

Secure Rural Schools Title II
Southern Arizona Resource Advisory Committee
Agenda
May 25, 2023
9 to 11 am Virtual

Guidelines:

- Teams Meeting – Everyone will need a reliable internet connection.
- A device with a camera is preferred.
- Please look at your previously sent materials to review the projects noted in the agenda below.

This is the ‘values’ statement the SA-RAC agreed to use as a guideline to rank projects:

It is important to the SA-RAC to solicit a diversity of projects that support local communities and their ties to US Forest Service lands and that we work together to promote: community engagement, partnerships, collaboration, and local leadership; to improve the sustainability of local economies, ecological services and stewardship opportunities on public lands.

Participants: CATEGORY A: Ault, Zander; Caldwell, Patti; Winfield, Joe. CATEGORY B: Franklin, Kim; Guiterman, Eli; Quigley, Mike; Zugmeyer, Claire. CATEGORY C: Girard, Michele; Hoerig, Karl; Mouras, Ted; Roberts, Joanne; Haozous, Jeff. Forest Service: Dewberry, Kerwin; Backer, Dana; Milnor, Adam; Means, Ryan; Wilson, Joanne

Note Taker: Dana Backer

AGENDA

9:00 Welcome and Introductions of New Members – Kerwin

9:05 Quick Agenda Review –Patti

9:10 Update to overall membership and need for outreach for new member – Dana
*Mac Donaldson – resigned; New members – Joanne Roberts and Jeff Haozous
Dana has reached out to one potential member (grazing permittee)*

Approve 3/17/23 meeting (administrative) minutes – Patti
Approved

9:15 Canelo Hills Recreation Fee for Rooms with a View –Ryan Means, RO staff and Patti (Decision item)
*Presentation by Adam Milnor with support from Joanna Wilson and Ryan Means on fee for Canelo Hills
Rooms with a View.*

*DECISION: Unanimous decision to recommend for approval the fees for Canelo Hills Ranger Residence
(\$175/night) and Canelo Hills Station Cabin (\$125/night).*

APPROVAL: DFO approved RAC recommendation at the meeting.

10:00 Available Funds (2021 and 2022) – Dana and Patti

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- Modifications for 4 agreements totaled \$56,790 – did not draw funds from 2021; used withheld admin funds from 2017-2020 (original \$97,990); balance after modifications = \$41,200
- County shift in funding for Titles
- Updated available funds from 2021 and 2022
- Discussion regarding distribution of funds

Committee discussed the options of 1) wait until 2023 funds are available to conduct another round of request for proposals, 2) initiate RFP based on the current 2021 and 2022 funds available, 3) initiate the RFP with available funds and anticipated 2023 funds (usually available April of the following year – April 2024).

Question of funds if charter not renewed and SRS not reauthorized (asked Brianna Gallegos – WO SRS Program Manager).

- *SRS Charter (internal FS processes)- If this isnt approved then funds and projects are at a stand still.*
- *SRS Reauthorization (Congress approval)- previous funds can be used, no more funding will be allocated and if not used by the original date (sept. 2026) those funds would have to be returned to the Department of Treasury*

Forest Service presented status of Wildfire Crisis Strategy (WCS) and Joint Chief (JC) priorities, projects that further the WCS or JC have the potential to be implemented prior to non-crisis/non-emergency projects, timelines within Office of Grants and Agreements will also dictate when project agreements get executed, District Ranger agreeing to proposals, and work load on district staff to be Program Managers on Secure Rural Schools Title II project agreements.

RAC discussed challenges of having a RAC quorum, scheduling challenges and time requirements for proposal review and subsequent meetings, and overall uncertainty.

DECISION: RAC voted unanimously to recommend moving forward with a RFP using the available funds from 2021 and 2022 and anticipated funds from 2023 with a cautionary statement about potential delays in project implementation due to existing forest priorities.

Recommendation needs to go to DFO for approval.

County	2021 Amount	2022 Amount	Total
Cochise	66,123.19	67,074.40	133,197.59
Maricopa	34,743.65	32,504.78	67,248.43

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Pima	21,897.56	21,322.15	43,219.71
Pinal	48,262.30	0	48,262.30
Santa Cruz	88,634.69	62,977.73	151,612.42
TOTAL	259,661.39	183,879.06	443,540.45

10:45 Election of New Chair, starting July 1, 2023 – Patti
DECISION: Joe Winfield was nominated and unanimously voted to be the next RAC Chair for a one year term.

10:50 Public Comment – Patti
No public in attendance

Next meeting to schedule – Patti
No meeting scheduled due to uncertainty of timeline for next RFP.
Dana will initiate process to start RFP by requesting the SRS Title II funds to come to the unit. (5/25/23
Email sent to Budget Officer requesting SRS funds for 2021 and 2022)

Field trip planned for October 24, 2023. Not a member meeting but member opportunity.

11:00 Adjourn

Patti Caldwell

5/30/2023

RAC Chair, Patti Caldwell

Date