

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting January 21, 2009

In Attendance: Mike England, Bob Cope, Mark Stauffer, Earl Skeen, Bruce Cole, Gary Power, Hadley Roberts, Dick Hauff, Adrienne Trapani, Norma Kossler, Jerry Hamilton, Doug Westfall, Bert Doughty, Bart Wojceichowski, Dan Mulick

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

Review September 14, 2007 Notes

- Mike England motioned to approve – Earl Skeen second. All in favor – minutes approved.

Forest Supervisor Update

- Thanks to the Committee members for coming back
- We do not have the money right now, but should have it within the next week
 - A little over a million dollars
- When the legislation expired, so did the terms for the Committee members
 - When the Committee agreed to come back, they were automatically re-appointed for a term of 4 years
- Today we will not be entertaining project proposals or approving any projects
- Reminder – proposals can be made by anyone, as long as the projects are on National Forest, or benefit National Forest
- Bill's Role is the Designated Federal Official
 - Has the fiscal responsibility to ensure the funds that are spent are appropriate with the Act.

Elect RAC Chairman

- Earl Skeen motioned to re-elect Bob Cope, Dick Hauff second. Mike England motioned to cease nominations and declare Cope Chairman by acclamation, Dick Hauff second. All in favor – Bob Cope is the RAC Chairman

Comments from Commissioner Cope

- This money can be carried over. Basically we have 4 years, with an extension of one year after that.

Brief History of the Central Idaho RAC

- In 2007 we had \$134,428.00
 - Some of that money is leftover, but not sure if it will be carried over
- Between 2002 and 2007, the RAC approved projects to a total of \$819,785.00
- This year we have \$1,006,240.00

What's new for the RAC?

- Duties are expanded to monitoring of projects.

- A member would be assigned to monitor each project
- Must comply with Federal Advisory Committee
- Terminates September 30, 2011

What stays the same?

- Procedures
 - Anyone can propose projects to the RAC
 - RAC made up of 15 members, 5 members to each of 3 areas
 - Passage requires at least 3 votes of approval in each area
 - RAC recommends projects to the Designated Federal Officer (Forest Supervisor)
 - DFO can accept or reject projects
 - Unused RAC funds carry over

Review of Project Proposal Form

- Set of guidelines according to emphasis and needs from the proposals
- Solicit projects for two months (two meetings) without allocating any money until after the two month timeframe. This would give the Committee time to look through projects.
- Publicize some of the results of the accomplishments
- RAC dollars cannot be used as a match for Federal dollars
- Develop some monitoring evaluation criteria to add to the Project Proposal form
 - The full project sheets do have the monitoring criteria (a plan) on them

Schedule next meeting

- February 24, 2009 at 1:00 in Challis

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting February 24, 2009

In Attendance: Group A - Troy Ziegler, Bruce Cole, Doug Westfall, Bart Wojceichowski, Jerry Hamilton; Group B - Hadley Roberts, Dick Hauff, Dan Mulick, Bert Doughty; Group C - Bob Cope, Mark Stauffer, Earl Skeen, Adrienne Trapani, Replacement Member: Richard Smith.

Forest Service: Forest Supervisor/DFO - Bill Wood, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers - Chris Grove, Kimberly Nelson, Karen Dunlap

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

Review January 21, 2009 Notes

- Did we find out if we can carryover any monies that were leftover? Did not find out. Kent will find out.
- Bart motioned to approve minutes of January 21, 2009 – Hadley Roberts second. All in favor – minutes approved with amendments.

Agenda Review

- There is a lot of general type work to do today, not specific. RAC received numerous projects, but not likely to get to all this meeting.

Forest Supervisor Update

- Read letter of resignation from Norma Kossler
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
 - Passed around the Press Release from the Salmon-Challis National Forest
 - Many projects are multi-County. The spreadsheet only allows one County entry, so we opted to use the county with the highest unemployment rate (Lemhi).
 - The purpose of today's meeting is to screen the projects and develop a method to rank and prioritize projects

Comments from CIRAC Chair

- We need to get some thoughts, opinions and starting points from the group on how to deal with all of this money and so many projects.
 - The number one priority should be private sector jobs.
 - Roads and restoration
 - Weed control
 - Infrastructure development
 - Campground maintenance – there were significant campground projects submitted with the stimulus
 - Does anyone have any idea how much is spent in each county? The RAC has not kept track of that in the past.
 - Should not use it as a criteria

- We need to make sure to look hard at job opportunities
- There should be a certain amount of credence given to the project having something for the youth
- Get some volunteers involved
- Reminder that if we are actually looking at job creation and keeping jobs, these FS projects that are going to be done by FS road crew and other FS people, remember that those folks live and work here too and we need to support them.
- Emphasis on youth programs
- It's a Central Idaho Committee – not a COUNTY committee
- Stress additional employment for our communities
- Bart would like to see a project specifically for maintenance of allotments. Put permittees dollars in along with some RAC funds.
- How many proposals can we just absolutely kick out? Then focus on the other ones.
- The Forest Service proposals have YCC and YEP projects included
- Discussed the possibility of saying that we want to have a minimum or maximum percentage of funds to go to each category. The group agreed NOT to do it this way.
- We need to make sure to ensure sustainability on these projects. The good thing about RAC is that we can fund for maintenance in future years.
- Forest Service present a list of a few key words about the projects and the Committee could evaluate based on the criteria the group has established:
 - *Youth Programs*
 - *Private and Federal Employment*
 - *Partnerships to help stretch the dollars*
 - *Sustainability*
 - *Local Economy*

Youth Employment Program

- Steve Adams gave talk about the program
- Able to have partnerships with many agencies and private businesses
- Can use Department of Labor stimulus funds

Traditional Projects

To be approved off the top

- YCC – Lost River (\$15,300 – possible stimulus funding) and Challis-Yankee Fork/Middle Fork (\$20,000 – possible stimulus funding) – Bart moved, Dan second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.
 - If the crew number increases the RAC can approve more money to fund additional kids.
- Firewood projects in Lemhi (\$25,500), Butte (\$10,000) and Custer (\$20,000) Counties – Doug Westfall moved, Troy Ziegler second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.

- SNRA Steelhead season toilets and/or campground access to permanent toilets (\$6,000) – Doug Westfall motioned, Earl Skeen second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.

Tabled

- Porta Potties on Salmon River (\$12,000 – possible stimulus funding) – table until the next meeting

Forest Service Projects

- The Salmon-Challis NF has a list of about 75 projects to propose to the RAC totaling about \$3.8 million.
- Many of the projects were also submitted as part of the Forest's ARRA package so the forest will not be able to finalize the dollar amounts of the various requests until they hear which projects will be funded through ARRA.
- Forest will prioritize their list of proposals and sort the project using the RAC criteria. The projects will be presented at the next RAC meeting.

State, County, Public Projects

Mosquito Flat Dam & Appurtenances Repair and Rehab

- Mosquito Flat Water Users request \$20,000 RAC funding as part of this \$240,000 project to rehabilitate the embankment and associated structures which were installed in 1949. Project needs to be done this spring.
- The reservoir is located on National Forest System Lands and a popular Forest Service Campground is located nearby.
- RAC noted this project had been rejected earlier because the request for RAC funding was much larger and consisted of about 91% of the total project cost.
- Bruce Cole moved to approve, Troy Ziegler second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.
- Challis-Yankee Fork District will work with Mosquito Flat Water Users on this project.

Copper Basin Repeater

- Project rejected - does not fit the RAC criteria – No direct benefit to the resources of the Salmon Challis National Forest. General consensus for Kent to contact Fish and Game and inform them that the project will not move forward.

Salmon River Floodplain Stewardship Handbook

- Conservation Education. Indirect, not direct benefit to FS lands, resources. Bill Wood and Kent will pursue further.

Improving forest ecosystem health and soil productivity through the collection, propagation and out-planting of native plants

- Need more specific information. Kent will contact sponsor – CSI.

Idaho Project Learning Tree

- Conservation Education. Indirect, not direct benefit to FS lands. Bill Wood and Kent will pursue further.

Leesburg Stage Road Maintenance

- Need more specific information – Kent will have sponsor contact District Ranger.
- Concern about the steepness and condition of the route.

Other Forests Projects

SNRA Weed Projects and C-T Birch Creek Weed Project

- Earl will review

Project Preview Deadlines

- Kent noted that with the increase in funds available to the RAC there has been a large increase in the number of projects being submitted, particularly on the last day before and the morning of the RAC meetings. It is impossible to prepare these late projects for presentation to the RAC.
- RAC approved a deadline for project proposals of one week before the RAC meetings. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered until the following meeting.

Next meeting March 20th unless the ARRA stimulus projects have not gone through. Kent will email RAC by March 16th – if no meeting March 20th next meeting will be second week in April. Challis at 10:00.

RAC Member Projects - New Submittals

Challis Golf Course

- Project is outside the scope of RAC criteria. No direct benefit to FS lands or resources.
- Kent notify Challis City and refer them to Karma Bragg – BPA for possible funding.

Challis High School Biological Treatment of Noxious Weeds

- High School will provide detailed description – Phase 2

Morgan Creek Drainage Cooperative Noxious Weed Project

- Provide detailed description – Phase 2

Deep & Mud Creek Fencing Project

- Wildhorse Cattle Assn.
- Provide detailed description – Phase 2

Trail Creek Rd. Dust Abatement

- Lost River Highway District
- Provide detailed description – Phase 2

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

March 20, 2009

In Attendance: Group A - Troy Ziegler, Bruce Cole, Bart Wojceichowski, Jerry Hamilton; Group B - Hadley Roberts, Dick Hauff, Dan Mulick, Bert Doughty; Group C - Bob Cope, Earl Skeen, Adrienne Trapani, Mike England

Forest Service: Forest Supervisor/DFO - Bill Wood, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers - Chris Grove, Kimberly Nelson, Russ Bacon, Mike Foster

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

Introduction of RAC members and visitors – Cope

Review February 24, 2009 Notes

- Mike England moved to approve minutes of February 24, 2009. Hadley Roberts second. All in favor – minutes approved with amendments.

Forest Supervisor Update

- Update on stimulus submittals
 - Nationwide the FS submitted 5 billion dollars worth of proposals
 - Had hoped to be able to tell us today what projects on the S-C were approved, but we don't have that information yet.
 - Not at liberty to share detailed information about what projects we have proposed. The Secretary of Agriculture has told us not to.
 - Some of our projects that were submitted for stimulus are also on the RAC list. If a project gets approved through RAC and then gets funded by stimulus, the RAC project would be taken off.
- At our last meeting there were some public projects we had some misgivings about. We promised to get further information on those, so we are prepared to discuss.

Comments from CIRAC Chair

- At the very least today, we need to start prioritizing.
 - Employment
 - Youth involvement
 - Partnerships with other agencies
 - Sustainability

Kent

- We have received the Title 2 money \$1,006,240
- Under FACA, we are required to publish a notice in the Federal Register for the meeting to be official. Notice must be sent to the Federal Register 20 days before the RAC meeting. We need to re-approve last meetings projects.

- Dan Mulick moved to re-affirm and officially approve the projects agreed to last month. Troy Ziegler second. Hadley Roberts second. All in favor – minutes approved with amendments and all projects approved February 24th re-approved.
- Kent discussed the RAC Project Analysis Flow Chart

State, County, Group or Public Projects

- Floodplain Handbook
 - Information/Education
 - Fish and Game – asking for \$10,000
 - The majority of the committee thought the project was valuable and desirable, but may not comply with Title 2 and other proposed projects have higher priority benefits to Forest resources and the local economy.

North Zone Forest Service Projects

- Salmon River Road Portable Toilets
 - Prices increased due to the total bid increasing every year. We have added in one more round of servicing during the peak period. Change in cost to \$8,000
 - Clarify the date for the end of season.
 - Mike England moved to approve as long as the season runs through the end of November. Dick Hauff second. All in favor – **project approved for \$8,000 contingent that the toilets stay until at least the last day of November.**
- NZ Resource Management – Mentoring
 - Approximately 18 individuals
 - The RAC would like to back this, but there are some obvious errors in the math and some additional funding sources need to be addressed
 - Break down into three different proposals (K. Nelson).
 - Bruce Cole moved to approve \$120,000. Adrienne Trapani second. All in favor – **project approved for \$120,000**
- NZ Five Culvert Restoration
 - Require simple NEPA and some design work
 - 2 in Leadore, 3 in Hughes Creek drainage
- NZ Firewood/Slash
 - Another component of a YEP project
- Racetrack Meadow Fence
 - Came out of the Salmon Moose project
 - Realign the road to former location, put in two culverts, and add jack fence to keep ATV's off the meadow
 - No NEPA needed
- Hughes Creek Stream Restoration Project

- YEP Project
- Panther Creek Riparian Exclosure
 - YEP Project along with Upper Salmon Basin Tech team
 - On private land, does not require NEPA
 - Property owners on board
- Panther Creek Stream Restoration
 - YEP Project along with Upper Salmon Basin Tech team
 - On private land, does not require NEPA
 - Property owners on board
- NZ Trail Maintenance
 - 3-way project between FS, Back country horsemen, and YEP
 - Steen Gulch, Carmen Creek trail, McKim/Bear Valley Trail
- NZ Weed Management
 - Weed inventory along with spraying and maintenance of program
 - STEP/SCA/YEP in partner with CWMA
 - This project is independent of other weed projects
- Wallace Lake Campground Toilet
 - Replacement
- Meadow Lake Campground Toilet
 - Adding a toilet
- Newland Picnic Area Toilet
 - Replacement
- Big Deer Creek Trailhead
 - Does need NEPA
- Salmon River Road Fire Rings
 - Semi portable fire rings
- Lemhi Little Springs Riparian Exclosure
 - Protect ESA spawning fish redds
 - Does not need NEPA
- Blackrock Road Stabilization
 - Road conversion to a motorized trail open to all vehicles
 - Dozer work to narrow road a little to fix drainage issues
 - End goal is a trail that can be accessed by snowmobile groomer and search and rescue
 - No NEPA needed

- Mike England moved to approve. Bruce Cole second. All in favor (Hadley Roberts abstained) – **project approved for \$40,000**
- Deadwater
 - Lingering project – road failure in 1997
 - Need funding for NEPA
 - Could have NEPA done in a month with the funding
 - Earl Skeen moved to approve. Mike England second. All in favor – **project approved \$20,000.**
- Ditch Creek Bridge Installation
 - NEPA is done
 - Bridge is here
 - Contract is ready to go
 - Need the money to complete
- Ditch Creek and Hughes Creek Road Improvements
- Lead Based Paint Abatement
- Salmon River Bridges NEPA
 - Requesting half the price of the NEPA, the other half would come from Recreation fee dollars
- Williams Lake Road Resurface and Drainage
 - 6.7 miles from end of pavement to boat ramp
- Deadwater Stabilization
- Fountain Creek Fill Stabilization
 - Several wash outs
 - Rebuild with larger rip rap
 - Replace culvert from Fountain Creek
- Forest-wide Dust Abatement
 - Allows the Forest to treat Deep Creek, Beaver Creek and some roads on the Yankee Fork District with magnesium chloride to reduce dust and stabilize the road surface
- Forest-wide Road Maintenance
- Twin Creek retaining wall
 - NEPA is complete
- Stormy Peak Road Resurfacing

South Zone Forest Service Projects

- Carlson Lake Fencing Project
 - Need to speak with permittees to get their concurrence
 - Bring more information to the next RAC meeting

- Pass Creek Range Improvements
 - Mud Lake Water development. The Forest has received \$75,000 for this project since it was submitted
 - Prioritize what needs to be done this year and what can be spread out over a few years. Get NEPA done. Find out what contribution the permittees will be making.
 - Four miles of fencing would be the number one priority - \$1.00 to \$1.50/ft. (\$31,680)
 - Big Creek \$16,000
 - Sands \$12,000
 - Coal Creek \$4,000
 - Earl Skeen moved to approve. Bart Wojceichowski second. All in favor – **project approved for \$65,000.**

- Pistol Creek Trail Clearing
 - Some avalanche debris

- Antelope Guard Station
 - Historical site
 - Would like to reopen as a guard station

- Sawmill Canyon Rec. Volunteers

- Leafy Spurge-Bug and Bomb

- Green Lake Access

- Horseshoe Mine I&E

- Custer Motorway Improvements

- Loon Creek Road Plan and Design

- Sleeping Deer Road Design

- Antelope-Copper Basin Road
 - Narrow portions needing fixed, some culvert installation
 - Lost River highway district is interested in taking this after it is fixed

- Sawmill Canyon Road Surfacing
 - Portable rock crusher project

- Marsh Creek-Cape Horn Road Surfacing
- Morgan Creek Road Surfacing

Other National Forest Projects

- SNRA – Redfish Lake Wind Throw
 - Removal and restoration from wind event
 - Need more information (S. Adams)

Post 2-24-09 Projects

- Sawtooth Valley Water Development
 - The well is in Custer County, but some of the line will go through Blaine County. The troughs will be in Custer County.
 - Go through the numbers and trim it up. Get the NEPA done and bring to next meeting with a full proposal.
- Challis High School Biological Treatment of Noxious Weeds
 - RAC and Custer CWMA have sponsored this successful project in the past
 - Hadley Roberts moved to approve. Bert Doughty second. All in favor – Earl Skeen abstained - **project approved for \$4,500.**
- Campground Hazard Tree Removal
 - Would be a contract and a timber sale
 - Need further information (Kimberly Nelson)
 - Maybe a Boy or Eagle Scout project participation
- Leave No Trace Training Course
 - Need further information (Kimberly Nelson)
- Newland Boat Ramp
 - Need major archaeological clearance – huge cost (Russ Bacon)
- Spring Creek Campground Tree Trimming
 - Need more information (Russ Bacon)
- Picnic Table at Cache Bar
 - Need more information (Russ Bacon)
- Add exit ramp at Cache Bar
 - Need more information (Russ Bacon)
- Update Scat Machine
 - Need more information (Russ Bacon)
- Chipmunk Ski Hill

- On private property – no direct benefit to resources on National Forest
- Does not qualify for Title II funding
- Trail Creek Road Dust Abatement
 - Multi year funding request
 - Not a Forest Service road – but crosses and provides access to the Forest
 - How much Title One money is going to the Lost River highway district? (Mark Stauffer or Mike Foster to check)
- Deep & Mud Creek Fencing (Wildhorse)
 - Reconstruction and maintenance (\$8,000)
 - Troy Ziegler moved to approve. Bart W Wojceichowski second. All in favor – **project approved for \$8,000.**
- Morgan Creek Drainage Cooperative Noxious Weed Project
 - Good leverage of dollars
 - Mike England moved to approve \$6,700. Bruce Cole second. All in favor – **project approved for \$6,700.**

The RAC did not have time to discuss all of the projects on the list. Projects not discussed in this meeting will be discussed in the next RAC meeting.

Chairman Cope assigned point values to the RAC

- RAC members will assign point values to the remaining RAC projects
- Based on the four criteria
 - Employment
 - Youth involvement
 - Partnerships with other agencies
 - Sustainability
- Committee come back with their top five or ten projects

Next RAC Meeting

- Monday, April 20th in Salmon at 10:00

Public Forum

- Earl Skeen has a couple of projects that he will be bringing to the group at the next meeting.

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

10 a.m., April 20, 2009, Salmon, Idaho

In Attendance: Group A - Bruce Cole, Doug Westfall, Jerry Hamilton; Group B - Hadley Roberts, Dick Hauff, Dan Mulick, Bert Doughty; Group C - Bob Cope, Earl Skeen, Mike England

Forest Service: Acting DFO / Ranger Kimberly Nelson, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers - Chris Grove and Mike Foster, Engineer Jake Stromeyer

Note Takers: Kimberly Nelson and Kent Fuellenbach

Introduction of RAC members and visitors – Cope

Review February 24, 2009 Notes

- Mike England moved to approve minutes of March 20, 2009. Hadley Roberts second. All in favor – minutes approved.

Forest Supervisor/DFO Update (Kimberly Nelson /Acting)

- Kimberly expressed Bill's apology for not being in attendance.
- Stimulus – Will get information out as soon as we have it.
- Proposals – should make appropriate Ranger aware of the incoming proposals as the projects ultimately become a Forest project.
- Need to provide for consistency with Forest Plan, Fiscal Regulations and other Federal Laws (i.e. NEPA)
- Reminder – nation-wide 50% of the funds must go to categories 1 & 2; road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration; and stream & watershed restoration. The RAC needs to be sure to contribute to this 50%.

Comments from CIRAC Chair

- When we received the Title II money we thought we received \$1,006,240. Some of the money for the new South Idaho RAC was recorded in the CIRAC account.
- Amount actually allocated to CIRAC is \$977,753 for this year.
- At Copes request, Jake gave an update on the stimulus funding for roads, trails and facilities.
- At the very least today, we need to start prioritizing.
 - Possible moratorium on new project proposals
 - Review of projects already received but not discussed
 - Approve a number of projects

Kent

Kent discussed changes the RAC Project Analysis Flow Chart – emphasized the need to remember the project priorities set in the Secure Rural Schools Act as well as the RAC economic priorities. Three handouts- updated Flow Chart, RAC Project Priorities and CIRAC Economic Priorities.

Screening Process

- RAC Members request that we follow-up with those individuals whose projects were not selected, several folks have been wondering if their project was funded.
- Mike England requested information concerning RAC members and the “Rico Act”. Kent will follow up.
- The RAC agreed to put a temporary moratorium on new projects at the end of today’s meeting. Mike made the motion, second by Hadley. Motion approved unanimously.
- Review of new projects – see below.

Review of Projects – First Reading

The RAC decided to look at project previews that had not yet been reviewed (Projects submitted at previous meetings and new projects submitted in time for this meeting) before voting on any projects.

New Project Previews since meeting 3-20

- **Salmon River Whitewater Park**
 - Chace Slavin and others presented the proposal The Salmon River Whitewater Park, to be located at Island Park in Salmon.
 - The plan consists of recreational boating improvements as well as related bank and access improvements.
 - Whitewater drop structures would create drops and pools providing excellent fish habitat.
 - CIRAC funding requested \$100,000
 - RAC members discussed the project with proponents
 - RAC members concerned that the project is not on the Forest and would not benefit the resources on the Forest and therefore doesn’t meet the requirements of the legislation.
 - RAC discussed the project with proponents for half an hour. The project was tabled so the RAC could move on to other projects.
- **Moose Creek Estates Environmental Assessment**
 - Environmental Enhancement
 - Tree thinning – planting – spraying
 - Weed Eradication
 - Private property surrounded by Forest
 - \$52,000 requested
 - RAC will consider – need more information
 - Contact Russ Bacon – John Goodman
- **Big Deer-Clear Creek Trail Clearing**
 - Trail Maintenance of F.S. trails

- Dave Melton, Permittee would clear the trails
- Contracting questions
- \$12,540 requested
- Richard Smith to follow up with Russ Bacon and Melton

- **Strawberry Spring Solar Water Trough**
 - OPCFP – Range
 - Permittee Stephen Bachman
 - \$2,984 for solar pump and pipeline
 - Private, State, and National Forest land
 - Need more information/ discussion with C-YF Ranger, ID Lands, BLM
 - Earl Skeen to follow up

- **Big Gulch Solar Water Trough**
 - OPCFP – Range, Streams & Watersheds, Wildlife
 - Permittee Stephen Bachman
 - \$5,784 for solar pump and pipeline
 - Need more information/ discussion with C-YF Ranger
 - Earl Skeen to follow up

- **Hughes Creek Monitoring**
 - Stream & Watersheds/ Ecosystem Management
 - Ecosystem monitoring of Hughes Creek Project
 - \$10,000 requested
 - Partnership with Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group
 - Need more information on where the money would go
 - Mike England with follow up

- **Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds**
 - Noxious Weed Control
 - Lemhi CWMA – Daniel Bertram
 - \$10,000 requested
 - Need more information on what goats would be used – what weeds do they eat?
 - Kim Nelson will follow up

- **Youth and Resources Middle Fork Trips**
 - Ecosystem Health/Trail and Campsite maintenance
 - Youth leadership and natural resource education
 - YEP project
 - Dirk Gibson Middle Fork Outfitter
 - \$15,000 per trip, 4 trips per year
 - Questions about bidding the project – involving other outfitters
 - Can the RAC approve the project?
 - Chris Grove, Middle Fork Ranger will follow up

- **North Zone Trail and Property Management**
 - Trail Maintenance, a
 - YEP project
 - \$8,000 requested
 - Need more information
 - Kim Nelson to follow up

- **Middle Fork Trail Maintenance**
 - Trail Maintenance of F.S. trails
 - Ron Ense, Permittee would clear the trails
 - Contracting questions
 - \$2,500 requested
 - Bruce Cole to follow up with Kris Martinson and Ense

- ***NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors***
 - Lost River Range Improvement Maintenance Crew
 - Bio control Collection Day
 - Aminopyralid Bio Assessment
 - The Ditch Creek Bridge Installation – F.S. received other funding

Projects received from SNRA and C-T – not yet reviewed

- **C-T Birch Creek Noxious Weeds**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - Noxious Weeds
 - Partnership with BLM and landowners
 - \$10,000 requested

- **C-T ATV Barriers**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCFP – Closing illegal motorized routes
 - \$5,000 requested

- **C-T Travel Management**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCFP – Education/Information – enforcement
 - \$14,750 requested
 -

- **C-T Charcoal Kilns Protection**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCFP – Stream & Watershed protection/Maintenance of historic structures.
 - \$7,000 requested for Exclosure fence

- **C-T Charcoal Kilns Sun and Wind Shelters**
 - C-T N.F. – Dubois Ranger District w/in Lemhi County
 - OPCPF – Visitor comfort at Historical Interpretation site.
 - \$25,000 requested.

- **SNRA Conifer Encroachment**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Forest Health/Wildlife Habitat
 - \$46,000 requested

- **SNRA Salmon River Road Weeds**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Noxious Weeds
 - \$20,000 requested

- **SNRA Redfish Lake Wind Throw**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - OPCFP Safety, Firewood, Recreation Clean up
 - YEP project
 - \$45,000 requested

- **SNRA Stump Removal (project was withdrawn by sponsor)**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Will resubmit project next year

***NOTE:** The following projects had not been received by the RAC coordinator because of problems with the SNRA inter-net connection. The RAC decided to review the projects at the meeting. (see additional hand drawn poster)*

- **SNRA Hunting Season Campground Maintenance**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Facilities Maintenance – Water Quality
 - Maintain restrooms and trash collection during the hunting season
 - \$4,700 requested

- **SNRA Youth Conservation Corps**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Establish a YCC to perform various resource projects
 - Similar to YCCs funded by the RAC on Challis-Yankee Fork and Lost River Districts

- **SNRA Trail Maintenance Contracting**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA
 - Trail Maintenance
 - Request \$45,000

- Need more information on specific project location – Smokey Mountain Range is mentioned and it is located in Blaine County.
- **SNRA Tree Thinning**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Forest health
 - Request \$10,000
- **NOTE: SNRA Stump Removal proposal- withdrawn**
 - Sawtooth NF – SNRA w/in Custer County
 - Project was withdrawn by the sponsor
 - Will be resubmitted next year
- **NOTE: The Following Miscellaneous Project Proposals Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors.**
 - Leesburg Stage Road Maintenance
 - Newland Boat Ramp
 - Cache Bar Picnic Table
 - Cache Bar Exit Ramp
 - Scat Machine Upgrade

Cope's Comments

The RAC had \$977,753 to spend this year. We have approved projects for \$389,000. That leaves us \$588,753 - with more than \$3 million worth of projects to choose from. Where do you want to go from here?
Cope asked for suggestions on approving projects

Doug Westfall suggested that because the legislation strongly emphasizes road maintenance, roughly 50% of the remaining funds should go to road maintenance projects. He recommended splitting the remaining \$588,000 to 50% roads and 50% other projects. The RAC discussed the proposal and Doug moved that the RAC set a goal of selecting approximately \$250,000 in road projects. Bruce Cole seconded. The RAC approved the motion unanimously.

See the list of approved projects for more information/clarification.

PROJECT APPROVALS

Road Maintenance:

The RAC discussed the various Salmon-Challis National Forest Road Maintenance project proposals.

Doug Westfall moved to approve the following projects, seconded by Bruce Cole.

- **Forest-wide Road Maintenance - \$125,000**
- **Forest-wide Dust Abatement - 85,000**

- **Custer Motorway Improvements - 45,000**
Total \$255,000

The voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C

Other Approved Projects:

The RAC discussed a number of other non-road maintenance projects and approved the following:

- **SNRA Redfish Lake Wind Throw - \$39,200**
 - Motion to approve by Mark Stauffer, second by Mike England
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **SNRA YCC - \$10,000**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Mark Stauffer
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **SNRA Hunt Season Restrooms/Camp Maint. - \$ 4,700**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Mark Stauffer
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **Sawmill Canyon - \$ 8,000**
 - Motion to approve by Dan Muleick, second by Doug Westfall
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **Racetrack Meadow - \$20,000**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Hadley Roberts
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **NZ Firewood/Slash - \$41,000**
 - Motion to approve by Jerry Hamilton, second by Hadley Roberts
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **SNRA Sawtooth Water Development - \$40,000**
 - Motion to approve by Bert Doughty, second by Earl Skeen
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C
- **Leafy Spurge Bug & Bomb - \$25,920**
 - Motion to approve by Mike England, second by Jerry Hamilton
 - Voting was unanimous to approve in groups A, B, and C

Total Other Projects	<u>\$188,820</u>
Plus Road Maintenance	<u>\$255,000</u>
GRAND TOTAL APPROVED 4-20-09	<u>\$443,820</u>

Amount Available at start of the meeting	\$588,753
Minus Grand Total Approved	- \$443,820
TOTAL REMAINING 2009 FUND	\$144,933

RAC discussed the Middle Fork Youth and Resource Trips, which was re-formatted to include the Salmon YEP organization in recruiting. Members did not feel they had enough information to make a decision. There were concerned that other outfitters were not participating in the project, the amount of resource work needed, and the fact that the river-left side of the river is located mostly in Valley County and therefore not within the RAC boundary.

RAC discussed Salmon River Water Park further. The RAC members unanimously agreed the project is a good economic project but it does not fit within the parameters set by the legislation that the RAC has to live by. The project would not be located on the National Forest and would not directly benefit the fisheries habitat or other resources on the National Forest.

Chairman Cope - Closing

- RAC approved nearly \$145,000 in projects today.
- RAC members should go through the remaining projects to determine which projects they would like to see approved with the remaining funds.

Public Forum

- No additional comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. ???

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

10 a.m., May 21, 2009 Challis, Idaho

In Attendance: Group A - Bruce Cole, Jerry Hamilton Group B - Dick Hauff, Gary Power (Richard Smith – replacement) Group C - Earl Skeen, Mark Stauffer

Forest Service: DFO Bill Wood, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers - Chris Grove, Russ Bacon, Scott Feldhausen and Mike Foster

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

Introduction of RAC members and visitors

There is not a quorum for any of the three groups. The members who are present will vote, and Kent will call the non present members for their votes. There will be no approved projects until a quorum is established.

Review April 20, 2009 Notes

- Bruce Cole moved to approve minutes of April 20, 2009. Jerry Hamilton second. All in favor –

Forest Supervisor/DFO Update (Bill Wood)

- Diane Weaver is the Acting Range program manager and Mike Foster is acting District Ranger.
- Scott Feldhausen is acting District Ranger for the Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District. Scott is filling in for Kimberly Nelson while she is on maternity leave.
- ARRA – still waiting for the word from the Secretary's Office.
- The Secretary is also keeping a very close interest in how we manage Grants and Agreements and contracts. We now have an extra step we have to go through in that the Secretary is asking to review all Grants and Agreements and contracts. This affects 3 Range projects, the YEP project and the Mosquito Flat project. This underscores the need for projects to be closely coordinated with the District Ranger.

Comments from CIRAC Chair (Mark Stauffer)

- We have quite a few projects left on the table and we want to have each one clearly defined and represented. We have \$165,433 left to spend. Each project will be allowed five minutes to be represented.

Kent

- There is a blank form in your packets. By the end of the day each RAC member will have that form filled out by priority. Discussion will take place at the end of the meeting to determine Committee priority.

All Engineering Projects are being taken off the table, both North and South Zone.

Projects Still on the Table – State, County, Group or Public (Misc)

- Project Learning Tree (IFPC)
 - There was not a presenter for this project. However, a letter was read from the State Coordinator explaining the project.
 - Earl Skeen discussed the program. It is a really good program that teaches kids natural resources stewardship objectives.
 - This can be tied into connecting kids to the outdoors (a national movement)

- Sawtooth Native Plants (Bernadette Cooney)
 - We all know the importance of native plants. They create wildlife habitat, forage, keep out noxious and invasive weeds, and a slough of other things.
 - What makes this proposal different is that there are many entities involved.
 - This project will help meet botany targets.
 - This project would be a good project to dovetail with another project – removal of noxious weeds. Could go behind the removal of the noxious weeds and plant native plants in their place.
 - This is a great opportunity to educate.

- Trail Creek Dust Abatement
 - There is no representation for this project.

- Campground Hazard-Tree Removal
 - Assesses and removes the high risk diseased trees from campgrounds that could potentially place a risk on campers.
 - Lemhi and Custer counties managed by LCEDA.
 - Waste would be efficiently processed.
 - We are losing ground to the bark beetles.

- Leave No Trace
 - Implement and expand the training course held in a three county region (Lemhi, Custer and Butte)
 - Teaches Forest users to improve Forest health.
 - Benefits the community, youth and local communities.

- Moose Creek Estates Environmental Enhancement
 - There is no representation for this project.

- Strawberry Spring Solar Water Trough
 - Would like to reinstate the enclosure, but in order to do that, need to create a water source.

- Solar pump to pump the water from the stream inside the enclosure out to the water trough (approximately a mile away)
- Big Gulch Solar Water Trough
 - No water supply in Big Gulch for the cattle
 - Would like to reinstate the enclosure, but in order to do that, need to create a water source.
 - Solar pump to pump the water from the stream inside the enclosure out to the water trough (approximately a mile away)
 - The water trough would be sitting on State Land
- Hughes Creek Monitoring (Gina Knudson)
 - Hughes Creek was the first project between the SVS and FS and was not appealed.
 - Now we need to monitor the results, not just the FS, but multi partied.
 - The Forest Service is VERY supportive of this project.
 - YEP may be utilized.
- Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds (Daniel Bertram)
 - Have been grazing in Carmen Creek since 2001 (primarily leafy spurge)
 - Are placing permanent monitoring transects this year
 - Goats reduce seed spread
 - Leafy Spurge prefers new growth after grazing.
 - Salmon City Waterworks is being grazed this year for spotted knapweed.
 - Pilot project across the road from Newland Ranch
 - RAC funding would go completely to Carmen Creek and City Waterworks
- Bio-Control Collection Day (Daniel Bertram)
 - Did last year, and had tremendous success
 - Employs the youth
- Middle Fork Trail Clearing
 - Will keep local
- Middle Fork Youth Mentoring
 - Might be getting a little too late in the season.
 - The difficulty is what services can be contracted.
 - Would be doing resource work on the camps
- ***NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors***
 - Spring Creek CG Tree Trimming
 - Big Deer/Clear Creek Trail Clearing

Projects Still on the Table – South Zone FS

- Antelope Guard Station

- Converting to rental facility/outdoor education facility
- Need to write a site plan due to historical value

- Green Lake Access
 - ¼ mile trail used to provide access
 - Road deteriorated to point where it doesn't currently provide access
 - Effects on fish would be minimal

- Horseshoe Mine I&E Project
 - Tie into adjacent cultural interpretation projects
 - Cleanup and Interpretation
 - S. Custer Historical Society is key partner

- Carlson Lake Fence
 - New construction project
 - Carlson Lake is a high lake – a combination of seeps
 - Being impacted by grazing and OHV use
 - Fence would protect the lake

- *NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors*
 - Pistol Creek Trail Clearing

Projects Still on the Table – North Zone FS

- **NZ Trail & Property Maintenance**
 - Would be employing youth
 - Could be going through Stewardship

- **NZ Weed Management**
 - Would be employing youth and coordinating with CWMA

- **NZ Five Culvert Restoration**
 - Part going back to the Hughes Creek area
 - Finishing up design work and contracting out the NEPA or using the FS Enterprise Team
 - Could be done through Stewardship
 - The potential to turn this into local contractor employment is huge

- **Lemhi-Little Springs Riparian Exclosure**
 - Jack pole fence around little springs creek
 - 1.5 miles of fish habitat
 - Reduce sediment
 - Restore riparian vegetation
 - Improve water temperatures

Kent will update the table.

Projects Still on the Table – Other National Forests

- SNRA – Salmon River Drainage Weeds (Dave Cottle)
 - Treatment of weeds in the Salmon River corridor along hwy. 75
 - Last major area of the Forest currently being treated in house
- SNRA Trail Maintenance Contracting (Dave Cottle)
 - Some concern about some of the trails being located outside of Custer County. In the process of estimating exactly how much is outside.
 - Reduce request to \$30,000
 - Can employee YEP
- SNRA Tree Thinning (Jim Reinholt)
 - Actively harvesting beetle killed timber
 - In restoration mode
 - There are unmerchantable trees
 - Would like to go back to private land and really treat it
 - Educational for the kids
- CT – Charcoal Kilns Fence Replacement (Richard Newton)
 - Have a lot of visitors at that site, and would like to keep the cows out
 - Would be contracted
- CT – Birch Creek Weeds (Richard Newton)
 - Money would augment monies from the CWMA
 - Joint effort with various counties and some of the BLM folks
- CT – Travel Management Education (Richard Newton)
 - Hire a person to be a trail ranger to help enforce the motorized use rules and regs
 - Help identify trail maintenance needs
- CT – ATV Barriers (Richard Newton)
 - Pretty sure will be getting stimulus money to accomplish this
- ***NOTE: The Following Projects Were Withdrawn by Their Sponsors***
 - SNRA – Conifer Encroachment (Dave Cottle)
 - CT – Charcoal Kilns Sun & Wind Shelters

Clarification of an already approved project (Carmela Leavitt)

Pass Creek Range Improvement project update (Carmela Leavitt)

- NEPA is cleared for 3 miles of fence and 2 water pumps
- Originally asked for contract dollars, but now need labor

- Would like to fund range riders for 79 days
- A redirection of dollars

Earl Skeen moved to approve the clarification of the project, seconded by Bruce Cole.

Voting was unanimous to approve in Groups A, B and C (noting there is not a quorum and other voting members will be contacted for their vote).

PROJECT APPROVALS

Project Learning Tree: \$15,000

Campground Hazard-Tree Removal: \$23,840

Moose Creek Estates Environmental Enhancement: \$52,000

Hughes Creek Monitoring: \$10,000

Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds: \$10,000

Bio-Control Collection Day: \$1,000

Middle Fork Trail Clearing: \$2,500

Middle Fork Youth Monitoring: \$36,000

Green Lake Access: \$15,000

Carlson Lake Fence: \$20,000

NZ Five Culvert Restoration: \$40,000

Hughes Creek Stream Restoration: \$50,340

Panther Creek Stream Restoration: \$34,130

NZ Trail Maintenance: \$7,000

NZ Weed Management: \$70,000

NZ Trail & Property Maintenance: \$8,000

SNRA – Salmon River Drainage Weeds: \$10,000

SNRA – Tree Thinning: \$10,000

CT – Birch Creek Weeds: \$10,000

CT – Charcoal Kilns Fence Replacement: \$5,000

Gary moved, Earl second.

GRAND TOTAL APPROVED 5-21-09 **\$172,000**

Amount Available at start of the meeting	\$165,433
Minus Grand Total Approved	- \$172,000
TOTAL REMAINING 2009 FUND	\$- 9,567

Public Forum

- Daniel Bertram thanks the Committee for the work and effort they put into this process.

CIRAC Project Approvals from May 21, 2009 Meeting - Balloting

CIRAC member name: TALLEY				
Notes: BW noted he would be unable to vote on any of the projects until he had further information.				
Project Name	Funding	YES Vote	NO Vote	Approved?
SVS Hughes Cr. Monitoring	\$10,000	Group A: BCl, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, ME, MS, BCp, AT	Group A: Group B: Group C:	YES (14/0)
NZ Five Culvert Restoration	\$80,000 \$40,000 <i>(Reduced during meeting)</i>	Group A: BCl, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, HR, GP, Group C: ES, ME, MS, BCp, AT	Group A: Group B: DM, Group C:	YES (13/1)
Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds	\$10,000	Group A: BCl, JH, TZ Group B: DH, DM, GP, Group C: ES, MS, BCp, AT	Group A: DW Group B: BD, HR, Group C: ME,	YES (10/4)
Youth and Resources Middle Fork Work Trips – Mentoring*	\$36,000 <i>(Reduced during meeting)</i> (\$12,000/expedition 3 trips)	Group A: BCl, TZ Group B: DH, DM, GP, Group C: ES, AT	Group A: DW, JH Group B: BD, HR, Group C: <u>ME, MS, BCp,*</u>	NO (7/7)
Green Lake Access**	\$15,000	Group A: BCl, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, GP,* Group C: ES, ME, MS, BCp, , AT	Group A: Group B: Group C:	YES (13/0)

NZ Trail Maintenance	\$52,973 \$7,000 <i>(Reduced during meeting)</i>	Group A: BCI, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, , ME, MS, BCp, , AT	Group A: Group B: Group C:	YES (14/0)
SNRA-Salmon River Rd Weeds	\$20,000 \$10,000 <i>(Reduced during meeting)</i>	Group A: BCI, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, MS, BCp, AT	Group A: Group B: Group C: ME,	YES (13/1)
NZ Trail & Property Management	\$8,000	Group A: BCI, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, ME, MS, BCp, , AT	Group A: Group B: Group C:	YES (14/0)
Bio-Control Collection Day	\$1,000	Group A: BCI, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, ME, MS, BCp, , AT	Group A: Group B: Group C:	YES (14/0)
CT-Charcoal Kilns Fence Replacement	\$7,000 \$5,000 <i>(Reduced during meeting)</i>	Group A: BCI, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, ME, MS, BCp , AT	Group A: Group B: Group C:	YES (14/0)
Carlson Lake Fence	\$20,000	Group A: BCI, JH, DW, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, MS, BCp, AT	Group A: Group B: Group C: ME,	YES (13/1)

The following project was approved by the members present as a contingency project. It would be funded if other approved projects are canceled or not completed.

SNRA Three Thinning	\$10,000 <i>(To be funded if other projects are canceled)</i>	Group A: BCI, JH, TZ Group B: BD, DH, DM, HR, GP, Group C: ES, ME, MS, BCp, AT	Group A: DW Group B: Group C:	YES (13/1)
Grand Total funded	\$136,00			
2009 funding left	\$165,333 <u>-136,000</u> \$ 29,333			

Initials are used to identify RAC member votes

Group I - BCI = Bruce Cole, DW=Doug Westfall, JH=Jerry Hamilton, TZ=Troy Ziegler
Bart W. abstained from voting (Did not attend 5-21 meeting, did not return electronic ballot, sent note declining to vote because he did not feel he had enough information).

Group II – BD=Bert Doughty, DH=Dick Hauff, DM=Dan Muleik, HR=Hadley Roberts, GP = Gary P. voted during the 5-21 meeting, but did not respond to the e-mail ballot. I used his votes from the meeting.

Group III - AT=Adrienne Trapani, BCp=Bob Cope, ES=Earl Skeen, ME=Mike England, MS=Mark Stauffer.

** Hadley R. had a question mark on the “Green lake Access” project so no vote was recorded.

Troy Z voted for “SNRA Tree Thinning and Goat Grazing on Noxious Weeds” by phone 5-19-09 and hand

Delivered the ballot later

***All Projects were approved except “Youth and Resources Middle Fork Work Trips” which received**

7 YES votes and 7 NO votes, three of which were in group C.

Because a majority is required in each group the project was not approved.

The votes represented in this tally were received and recorded by me from CIRAC member ballots sent

by e-mail, hand-delivered, or by phone from May 22 to June 1, 2009. The votes indicates the RAC

members approved all the projects on tally list except the “Youth and Resources Middle Fork Work Trips.”

s/Kent Fuellenbach

Kent Fuellenbach
Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator 6/01/09

CIRAC Vote for May 21, 2009 Meeting

Talley of Votes on Pass Creek Range Improvements amendment

Project Name	Discussion from the DRAFT RAC meeting minutes 5-21-09	Vote: Yes or No
Pass Creek Range Improvements	<p>Pass Creek Range Improvement project update (Carmela Leavitt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RAC has approved \$65,000 for the first stage of the project including the construction of approximately 4.25 miles of fence. • NEPA is cleared for 3 miles of fence and 2 water pumps. • The district will be able to complete only 3.25 miles of fence this year. • Would like to use the money approved for the extra mile of fence to fund range riders for 79 days. Or if that is not possible to use the money for materials for the project. • This would be a redirection of dollars – not additional funding for the project. <p>Earl Skeen moved to approve the clarification of the project, seconded by Bruce Cole. <i>(Please indicate your vote in the column at right and return to Kent)</i></p>	

Tally of Votes

		Yes	No	Yes w/ materials only	No w/ range riders
Group A					
BCI	Meeting 5/21	X			
JH	e-mail 6/02			X	X
DW	Phone 6/04	X			
BW	Phone 6/02			X	X
TZ	Phone 6/04	X			
Group B					
BD					
DH	Meeting 5/21	X			
GP	Meeting 5/21	X			
HR					
DM	Phone 6/02	X			
Group C					
BCp					
ME	e-mail		X		
ES	Meeting 5/21	X			
MS	Meeting 5/21	X			
AT	e-mail 6/03	X			

<p>The votes represented in this tally were recorded in the 5/21 meeting notice or recorded by me from CIRAC member ballots sent by e-mail, or by phone from June 1 to June 4, 2009. Three members of each RAC group voted Yes to approve the amendment to the Pass Creek Range Improvement Project to allow changes in the use of some project funds to allow funding for range riders for 2009 only (no increase in project funding). I was unable to contact Bert Doughty, Hadley Roberts or Bob Cope for their votes on the amendment.</p> <p><i>s/ Kent Fuellenbach</i></p> <p>Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator 6/04/09</p>					

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

1 p.m., October 19, 2009 Salmon, Idaho

In Attendance: Group A - Bruce Cole, Jerry Hamilton Group B - Dick Hauff, Gary Power, Hadley Roberts, Bert Doughty Group C - Earl Skeen, Mark Stauffer, Bob Cope, Adrienne Trapani, Mike England

Forest Service: DFO Bill Wood, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers – Kris Martinson, Russ Bacon, Diane Weaver, Dave Cottle SNRA

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

Introduction of RAC members and visitors

Review May 21, 2009 Notes

- Mark Stauffer moved to approve minutes of May 21, 2009. Earl Skeen second. All in favor – minutes approved.

Forest Supervisor/DFO Update (Bill Wood)

- The Regional Forester received a letter from Jon Marvel, Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project (attached). He has concerns about the manner in which we funded the Pass Creek project. The Regional Forester responded to Mr. Marvel (attached). Upon receipt of this letter, the District Ranger notified the range rider that we could not continue to fund the riding.

Comments from CIRAC Chair (Bob Cope)

- We are going to be under heavier scrutiny than in early years due to the fact that now there is much more money to be spent. The RAC has done some very good work and if we don't get the members to attend the meetings, no decisions can be made.
- The May meeting essentially did not happen because there was no quorum.
- There is no quorum today, therefore no decisions will be made.

Kent

- We are required to send a notice to the Federal Register weeks before a meeting is scheduled to happen. If folks commit to a meeting and then do not come to the meeting, rescheduling is not an easy process.

Review of 2009 Projects

YCC crew \$15,300 (Lost River Ranger District)

- We were able to hire three boys and one girl, two of these kids were from Mackay High School and two were from Butte High School. They were a great crew and accomplished an incredible amount of work this summer.

- .3 miles of trail reconstruction on the Green Lake Trail
- Sanded and painted picnic tables at Broad Canyon Trailhead
- Oiled the new restroom , cleaned up slash piles, maintained the fence at Wildhorse Campground
- Built new rail fence and sanded the porch at the Fairview Guard Station
- Sanded/painted 21 tables, painted 2 information boards, painted 2 bathrooms , and grubbed sagebrush from 12 camp spots at Ironbog Campground
- Conducted population surveys for whitefish and bull trout
- Stocked cutthroat trout at Big Fall Creek Lake
- Conducted mountain lake surveys for fish populations and recreation impacts
- Salvaged and planted whitefish

Sawmill Canyon volunteers \$6,900 (Lost River Ranger District)

- This funding paid for a vehicle, gas, and per diem (\$21/day each for 2 people). These two people are the eyes and ears for me in this area, as well as accomplishing a huge amount of daily and project work. They:
 - Talk to everyone – visit every campsite. There was an average of 25 camp trailers each week in the Sawmill area in August, with 86 camp trailers over Labor Day weekend. There could be anywhere from four to eight people with each trailer, therefore there were probably an average of 100 to 200 people in this area every week that these volunteers contacted. They develop personal relationships with many visitors, a large number of which are people that return to camp in Sawmill every summer. This personal contact helps promote an atmosphere of good will, compliance, safety, and ownership with the visitors and the Forest Service.
 - Worked with the YCC crew on repairs and maintenance of the Fairview Guard Station
 - Sanded and painted picnic tables at Mill Creek trailhead and Timber Creek campground
 - Maintained the at Timber Creek Campground
 - Conducted fire prevention work with signing, putting out unattended campfires, cleaning campfire rings, talking to visitors about fire prevention
 - Talked to visitors about traveling on designated routes only. When necessary, they call law enforcement to deal with violations of the travel plan. Their presence, whether they were actually driving around the area or the fact that it was known that they were staying at the Guard Station, keeps many visitors more compliant with travel management laws and reduces potential resource damage
 - Worked with Butte County Deputies and FS law enforcement

- Assisted with responses and first aid at vehicle accidents

Green Lake Access \$17,500 (Lost River Ranger District)

- Contract was let to Dale Merrill and he began working on the road in early October. Weather has been a hindrance but we are still hoping it will be completed by end of the fall.

Biological control of noxious weeds \$12,320 (Lost River Ranger District)

- With the help of a FS helicopter, the YCC crew and the Butte County CWMA they collected 31,000 bugs and made 31 drops using the Challis FS helicopter to treat leafy spurge. Brad Gamett, Butte County CWMA, released insects on an additional 29 remote infestations by helicopter. Flight time was also used to inventory remote areas locating nine more sites that will be treated in 2010. Bugs were also purchased and released on ten different sites to treat Canada thistle.

Butte Co CWMA \$13,600 (Lost River Ranger District)

- Butte County inventoried and sprayed 175 acres.

Pass Creek Improvements and Riders \$65,000 (Lost River Ranger District)

- \$45,000 for range improvement projects to assist livestock management and protect bull trout :
 - Constructed an electric fence around Basin Creek,
 - Realigned Wet Creek pasture to keep livestock out of Wet Creek
 - Installed two solar water pumps, pipelines and troughs

Deep and Mud Creek Fence - \$8000

- This project was proposed by a permittee for reconstruction of two small fences. Due to FS processes and regulations for contracting work, the only bid received through our contracting office was for \$13,000 for 1/3 mile of fence. That was for labor only, the FS was going to supply the materials. The bid was turned down.

Roads Projects

PROJECT	Approved	Spent/Obligated	Balance
Forest Wide Dust Abatement	\$85,000	\$89,197	-\$4,197

<u>Roads</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Beaver Creek	5.0
Marsh Creek	1.0
Yankee Fork	5.0
Deep Creek	7.0
Williams Creek	<u>5.0</u>
Total	23.0

Project Completed in Early July

PROJECT	Approved	Spent/Obligated	Balance
Forest Wide Road Mtc.	\$125,000	\$123,304	\$1,696

Tupco - Blackfoot - In Progress

Road	Length	Est. Price Blading	Est. Price Watering	Task Order Price
Colson-State Line	27.5	\$8,937.50	\$0.00	\$8,937.50
State Line	17.8	\$5,785.00	\$0.00	\$5,785.00
Spring Creek	7.1	\$2,307.50	\$0.00	\$2,307.50
Horse Creek	7.8	\$2,535.00	\$0.00	\$2,535.00
Sage-Hull Creek	5.6	\$1,820.00	\$1,680.00	\$3,500.00
Hughes Creek	3.4	\$1,105.00	\$1,020.00	\$2,125.00
West Fk. Hughes Creek	7.8	\$2,535.00	\$2,340.00	\$4,875.00
Ridge Road North	23.4	\$7,605.00	\$0.00	\$7,605.00
Diamond Creek	17.3	\$5,622.50	\$0.00	\$5,622.50
Morgan-Panther	42.5	\$15,937.50	\$14,875.00	\$30,812.50
	160.2	\$54,190.00	\$19,915.00	\$74,105.00
Mob Grader				\$1,000.00
Mob Water				\$800.00
Task Total				\$75,905.00

Hopkins - Enterprise OR - Completed September

ROAD	Length	Est. Price Blading	Est. Price Watering	Task Order Price
Beaver Creek	14.6	\$4,234	\$730	\$4,964
Challis Creek	9.9	\$2,871	\$495	\$3,366
Morgan-Panther	10.5	\$3,255	\$735	\$3,990
Marsh Creek	6.9	\$2,001	\$345	\$2,346
Squaw Creek	4.0	\$1,160	\$200	\$1,360
Trealor Creek	2.6	\$754	\$130	\$884
Stanley-Landmark	0.6	\$186	\$42	\$228
Stanley-Landmark	2.4	\$696	\$120	\$816
Stanley-Landmark	5.2	\$1,508	\$260	\$1,768
Beaver-Loon Loop	41.1	\$11,919	\$0	\$11,919
Beaver-Loon Loop	5.7	\$1,767	\$399	\$2,166
	103.5	\$30,351	\$3,456	\$33,807
Mob Grader				\$1,200
Mob Water				\$800
Task Total				\$35,807

Hopkins - Enterprise OR - Completed September

Road	Length	Est. Price Blading	Est. Price Watering	Task Order Price
Leadbelt	5.5	1595	\$275	\$1,870
Left Fork Iron Bog	3.0	870	\$0	\$870
Copper Basin	17.6	5104	\$0	\$5,104
Sawmill Canyon	10.0	2900	\$500	\$3,400
Redrock Loop	6.4	1856	\$320	\$2,176
Timber Creek	2.2	638	\$110	\$748
Quigley Bear Loop	5.7	1653	\$285	\$1,938
	50.4	14616	\$1,490	\$16,106
Mob Grader				\$1,200
Mob Water				\$800
Task Total				\$18,106

Total all Tasks

\$129,818*

**PROJECT
Custer Motorway Road Improvements**

Approved
\$45,000

*Balance covered by other funds
Spent/Obligated
\$44,494

Balance
\$506

Project in progress.

2.5 miles of culvert and surfacing work on the Corkscrew Grade and approximately 3 miles of surfacing on Challis Creek Road.

Project supplemented by other Forest funds. Total Project cost ~ \$95,000

**PROJECT
Blackrock road stabilization**

Approved
\$40,000

Spent/Obligated
\$19,106

Balance
\$20,894

5 miles of road reconstructed by Forest Road Crew.

Completed in June

**PROJECT
Deadwater Reconstruction Plan**

Approved
\$20,000

Spent/Obligated
\$13,215

Balance
\$6,785

Project 75% Complete - Need to finish WSR Section 7 document. Could use balance of funds to complete.

Used other funds to provide survey, design, and contract package for the project.

**PROJECT
Green Lake Access**

Approved
\$15,000

Spent/Obligated
\$11,908

Balance
\$3,092

Project under contract with Dale Merrill of Arco.
Project area received 20" of snow on start date.
Project will likely not happen until next summer.

Carlson Lake

- Funds for youth labor were obligated through an existing agreement and funds for a portion of the materials and supplies were expended in FY09. Some additional supplies will be purchased in FY10, and the project is scheduled to be implemented during this next summer when the area is snow-free.

Mosquito Flat

- The RAC's portion of the funds for reconstruction of the Mosquito Flat Reservoir Dam were expended and the project was completed, including replacement of the outlet pipe sleeve, reconstruction of the spillway, and expansion of the buttresses.

YCC Challis-Yankee Fork/Middle Fork

- RAC funds supported a very successful season for the YCC crew.
- Accomplishments included building range fences, re-painting campground tables, installing interpretive signs at Custer Town site, piling slash from hazard tree removal in recreation sites, and cleanup at the Loon Creek Guard Station.

Noxious Weeds

- Two projects associated with noxious weed management were funded in 2009 on the SZ of the forest. Both projects were awarded to the Custer County CWMA and managed by Tommy Gionet, the SZ program manager.
- The Participating agreement between the forest and the CWMA was updated and an annual operating plan was developed.
- The First of the two projects was the Envirothon Team Biological Treatment.
 - This project was a great success; Members of the Challis High School Envirothon team collected and redistributed two different bio-control agents one targeted at Leafy Spurge, the other at spotted knapweed. In addition to collecting and redistributing bio-control agents they assisted in the management of the insectaries themselves by chemically treating the outer perimeter to maintain containment of both the agents and the target species.
- The second project, also a success was a cooperative weed treatment project in the Morgan Creek drainage.
 - Multiple weed species were treated on Private, State and Federal lands (both BLM & FS) within the drainage. RAC funding for the two projects combined was \$11,200.00, and that amount has been invoiced to the Albuquerque Service Center

YEP projects

General - Almost no work was accomplished due to the challenges associated with getting the Regional agreement in place. Dan Garcia was able to get one YEP student hired through a different agreement for some work to be accomplished in the NZ Resource Management-Mentoring project. Other than that, no YEP employees were

used. Some supplies were purchased in anticipation of agreements being signed so some RAC Money has been spent.

NZ Firewood Slash, paper for covering hand piles was purchased, no other work completed

NZ Resource Management- Monitoring - As mentioned, one YEP employee was hired late in the year to accomplish some fish surveys, FS seasonal were hired that would have supervised the YEP crews but because no YEP crews were hired, they worked on monitoring.

Race Track Meadows - No work accomplished

NZ Trail Maintenance and NZ Trail and Property Management - No work completed

Non-YEP projects

Salmon River Road Toilets = Contract Awarded, came in less than last year

SVS- Hughes Creek Monitoring - Agreement signed, money obligated. This 10K has already allowed SVS to compete for additional Aspen related grant dollars so it has been a great investment

NZ Five culverts - 40,000 was contracted for design work for all of these projects, we anticipate working on NEPA this winter and hope to begin implementation in the coming years. Each of these projects can easily end up being a 100,000 dollar project so the investment from RAC can certainly lead to more local contractor opportunities.

SNRA – early opening of campgrounds for steelhead season. (March or April)

Fence at the Charcoal Kilns – C-T (complete)

The RAC will track individual project costs and report at each meeting.

Preparing for RAC projects 2010 and beyond

The Committee needs a better list of project proposals. There needs to be a better system of compiling projects and presenting to the group.

- A group of RAC members and Forest Resource Specialists will work with our budget folks and grants and agreement Specialists and create a guide for project proposals.
 - RAC Members - Adrienne Trapani, Mike England and Dick Hauff

- Set two timelines for submitting projects. The second timeline will be contingent on money leftover from the first timeline.
- Public forum held at each Ranger District – Adrienne
- Website for RAC – Adrienne
- Make sure a Ranger has seen each proposal prior to going to the RAC

Next meeting: February 16, 2010 (Salmon) (let Kent know by mid-January if that date does not work)

Deadline for submitting projects: January 1, 2010

Informal work session: January 14, 2010 (Challis)

Public Forum

Comments from Members

Mike England

- Hughes Creek Bridge is very nice. Received a lot of comments from folks that they are using it. Nice addition.

Gary Power

- The firewood project is very popular and is something everyone can identify with.

Mark Stauffer

- Are we going to be facing anything like the stimulus moneys that we received last year?
 - Received three pots of money so far. The only other money would be deferred maintenance on the Salmon River Corridor.