

Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
January 12, 2004

Members Present:

Group A

Lee Disney
Tim Ryan
Tony Johnson
Ken Stevens
Keith Glover

Group B

Robyn King
Peter Kitts
Tim Lineman

Group C

Gary Huntsberger
Rita Windom
Bruce Vincent
Marianne Roose*

Members Absent:

Wayne Hirst-excused
Bill Martin

Russ Hudson-excused
Eileen Carney-excused

*Designates replacement members

Forest Service Present:

Bob Castaneda – Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Malcolm Edwards – Libby District Ranger, Mike Balboni – Three Rivers District Ranger, Barbara Edgmon – RAC Coordinator and Sandi Mason – Facilitator.

Public Present:

Marie Cripe

Meeting Notes:

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

A motion to accept the minutes from the October 28th, 2003 meeting was approved.

The RAC approved the following field trips for 2004:

- Fall meeting in the Yaak with field trips (Yaak Headwaters & Dodge Summit)
- Spring meeting in Troy with a field trip (3 fuel projects)
- Mid-summer field trip to Bobtail Watershed project and maybe to
- Turner Mountain Ski area
- Mid-summer to Eureka/Fortine (Grave Creek and Thirsty Lake Fuels)

The RAC will review project proposals using the following priority list:

(Minimum 50% required for Road and Water work)

- Streams Restoration (work that benefits streams directly will have priority)
- Road Restoration
(Other types of projects)
- Recreation/Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Weeds
- Fuels Reduction/Thinning
- Other education (leverage with Title III funds), grazing and agriculture.

Priority will be given to projects with partnerships.

Bob Castaneda addressed the RAC on the following:

- At the next RAC meeting the Forest Service could provide a list of recreation, weeds and fuel areas that may need funding.
- The Department has not yet named RAC replacement members. The applications have been sent again.
- There will be a National RAC meeting in RENO on March 25, 2004. One member from each group is invited to attend. The Payment to States meeting will be held on March 26 thru 28 also in Reno.

Robyn King provided information on the Yaak Headwaters project. They estimated having \$6,200 left over after all bills have been paid. They would like to use those funds for the other projects listed on their proposal. RAC agreed that a new project proposal needs to be submitted for those projects for the RAC to review and consider.

The Lincoln County Commissioners have not set an amount to allot for Title II for fiscal year 2005. They will review the projects that have been funded and see how well they went.

The RAC set a cutoff date of July 1st for accepting project proposals. They plan to review, organize and vote on once the budget for 2005 has been set by the County Commissioners. Decisions have to be made by September 30th.

Bob Castaneda and Lee Disney will gather project information and do a news interview with local media.

Lee Disney will have a completed logo by the March 3rd meeting.

If Ranger Districts would like to have their 2004 un-funded projects considered for funding in 2005 they need to resubmit (on the new form) for consideration. No presentations are needed unless requested by the RAC.

The RAC approved the following changes to the Project Proposal form:

- 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
- Incorporate new form with the form used in 2004.

All projects need to be submitted on the new form. Barbara Edgmon will have posted on the web page and sent to Rangers by the end of the week.

The following RAC members were selected to attend the National RAC meeting in Reno on March 25, 2004:

- Group A – Lee Disney
- Group B – Robyn King or Wayne Hirst
- Group C – Rita Windom

If they are not able to attend alternates can be selected.

RAC will have meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00pm starting in March.

The next meeting will be on March 3, 2004 at the Supervisors Office in Libby starting at 6:00pm.

Agenda topics for the next meeting:

- Forest Service projects that may need funding
- RAC logo

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Notes by Barbara Edgmon
January 15, 2004