



Kootenai National Forest

Forest Service News Release

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Lincoln Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Seeks Project Proposals from Public & Citizens Sought for Lincoln RAC

Libby, Mont. July 1, 2022— The Lincoln Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is seeking proposals for projects that would enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality on the Kootenai National Forest. Funding available for FY21 is \$ 468,546.83. These funds are made available to Lincoln County through the Secure Rural Schools and Self-determination Act.

The Secure Rural Schools and Self-determination Act provides funding for a variety of activities that benefit federal lands and resources. Title II projects fund work such as watershed restoration, noxious weed abatement, thinning trees, fuels reduction, enhancing recreation sites, and maintaining roads and trails. Individuals, non-profit organizations, and local governments can submit Title II project applications.

Proposal ideas should be directed to each district ranger where the project proposal resides. All project proposals need to be approved by the district ranger before they are submitted. New project application forms are available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd882623.pdf. The deadline for project proposal submission is September 2nd, 2022. No late projects or modifications to submitted projects will be accepted after the September 2nd date.

The contact information for each ranger district is below:

<p>Rexford/Fortine Ranger District Seth Carbonari: seth.carbonari@usda.gov 949 US Hwy 93 N Eureka, MT 59917-9550 406-296-2536</p>	<p>Three Rivers Ranger District Kirsten Kaiser: kirsten.a.kaiser@usda.gov 12858 US Hwy 2 Troy, MT 59935-8750 406-295-4693</p>	<p>Libby Ranger District Nate Gassmann: nathan.gassmann@usda.gov 12557 MT Hwy 37 Libby, MT 59923-8212 406-293-7773</p>
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The next Lincoln RAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 28th, 2022 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Supervisor's Office. A virtual link will be provided for the public.

In addition to seeking project proposals, the Kootenai National Forest is also seeking members to serve on the Lincoln RAC. The RACs are to consist of 15 members representing a wide array of interests. The committee's duties include reviewing proposed forest management projects in accordance with Title II of the Act and making funding recommendations to the Forest Service, coordinating with land management agency officials, and providing opportunities for interested parties to participate in the project development process. Committee members are sought to work collaboratively with other interests for the long-term benefit of National Forest System lands. Applications are now being accepted to become a member for the October 2022 meeting. Applications need to be submitted by July 31st, 2022.

The RACs create mechanisms for local community collaboration with federal land managers in recommending projects to be conducted on federal lands or that will benefit resources on federal lands. The geographic boundaries of the RACs in northwest Montana are proposed to be aligned with county boundaries. The boundary of this RAC would cover Lincoln County.

Committee members serve a four-year term without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. Meetings are generally held quarterly at locations within the geographic area the RAC serves. Members must reside within the State in which the RAC is located and preferably within the RAC's geographic boundary. Prospective members are advised that membership on a RAC calls for a commitment of time and energy.

Specifically, the composition of the RAC is to be balanced according to the following three interest categories identified in the Act.

Group A:

- Organized labor
- Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation
- Energy and mineral development
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area

Group B:

- Nationally recognized environmental organizations
- Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
- Dispersed recreation activities
- Archaeological and historical interests
- Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups

Group C:

- State-elected office holders or their designee
- County or local elected office holders
- American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas
- School officials or teachers
- Citizens representing the affected public at large

The application process involves completing the federal form AD-755 which is available at the following link <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755.pdf> or can be picked up at Kootenai National Forest Supervisor's Office. Please send completed application packets to Lincoln RAC coordinator LaRona Rebo at larona.rebo@usda.gov or by mail to:

LaRona Rebo, Kootenai National Forest, 31374 U.S. Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923

Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience working with the interest area they represent, their knowledge of the geographic area covered by the RAC, their demonstrated commitment to collaborative resource decision-making, and their contribution to the balance and diversity of the RAC.

Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership will include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

For more information on the Committee or to learn more about the RAC, please contact RAC coordinator Larona Rebo at 406-283-7764 or larona.rebo@usda.gov.

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