

Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
October 28, 2003

Members Present:

Group A

Lee Disney
Tim Ryan
Tony Johnson

Group B

Robyn King
Wayne Hirst
Bill Martin

Group C

Eileen Carney
Russ Hudson

Members Absent:

Ken Stevens
Keith Glover

Peter Kitts
Tim Lineman

Rita Windom
Bruce Vincent
Marianne Roose*
Gary Huntsberger

*Designates replacement members

Forest Service Present:

Bob Castaneda – Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Malcolm Edwards – Libby District Ranger, and Barbara Edgmon – RAC Coordinator

Public Present:

None

Meeting Notes:

Lee Disney led the RAC in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

A motion to accept the minutes from the August 25th, meeting was approved.

Lee Disney led the RAC in a discussion on possible field trips for next year. The following are suggestions for planning field trips:

- Open to the public (need to provide their own transportation)
- RAC could split into groups to visit more sites and report back to the group
- Look at good and not-so-good projects
- Continue to get ideas for field trips
- Visit the following sites: Bobtail Watershed, 3 fuel projects in Troy, Yaak Headwaters along with Dodge Summit.

Further discussion will take place at a later meeting.

Possible changes to the Project Proposal form include:

- Require before and after photos of the project. Allow money for photo expense.
- Identify partners
- NEPA – is it required? If not, why. NEPA completion date if not already done.
- Add Categorical Exclusion designation

Changes to be finalized at the next meeting.

A discussion on when to accept project proposals was held with the following ideas brought forth:

- Is it possible to approve projects earlier in the year? Would need amount of funds the County Commissioners approve for the RAC to utilize before approving projects.
- Would be helpful for the Forest Service and other partners to know what types of projects the RAC is interested in funding. RAC could provide a priority list.

The RAC asked that the Forest Service provide a presentation on the inventory of barriers to fish passage that was completed this summer.

A handout of the status of projects approved for funding in 2003 was provided. The Forest Service will continue to track projects and provide information to the RAC. The Callahan Creek Trail project easement negotiations are on going. Work has been completed on the Old Highway 2 project. The Turner Mountain parking lot project is currently out for bid and should be awarded soon. The Forest Service will award and pay for directly with RAC funds so the County will not need to loan money for this project.

Bob Castaneda advised that if RAC projects are completed under budget the surplus can be used to cover under funded projects and/or carried over to fund other projects.

Malcolm Edwards gave a power point presentation on the Bobtail Creek Watershed project that included before and after photos. An update on the Osprey Landing project was also provided.

A copy of the Charter Renewal that extends the regulations for Montana RACs for 2 years was provided.

The Forest Service Washington Office as of this date has not filled the 2 vacant positions for RAC replacement members.

The next meeting will be on January 12, 2004 at the Supervisors Office in Libby starting at 6:30.

Agenda topics for the next meeting:

Field trips for 2004

Priority list of type of projects considered for funding

Revision of proposal form

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Notes by Barbara Edgmon
November 13, 2003