

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>
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Subject: News Release: Resource Advisory Committee announces 2014 projects
Attachments: RAC Approved Projects - 2014.docx



NEWS RELEASE

Bitterroot National Forest

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United States
Department of Agriculture
Bitterroot National Forest
1801 N First St
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122

June 16, 2014

RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2014 PROJECTS

Hamilton, MT. - The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has approved 12 projects for funding. All of the projects will benefit National Forest System lands and ecosystems in Ravalli County. All total, the committee allocated nearly \$200,000 in project funding.

The committee reviewed seventeen proposals. The funding will support a wide diversity of projects in the Bitterroot Valley including constructing a new horse camp area, improving bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout habitat, replacing the washed out Mill Creek trail footbridge, repairing and maintaining Bitterroot Canyon trails, and fighting and eradicating invasive weeds including Dalmation Toadflax, just to name a few. The following projects were approved:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding</u>
1. New wood decking on Lake Como footbridge – Bitter Root Irrigation District	\$1,640
2. Fish habitat improvements in upper West Fork – Bitterroot National Forest	\$3,600
3. Install vault toilet vent pipe screens, protect wildlife – Bitterroot National Forest	\$6,000
4. Coordination of Bitterroot Bio-Control Program – Ravalli County Weed District	\$8,960
5. Mill Creek trail bridge replacement – Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)	\$9,000
6. Wildlife habitat planting enhancement project – Bitterroot National Forest	\$10,500
7. Boulder Creek Horse Camp – Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen	\$12,000
8. Little Blue Joint Creek Culvert Replacement – Bitterroot National Forest	\$15,000
9. Eastside Dalmation Toadflax Project, phase one – Ravalli County Weed District	\$15,300
10. St. Mary's Peak Lookout Stewardship – Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Found.	\$20,743
11. Classroom Without Walls Program – Corvallis High School	\$32,650

12. Maintenance of Bitterroot Canyon Trails - Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)	\$63,000
Total:	\$198,393

Since 2001, the RAC has approved more than \$1.8 million in funding for projects that benefit National Forest system lands in Ravalli County.

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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