



NEWS

Release

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Colville National Forest

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2002-3 Colville Resource Advisory Committee



2002/03 Colville
Resource Advisory
Committee.

Members clockwise
from left:

Eva Gayle Six,
Joanne Hirabayashi,
Dave Weeman,
Wayne Madson, Tim
Coleman, John
Eminger (chairman),
Mike Hanson, Don
Super, Sharon Sorby
and Eric Weatherman
(not pictured: Linda
Mycek, Bill Dean,
Dick Williams, James
Layman and William
Hendrix).

Colville RAC funds 22 restoration projects In Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties

Colville, Wash., -- Since its establishment in February, 2002, the Colville Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has selected 22 projects to receive Title II (Payments to States) funding for implementation throughout National Forest System lands in Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties. Altogether, project costs total nearly \$460,000.

The RAC is a select body of public citizens and elected officials that represent different national forest interest groups. RAC members are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to review, approve and recommend proposed projects under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-

Determination Act of 2000. RACs were developed as a means of engaging citizens in that process.

The intent of the Act is to encourage cooperation between the Forest Service and counties in developing, planning and working on projects that provide mutual benefits to national forest and non-federal land. Projects must benefit national forest resources such as land and forest ecosystem health and water quality or improve existing facilities such as roads, trails, campgrounds or parking lots.

Nora Rasure, supervisor of the Colville National Forest,

approves projects recommended by the RAC.

The projects considered by the RAC for implementation in 2002 and 2003 were proposed by the Colville National Forest, Pend Oreille and Stevens counties, and community organizations. However, anyone can propose a project for funding.

To increase the diversity of types of projects, the RAC encourages other organizations that have qualifying projects to apply for funding after testing proposals on county commissioners.

"Anyone can apply for the funding, but each county has priority work that competes

strongly for available funding," said John Eminger, chairman of the RAC. "People who are seriously looking at the use of Title II funds for projects should talk to the commissioners first to develop support," he said.

The deadline for project proposals to be considered by the RAC for implementation in 2004 is June 1, 2003. After receiving the proposals, the RAC will meet on June 19 and July 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Colville Community College to review and schedule presentations. The public is invited to attend both meetings from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

In 2002, the RAC recommended

TECHNICAL CONTACTS:

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Cynthia M. Reichelt (509-684-7187) Colville National Forest - 765 South Main Street, Colville, Washington 99114

More ...

Add One

a total of \$168,998 for projects in **Pend Oreille County**:

- \$103,750 for parking lot and road (Ashenfelter and Laurelhurst) resurfacing and realignment in the Wolf Addition Trail System near Newport, Wash.,
- \$23,365 to control spotted knapweed near Delaney Meadows,
- \$6,000 to establish a youth commission,
- \$5,000 to construct trailheads and parking at the Hanks Butte and Tacoma Creek Trailheads,
- \$11,143 to map noxious weeds in key watersheds of Tacoma, Middle Fork of the Calispell, Sullivan, Bead Lake, West Branch Priest River watersheds,
- \$5,000 to hire an Americorp worker to develop plans, construct and monitor several recreation facilities,
- \$7,000 to increase law enforcement patrol of recreation sites, and
- \$10,000 to eradicate Eurasian water-milfoil control in Nile Lake.

The Committee's recommendations for 2002 projects in **Stevens County** included \$22,500 for a "Quad-County" noxious weed control program implemented in Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Pend Oreille counties.

On September 19, the RAC recommended 10 projects for Pend Oreille and Stevens counties in 2003:

Pend Oreille:

- \$40,000 for continuing resurfacing work along Ashenfelter Road,
- \$4,000 to complete Eurasian water-milfoil control in Nile Lake,
- \$29,408 for meadow restoration and weed eradication near the Middle Fork Calispell Creek,
- \$60,000 for road resurfacing, parking lot paving, easement purchases and site preparation along Sicily Lake Road, and
- \$37,280 for biological control of weeds in the quad-county area.

Stevens:

- \$39,875 for resurfacing work along South Fork Mill Creek Road,



The root-boring beetle, *Sphenoptera jugoslavica* (pictured above in a gall-like swelling) damages a diffuse knapweed root crown by stunting the plant and causing far fewer flowers to bloom.

Biological Control

Biological control of an exotic weed is the deliberate release of "natural enemies", collected from areas where the plant is native, into areas where the plant has become an introduced pest. Biological control as proven effective in managing knapweeds and other noxious weeds throughout eastern Washington. Several species of beetles that eat various parts of knapweed have reduced knapweed seed production by up to 95 percent and are reducing the total numbers of weeds in Stevens and Pend Oreille counties. The objective of the biological control program is to stress the exotic weeds enough to put them on equal footing with native plants, allowing the natives to compete with the invaders

C O L V I L L E * R A C



Left: Diffuse knapweed is a very aggressive species that can infest large areas quickly. The species has little value as forage for cattle and limited seasonal value for big game.

Knapweed infestations increase production costs for ranchers, impair the quality of wildlife habitat, decrease plant diversity, increase soil erosion rates, decrease the visual quality and appeal of recreational lands, and pose wildfire hazards.

More ...

Add Two

- \$5,000 for a restoration forestry program,
- \$10,000 for weed eradication in northern Stevens County between the Kettle and Columbia Rivers (Wedge),
- \$2,500 for biological control of hawkweed, and
- \$20,500 for biological control of weeds in the quad-county area.

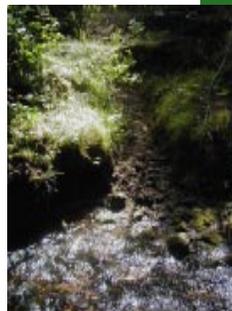
According to Eminger, the RAC selected road maintenance projects in concert with county recommendations. "The counties are monitoring damage and use levels along these roads and assessed the needs and priorities for spending," he said, "and, after studying the recommendations, we agreed that the money should be spent as they recommended."

One of those roads is Sicily Road in southern Pend Oreille County where heavy use by off-road vehicles is causing damage to Sicily Creek. "This is a case where ORV traffic on the road near a newly-established ORV park is causing heavy damage right now and the county does not have the authority to impose fees for use of the road or for repairs," he said. "The Title II funds are needed immediately to reduce dust and erosion into the creek," he said.

"The RAC also selected projects that reflect the diverse values of the group," Eminger said. "The group supported restoring an alpine meadow ecosystem that has been damaged by noxious weeds and high levels of recreation use. It also favored biological control of weeds over the use of pesticides because of potential, long-term ecological impacts," he said.

Eminger said all projects must be submitted to the RAC using an approved application form. Projects that will require future-year funding for completion are considered high priorities for funding, but coordinators must also provide yearly progress reports to the RAC, he said.

The project application form is located in a RAC section of the Colville National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville. For more information about the RAC or project proposals, contact the Colville National Forest at 509-684-7184 or write: RAC Coordinator, 765 South Main Street, Colville, Wash.



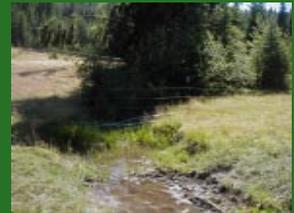
Restoring an Alpine Meadow

The meadows along the Middle Fork of Calispell Creek, damaged by increasing off-road vehicle use and invasions of noxious weeds, will be restored by planting and seeding native shrubs, plants and trees. Native vegetation will be protected by blocking ORV trails, fencing and by placing plant protectors over newly-planted seedlings.

Wet seeps (right and left) will be fenced and interpretive signs positioned to educate

recreationists about the value and sensitivity of wet areas and wet area vegetation. Weeds will be monitored and eradicated using biological and chemical controls as a part of the Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Program.

Several stream crossings (left) will be constructed to protect streams in the meadow from ORV traffic damage.



End