

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 10:04 AM
Subject: News Release: Resource Advisory Committee Announces 2015 Projects
Attachments: RAC Approved Projects - 2015.docx

Resource Advisory Committee Announces 2015 Projects

Hamilton, Montana (July 10, 2015) – The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has approved 8 projects for funding. All of the projects will benefit National Forest System lands and ecosystems in Ravalli County. All total, the committee allocated nearly \$180,000 in project funding.

The funds will support a wide diversity of projects in the Bitterroot Valley including replacing a stock bridge in Blodgett Canyon, fighting and eradicating invasive weeds, reducing river sediment, and maintaining and staffing the historic St. Mary Peak Lookout, just to name a few. The following projects were approved:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding</u>
1. Bitterroot Culture Camp Stewardship Project – Bitter Root RC&D	\$4,300
2. B.E.A.R. Camping Club – B.E.A.R.	\$6,880
3. Rebuild & Maintain Ropes Course – Trapper Creek Job Corps	\$10,000
4. Sediment Reduction on the East Fork – Bitterroot Water Forum	\$10,390
5. Rye Creek Road Surface Stabilization – Ravalli County Road Dept.	\$15,000
6. St. Mary Peak Lookout Stewardship – Selway-Bitterroot Foundation	\$17,435
7. Rush Skeleton Weed Eradication – Ravalli County Weed District	\$50,000
8. Blodgett Trail Bridge Replacement – Montana Conservation Corps	\$63,927
Total:	\$177,932

Since 2001, the RAC has approved more than \$2 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 Ryan Domsalla at the West Fork Ranger District at (406) 821-3269.

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Tod McKay
Public Affairs Officer

Forest Service
Bitterroot National Forest

p: 406-363-7122

c: 406-531-1130

tgmckay@fs.fed.us

1801 N. First

Hamilton, MT 59840

www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot



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