$36,000)
- 16_37: Lakeview Kalispell Trail Reconstruction (\$33,299.64)
- 16_38: Project Learning Tree – IFPC (\$16,000)
- 16_39: Forest Tour Educators Opinion Leaders Tour (\$10,000)
- 16_40: Refuse Collection (\$5,920)
- 16_41: Vaulted Toilets Maintenance & Pumping Bumblebee & Marble Ck (\$3,055)
- 16_42: Vaulted Toilet Install, Maintenance, & Pumping on the St.Joe River (\$4,500)
- PROJECTS TOTAL = \$2,227,934.64**

III. 2/19 Approved RAC Projects:

<i>Project Number</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Proposed Title II \$</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Amount Funded</i>
16_04	IPNF Recreation Visitor Services	\$153,800.00	Approved	\$76,900.00
16_05	IPNF Recreation Site Sanitation	\$30,000.00	Approved	\$30,000.00
16_06	IPNF Seniors Employment Support Bonners RD	\$54,000.00	Approved	\$27,000.00
16_08	IPNF 2016 St. Joe Trail Crew	\$65,620.00	Approved	\$65,620.00
16_13	IPNF Bonner and Boundary County Youth Employment	\$48,000.00	Approved	\$24,000.00
16_14	IPNF NZ Trail Maintenance Crew/Idaho Conservation Corps	\$121,300.00	Approved	\$60,650.00
16_12	IPNF Shadowy St. Joe Dock Repair	\$25,000.00	Approved	\$25,000.00
16_31	IPNF Trail Maint. Rangers & Partner Coord. CDA River RD	\$54,000.00	Approved	\$27,000.00
16_33	IPNF Respect the River Program and & OHV Education	\$47,000.00	Approved	\$23,500.00

- ❖ Robin Stanley made a motion to support the increase of cabin fee rentals rates; seconded by Barbara Botsch. The RAC voted unanimously to support the motion. This will be brought forward to the Recreation BLM RAC meeting, in support of the Forest Service’s request.
- ❖ Committee voted on approving the Forest Service’s “time sensitive” projects for a total of \$359,670; The RAC voted unanimously in favor to approve these projects. The RAC will discuss approval of the remaining projects at the next meeting.
- ❖ **Next Meeting:** Friday, March 11 at 9:00 a.m. at the same location.
- ❖ **Meeting adjourned 4:06 p.m.**