

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS [tgmckay@fs.fed.us]  
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**To:** Undisclosed recipients  
**Subject:** News Release: RAC committee announces 2012 projects  
**Attachments:** RAC Approved Projects - 2012.docx



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### ***Bitterroot National Forest***

[www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)

United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Bitterroot National Forest  
1801 N First St  
Hamilton, Montana 59840

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122**

October 2, 2012

### **RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2012 PROJECTS**

Hamilton, MT. - The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has approved 11 projects for funding. All of the projects will benefit National Forest System lands and ecosystems in Ravalli County. All total, the committee allocated more than \$232,000 in project funding.

The committee reviewed fourteen proposals. The funding will support a wide diversity of projects in the Bitterroot Valley including monitoring trends and habitat for Elk populations, restoring and planting vegetation along Cameron Creek, repairing and maintaining Bitterroot Canyon Trails, and fighting and eradicating invasive weeds growing on the National Forest and along the Bitterroot River, just to name a few. The following projects were approved:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
1. Long-term Bat Acoustic Monitoring Program	\$3,000
2. New invaders /Common Bugloss Weed – Ravalli County Weed District	\$35,000
3. Cameron Creek – Streambank restoration	\$3,000
4. Cameron Creek – Revegetation & fencing – Bitterroot Water Forum	\$54,915
5. Monitoring trends in ungulate populations – Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks	\$20,000
6. Monitoring trends in ungulate forage & habitat – Montana FWP	\$20,000
7. Riparian restoration of Hog Trough Creek	\$4,500

8. Lost Horse feeder canal – Bitterroot Irrigation District	\$4,875
9. Lost Horse sanitation control – Darby Ranger District	\$16,000
10. Healthy Kids ~ Healthy Forests – Bitter Root RC & D	\$11,000
11. Maintenance of Bitterroot Canyon Trails – Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)	\$60,200
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$232,490</b>

RAC projects must meet established criteria and improve federal lands in the following areas: roads, trails, infrastructure maintenance, soil and forest ecosystem health, watershed restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat, control of noxious weeds, and re-establishment of native species. At least 50 percent of all project funds are dedicated to restoring streams and watersheds; or road maintenance, decommissioning or removal. Projects may be on private land, but must show a direct benefit to National Forest System lands.

Resource Advisory Committees were established in 2000 under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. In addition to approving project funding, the RAC is also dedicated to improving collaborative relationships. For more information contact Dan Ritter at the Stevensville Ranger District at (406) 777-5461.

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