

Columbia County RAC Meeting Notes

June 26, 2017 | Columbia County Fire Department, Dayton, WA

SRS Overview/RAC Roles & Duties/FACA Ethics

- Funding that RAC members are considering projects for is from Fiscal years 2014 and 2015
- Must obligate funds by Sept. 30 (which means recommendation made to Forest Service from RAC).
- Projects the RAC will be considering must be on or adjacent to National Forest lands that would benefit the Forest Service.
- Projects must benefit resources or National Forest lands.
- Money comes to the Forest Service, we hold until Forest Supervisor approves projects, then disseminate out to manager for that project (whether it is the Forest Service or other agency).
- Monitoring and Evaluation- achieved by field visits after project completion (could add this component to a project as RAC if interested).
- Spending the money can be pushed out until Sept. 30 of next year (as long as obligated)
- Around \$57,000 available for projects for Columbia County RAC
- Proposals can be made for money to go toward Forest Service to complete specific projects (i.e. maintenance on a NFS ATV trail).
- RAC has ability to recommend giving more or less funding to specific proposals if the RAC feels the projects warrant different amounts than proposed.
- Outreach for project proposals was done via letters to county commissioners, RAC members, news release to local media and social media.

Elect Chairperson

- Forest Service will still do leg work of pulling together letters/meeting preparations
- Responsibilities of chairperson- facilitate meeting, review/edit notes (Forest Service will continue to take notes)
- Chairperson is a one year term (calendar year)

Decision Points and Action Items:

- **Action Item** - Mike Rassbach will follow up how long all RAC members terms are good for
- **Decision** - RAC voted unanimously in support of **Shannon McDaniel** for chairman.
- **Decision** - RAC voted unanimously in support of **Gerald Middel** as vice chairman

Project Presentations

Bulletin Boards & Handicap Campfire ring

- Requesting \$6,500 from Title II.
- Project proposes to replace 2 bulletin boards and 2 fire rings that have outlived their service life.
- Bulletin boards are kiosks.

- Federal workforce would complete the work.

Noxious Weed Control

- Requesting \$15,000 from Title II.
- Work would complete 400 acres of noxious weed control. Forest Service would work with partners including the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Question regarding cost for materials and supplies and where that amount came from.
- If this project is covering both the Tucannon and Touchet, question regarding if would need more funding than what proposed
- Monitoring component is included with proposal.

Test Project

- Requesting \$4,000 from Title II.
- Log out 5 miles of wilderness trail Rattlesnake Trail #3129 and decommission user built trails.
- Partnership with Back Country Horsemen and Washington Trails Association

Meadow Creek OHV

- Requesting \$4,500 from Title II.
- Re-establish water bars and drain dips, remove ruts from trail tread while reducing erosion and pull the outside berm back into trail prism.
- Question regarding what the loop ride was (used to be with Patrick Grade?)

Decision Points and Action Items:

- **Decision** - RAC voted to approve/recommend each project with monitoring components included (see attached voting sheet).
- **Action Item** – RAC members would like the project proponents to resubmit project proposals with additional funding attached if they could use more funding. The RAC would like a second call for projects to go out, for their consideration at another meeting.

Public Forum

- No members of the public showed up at the meeting.

Next Meeting

- **August 14, 6-8 p.m.** at Columbia County Fire Department