

Gallatin RAC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

This meeting was held from 8:00-noon on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform. There were videoconference and phone line options.

Joe Josephson welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order. He spoke to land stewardship and how it has been going on for millenia in our valley by native peoples, and what an opportunity it was to carry on that tradition of stewardship in a present day manner. Kathy Minor (DFO) also welcomed everyone.

RAC members present were:

- Category A: Garry Edson, Joe Josephson (Chair), Esther Fishbaugh (co-chair), Jon Hudson, Sam Magro
- Category B: Robert Knapp, Daniel Porter, Aaron Clausen
- Category C: Donald Seifert, Patrick Cross, Ronald Normandeau, Peter Bennett

After a general welcome and Introduction to the Teams platform, Kat determined that there was a quorum of members for the meeting.

Forest Service personnel present included:

- Kathy Minor, CGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor and RAC Designated Federal Official
- Kat Barker, CGNF RAC Coordinator
- Karen Tuscano, CGNF Budget Analyst
- Lin Goettlich, CGNF Budget Officer
- Mariah Leuschen Lonergan, Public Affairs and tech Support
- Marna Daley, Public Affairs and Tech Support
- Magen Crowley, Execultive Assistant
- Corey Lewellen, Bozeman District Ranger
- Wendi Urie, Bozeman Recreation Program Manager
- Melissa Simpson, CGNF Recreation Program Manager
- Jason Brey, Hebgen Lake District Ranger
- Caleb Schreiber, West Zone Fuels

Lin gave a brief presentation on the current RAC status and re-authorization timelines. He discussed how the allocated funds this year were smaller than in the past due to the 5.7% sequestration taken by Congress last June. He noted that this may likely be the last time this RAC meets under this authorization and that he suggested spending all of the funds available since there would likely not be a chance to spend it later. He also noted that all RAC funds awarded must be spent out or obligated by September 2023.

Joe then reviewed the protocol for the meeting and Kathy briefly discussed the difference in the roles of the USFS and the RAC.

Karen then went over the funding allocations and spreadsheet, after which Kat gave an overview the agenda and process the members would be going through this day. She then gave a brief review of the six projects. There were no clarifying questions at the time.

Break

Kat and Joe facilitated the presentations in order of those who had rsvp'd in advance. Each presentation was held to 4-5 minutes. All project proponents were able to present and committee members took the opportunity to ask questions. Presenters were: Chris Nygren (GVBC), Stephanie Beeman (MCC), Roger Jenkins (Wild Montana), Kyle Marvinney (FoH), Pat Rooney (SWMMBA), Caleb Schreiber (WZ Fuels).

After the presentations, Kat explained the process for the break-out sessions. She described the technical side of the break-out rooms (held on separate Teams meetings set up for each Category). Joe then explained the expectations and goals of the break-out rooms. Each break-out room had a Forest Service representative present (Magen, Mariah and Marna) for tech support and to answer or direct questions when necessary. Kathy remained in the main Teams meeting room and Kat and Karen moved between the break-outs.

After the break-out sessions, all members came back to the main Teams meeting. With Karen working the spreadsheet in real time over the videoconference, the group started populating the spreadsheet and went through their voting process. Each Category shared their allocations and then the group spent time deliberating and discussing each project and coming to compromises on amounts.

Ron Normandeau motioned to vote on the allocations as shown on the spreadsheet and Joe seconded it. The Yea votes were unanimous. The award allocations are attached to the meeting minutes.

Karen suggested the committee also identify a priority project in the rare event that additional funds became available. The committee worked to identify two projects as priorities: The MCC project and the Hebgen Fuels project. Any additional funds would be split 50/50 between the two projects.

Following the final recommendations, Kat gave a brief presentation on past RAC project updates.

Joe and Kathy closed the meeting out with thanks and appreciation. No future meetings were scheduled at this time. The meeting adjourned at noon.

2021 Gallatin RAC Projects

Remaining Funds from Previous Round	15,158
New Funds Available	38,840
Total Funds Available	53,998

Project Name	Project Submitted By	District Location	Title II Requested Amount	Amount Approved on 10/13/2021
1) Langohr Accessible Trail Improvements	Friends of Hyalite	Bozeman RD	\$8,000.00	\$7,000
2) Trail Maintenance	Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen	Bozeman RD	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
3) MCC Youth and Young Adult Service on Prioritized Trails in CGNF	Montana Conservation Corps	Bozeman RD	\$26,000.00	\$19,000
4) North Hebgen Fuels	Hebgen Lake RD/west zone fuels program	Hebgen Lake RD	\$10,000.00	\$6,498
5) Leverich Canyon Trail Sustainability Project	SW Montana Mountain Bike Association	Bozeman RD	\$9,355.00	\$9,000
6) Securing a Second Wilderness Ranger for Bozeman Ranger District	Wild Montana-Madison Gallatin Chapter	Bozeman RD	\$7,500.00	\$7,500
			\$65,855.00	\$53,998