



**Bitterroot National Forest**

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# News

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## Resource Advisory Committee Announces 2022 Projects

Hamilton, Montana (August 10, 2022) – The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has approved 8 projects for funding. The projects will benefit National Forest System lands and ecosystems in Ravalli County. All total, the committee allocated over \$165,000 in project funding.

The funds will support a wide variety of projects including repairing a boat launch ramp on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, re-routing the main campground road at Rombo Campground, fighting and eradicating invasive weeds, maintaining and staffing the historic St. Mary Peak Lookout, and mitigating bear-human conflicts on the Bitterroot National Forest, just to name a few. The following projects were approved:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
1. Haley Chute Boat Ramp Repair	\$4,000
2. Mitigating Bear-Human Conflicts on the Bitterroot NF	\$7,000
3. SBFC St. Mary Peak Lookout Volunteer Stewardship Program	\$10,890
4. Forest Road 311 Decommissioning	\$12,000
5. Ravalli County Weed District Youth Bio-Control Program	\$21,375
6. Camas Creek Culvert Replacement	\$30,000
7. Rombo Campground Road Re-Route	\$30,000
8. Rush Skeletonweed in Bitterroot NF Wilderness	\$50,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$165,265</b>

Partners in the 2022 RAC Projects include Wind River Bear Institute, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Ravalli County Weed District, Bitterroot Trout Unlimited, Defenders of Wildlife, Ravalli County Road & Bridge Department, and the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation.

Since 2001, the RAC has approved nearly \$2.5 million in funding for projects that benefit National Forest system lands in Ravalli County.

“The RAC program is such a benefit to Ravalli County and its residents, the Bitterroot National Forest, and all the visitors that find our valley so special,” stated Deb Gale, RAC Chairperson. “All of us on the RAC committee want to thank all the presenters for the hard work on their proposals and projects.”

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, road maintenance, decommissioning or removal. Projects may be on private land but must show a direct benefit to National Forest System lands.

“The work our partners and employees put into developing these project proposals was excellent,” said Abbie Jossie, Darby/Sula District Ranger. “We have a good variety of projects that will benefit Forest Lands in Ravalli County for many years to come.”

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 District Ranger Abbie Jossie at (406) 821-3913.

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