

Coastal Oregon RAC Meeting Notes

Date: March 14-15, 2017

Location: Coos Bay District Office, North Bend, OR

Chair: Melissa Cribbins, Coos County Commissioner

DFO: Patty Burke, District Manager

Overview of Secure Rural Schools Title II and Project Approval Process

Presented by Stephanie Messerle, BLM

- Stephanie gave an overview of the SRS Act and the role of the RAC, and voting procedures.
- Conflict of Interest during project review – Potentially be okay if a RAC member is benefitting indirectly. Would be a problem if there isn't a majority. Would be an issue if you're job security is threatened.

Title II Project Presentations

Presented by Project Proponents

Lincoln County

NORP – Sarah and Dave from NORP. If they had less money, it will be okay. Scalable to \$12,000. There is a considerable amount of matching funds coming in. There is demand for trees that is currently not being met. Can keep up with demand from watershed council requests.

Tillamook

NORP – Same as above.

Campground Maintenance – Sarah Gruening from NYC gave an overview of the project. Campgrounds built on O&C lands. Participants are AmeriCorps members.

Multi-County

Coos Bay BLM Youth Partnership – Sarah Gruening from NYC gave an overview of the project. Scalable based on the cost of a week work for each of the projects. Prefer to give a little to each of the projects. Prefer to give money to the youth from Coos County, but also want to give regional crews an opportunity to explore more of Oregon.

Solid Waste Clean-Up - Monitoring based on how much trash is taken out and if dumping is reoccurring – NYC and ACE and law enforcement can complete monitoring. There is a small amount of money from BLM to clean up site.

New River Floras Creek – Matt Swanson from Curry Soil and Water Conservation District gave a presentation on the project. Occasionally treat scotch broom, but it is not targeted. Appreciate the scalability option. Educational component is valuable.

Curry County

Indian Creek Wetland Enhancement – Kelly Timchchak from the Lower Rogue Watershed Council gave a presentation on the project. \$57,000 funds the entire project – great deal! Work on smaller budgets and plan to apply for additional funding.

Sudden Oak Death – Norma Kline from OSU Extension gave a presentation on the project. Project hasn't been done before because all of the funding has gone to eradication, but that has not proven to be completely successful. Good tie to Curry Collaborative project.

Clean Quest- Don Fry from Confederated Tribes of lower Rogue gave a presentation on the project. Wanted to be clear that BLM cannot prosecute pollution violations.

Northern Curry Riparian Restoration – Drew Harper with the Curry Soil and Water Conservation District gave a presentation on the project. There were no questions from the RAC.

Douglas County

Spencer Ridge Helipond Re-Lining – Mike White and Bill Elam, CFPA and retired BLM employee, respectively gave a presentation on the project. EA is being done primarily to clear flight paths. Requesting special funds for re-lining, rather than the timber clearing. Material can be laid right over the soil.

Smith River DIDSON/ARIS – Dean Finnerty from Trout Unlimited gave a presentation on the project. Project is scalable. Device can detect fish travel direction, and placement on the river minimizes multiple swim-bys by fish. ODFW interested in this as a pilot project to expand the model across the coast. There are some security concerns, but will have satellite tracker on it and can be pulled during high water events. Someone from Smith River Watershed will be there every day and from various partners.

Keep Oregon Green Fire Prevention – President of Keep Oregon Green Kristen Babbs from ODF gave a presentation on the project. Would fund two VMS boards. Signs are one-sided, not dual sided. Keep Oregon Green working with ODOT to get permission to have them on roadside and not pay fees.

Big and Mosetown Creeks and Big Creek HUC Instream Restoration Phase II – Brian Jenkins from the Smith River Watershed gave a presentation on the project.

Lower Umpqua River and Estuary Program Development – Eric Riley from PUR gave a presentation on the project. Plan beyond one year would be used apply for additional grant monies from OWEB and other sources. Concern PUR gets people on board then has to decrease capacity. People hired would be on-the-ground work, not developing collaborative projects with landowners.

Middle and Lower Umpqua Water Quality Monitoring – Joe Carnes from PUR gave a presentation on the project. Between two PUR projects, the water quality monitoring project would be preferred. PUR has already purchased all of the monitoring equipment.

Coos County

Steel Creek Watershed Improvement – Jeff Jackson, BLM and Melaney Dunne from Coquille Watershed Association gave a presentation on the project. Obsolete bottom road that doesn't have public use – want to remove obsolete culverts. People could access area on foot. None of the streams are fish bearing, but preventing road failure. Project below the natural barriers on the main river. Money already raised is for other components of the project.

Tioga Creek Water Quality and Fish Passage Improvements – Allison Tarbox (CWA) and Gary Vanderhoe (ODFW) gave a presentation on the project. Tioga creek was fishless in the 1950s, but fish biologist believe that there was fish passage over the falls. The falls is currently a complete barrier. ODFW and others have thought about carving channels or removing the concrete wall. Want to look at the best option for this site.

Federal Land Protection Noxious Weeds – Steve Scheer with the Coos County Weed Advisory Board gave a presentation on the project. Money covers 5 years of work. Voluntary for people to control noxious weeds on their property. Project proponent does not want the project to be scaled. Want to get three years of funding.

Coos County Sitkum Lane Delineator – John Rowe Coos County Road Master gave a presentation on the project. Project not scalable, get a cheaper bid. Providing improved safe access to federal lands. 100% county road maintenance.

Forest Inmate Crew Coordinator – Kyle Gibson from CFPA gave a presentation on the project. Get a lot of work done for just the cost of paying a supervisor.

Sandy Creek Tributary Fish Culvert Replacement – Margie Thissell and Stuart Mitchell from BLM gave a presentation from the BLM gave a presentation on the project. Culvert prevents fish passage. Natural barrier prevents anadromous fish passage. BLM road, but the timber sale is on private land. Private timber companies only pay use when they are hauling, but it could take time to get enough money to replace the culvert. For clarification, the project will not generate merchantable material.

Clean-Up Coos County – Jill Rolfe from the Coos County Planning Department gave presentation.

BLM Updates

Presented by Kathy Westenskow, Coos Bay District Manager

- Kathy introduced herself and told the RAC about the new Oregon/Washington State Director Jamie Connell. Kathy also shared information on Secretary Ryan Zinke and his recently released DOI themes.

- Steve Fowler gave a presentation on the implementation of the Coos Bay RMP. There was a question about the previous WOPR planning effort.
- Alexa Brickner gave a presentation on the Coos OYCC project, as she was not able to attend the meeting the day before. There was some concern from the RAC about the tie to federal land, and the match. Some of the match is not secured.

Title II Project Recommendations

Presented by All RAC Members

- Kathy went over four projects that she has concern about the tie to federal land – Clean-up Coos County, Coos County Sitkum Delineator Project, Youth projects, and Clean Quest. The Confederated Tribes of the Lower Rogue are not a federally recognized tribe.
- The RAC decided to keep the funding in the counties to make it easier. RAC has flexibility to spend money outside of counties. Opportunity to prioritize projects within the counties and funding the top 3 projects in each county.
- The following table outlines the discuss for each project

| Project | Discussion |
|--|---|
| NORP Tillamook County Campground | Like the idea of giving more money to the campground maintenance. Would give them two weeks of work. Want to provide money to all three projects. |
| Clean Quest | Uncomfortable with tie to federal lands. Wasn't a lot of information offered about the project to make a decision on the project. |
| Indian Creek | High priority for the group. Indian Creek project more well developed. Also wasn't very scalable, so good to give them the money. Good bang for your buck. Fully fund. |
| Northern Curry Riparian | Very scalable project. |
| SOD | Good OWEB technical assistance grant candidate. Potentially fund a portion of the project that they could use as match.. Highly tied to federal lands. Fund \$10,000. SOD proposal is not scalable. |
| Veteran's Crew | Concerned that no one showed up to present the project. Trail maintenance can be done by volunteer groups. Restoration projects are higher priority. Portion of the project already funded by SW Oregon RAC. |
| Big and Mose town | Important. Have a lot of match. Project closer to completion. Higher priority. Lowered contribution because of high cutting costs. |
| Big Creek | Important. Have a lot of match. Some of the line items are overfunded by \$4-\$5000. Don't want to see them fully funded. |
| KOG | Reserve funding until other projects decided. Like the idea of prevention. Visual reminders are effective. Worry they aren't very effective. Access to other sources of funding potentially. Won't help with naturally caused fires. |
| Lower Umpqua River and Estuary Program Development | Investment in the long term. Concern about a clear connection between federal lands and hiring personnel. Watershed personnel can get better relationships with landowners as compared to the government. Not as hands on as some of the other projects. Project is |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| | scalable. |
| Middle and Lower Umpqua Monitoring | Monitoring not well supported by OWEB. Want to fully fund. Highest priority for PUR. |
| Smith River DIDSON | How we monitor is very important. New opportunity to get new data for less investment. Hard to fund any other way. Scalable. Wouldn't need to hire contractor and use in house expertise. Have other grant money available. Dean mentioned he does not benefit financially. Give university students a leg up with new technology. Concern about usefulness to BLM. Idea of trends and populations always helpful for project planning and consultation. Final report and data sets shared to organizations. Data stored on external hard drives and then sent to science team. Opportunity to complete the picture in the Umpqua River. Concerned about expense and potentially losing the investment. Way to prevent it from being lost permanently. Would be installed on private property to increase security. |
| Spencer Ridge Helipond | Like that it is on the ground work. Concerned that there is no warranty on the liner. Have spent approx. \$5000 on repairs. Not successful because of the type of asphalt in the pond. |
| Clean Up Coos County | A huge issue. Important to fund. Money will be used to education, waive solid waste fees. Funds would be only be used on sites near BLM lands. Concern that education wouldn't be effective. What matters most is law enforcement and controlling access. |
| 2017 Coos County Delineators | Responsibility of the landowner and users. Funded through federal land access program in the past. Connection to federal lands because of safety. Love the project, but concerned about it meeting the objectives of Title II dollars. Not scalable. |
| Coos WA Youth Watershed | High value of program. Providing nexus not a problem. Other areas can be added. Long term investment for the watershed. |
| Federal Lands Protection Noxious Weed | Too much money to fund fully. Scalable. Concern that it is funding weed prevention on State and County lands. Good program. Would be a good candidate for extra funding from RAC that comes back in the future. |
| Forest Inmate Crew Coordinator | Great bang for the buck. Value to serving underserved population. Scalable project. Can work on trail maintenance, BLM land projects could be included in this presentation. |
| Sandy Creek | Pretty project, but doesn't open up habitat for anadromous fish. There are resident fish and would improve passage. More a road maintenance project to accommodate private timber haul. Would access additional BLM land. Prevent road failure and sediment into the future. User fees cover the cost, but long term. Will help improve water quality downstream. Timber companies should be approached to pay for the culvert and infrastructure that should be replaced anyone. Didn't like the budget – could be accomplished at a fraction of the cost and \$20,000 in contract administration. Could be scaled back and cost less. Road maintenance is a landowner and user responsibility. Doesn't impact any residents. No timber sales in the area for 5 years. Just fund the culvert replacement? Culvert not in |

| | |
|---|---|
| | imminent failure point. |
| Steel Creek | High priority. Good impact to improving water quality. Not a fish bearing stream, so harder to get money to fund project. Really small tributaries. Road already closed and would put the project to bed long term – good last step. |
| Tioga Creek Water Quality | Like it, but wish they had more than just studying it. Need data before you can begin work. Huge amount habitat above the work. Good project for OWEB technical assistance agreement. Monitoring piece less attractive of OWEB. Could use as OWEB match. Concerned about timing – want engineering done this summer. The fish ladder cost \$21,000. |
| BLM NYC | Have funded in the past. Great education for kids. Scalable on a per week cost. Could tailor work to occur on O&C land only. NYC bidding on mountain biking trails with Coos County. Funding two different programs – could only run one program. |
| New River – Floras Creek Gorse Action Group | Some are proponents for weed control. Any funding could help. Scalable. Be able to show the BLM is a partner. Wild Rivers coast alliance hasn't infested much money – not sure why. Not sure how much other partners are going to invest (i.e. Oregon Solutions, Bandon Dunes) |
| Solid Waste Clean-Up | Scalable on \$1000 increments. Very important to clean up solid waste. |

- Group reviewed the projects and inserted zeros for some projects. The RAC likes that there aren't very many zeroes for such a great difference between funding available and the number of project proposals.
- Mellissa Cribbins made the motion to approve the slate. Dean Finnerty seconded the motion. Motion carries. Approve the slate as on the screen (see attached project recommendation spreadsheet).
- Vote
 - Cat 1 – 5
 - Cat 2 – 5
 - Cat 3 – 4
- For any Title II money that comes back to the RAC, the motions was made to add to Solid Waste Clean-Up project up to \$10,000 in addition to the 10,000 already funded. Mark Villers seconded.
- Vote
 - Cat 1 – 5
 - Cat 2 – 5
 - Cat 3 – 4

New Chair Election

Presented by Melissa Cribbins, RAC Chair

- Nominations were received for Mark Villers (Dean Finnerty seconded), Timm Slater as new RAC Chair.

- The RAC voted as follows:

Mark Villers elected Chair

Yeah – 14

No – 0

- The RAC nominated Timm Slater as Vice-Chair, Don LaFrance seconded motion
- The RAC Voted as follows:

Timm Slater elected Vice-Chair

Yeah – 14

No – 0

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Coastal Oregon RAC - Title II Funding Recommendations March 15, 2017

| Project | Applicant | Funding Recommendation |
|---|--|------------------------|
| <i>2017 Title II Projects Coos County</i> | | |
| Cleanup Coos County | Coos County Planning Department | \$18,000.00 |
| Coos Watershed Association Youth Watershed Program | Coos Watershed Association | \$29,733.00 |
| Federal Lands Protection - Noxious Weeds | Coos County Commissioners | \$18,590.71 |
| Forest Inmate Crew Coordinator | Coos Forest Protective Association | \$42,000.00 |
| Steel Creek Watershed Improvement | Coquille Watershed Association | \$49,602.00 |
| Tioga Creek Water Quality and Fish Passage Improvements | Coos Watershed Association | \$28,207.00 |
| <i>2017 Title II Projects Curry County</i> | | |
| Indian Creek Wetland Enhancement | Curry Soil and Water Conservation District | \$45,670.00 |
| Northern Curry Riparian Restoration | Curry Soil and Water Conservation District | \$39,550.00 |
| Sudden Oak Death Recognition, Prevention and Planting Field Guide | Oregon State University | \$10,000.00 |
| <i>2017 Title II Projects Douglas County</i> | | |
| Big and Mosestown Creeks Instream Restoration | Smith River Watershed Council | \$20,000.00 |
| Big Creek 6th field HUC Instream Restoration Phase II | Smith River Watershed Council | \$10,000.00 |
| Lower Umpqua River and Estuary Program Development | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers | \$20,000.00 |
| Middle and Lower Umpqua Water Quality Monitoring 2017-2020 | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers | \$14,739.00 |
| Smith River DIDSON/ARIS | Trout Unlimited | \$55,077.30 |
| Spencer Ridge Helipond Re-Lining | Coos Forest Protective Association | \$38,000.00 |

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| 2017 Title II Projects Lincoln County | | |
| Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) | Tillamook Estuaries Partnership | \$15,000.00 |
| 2017 Title II Projects Tillamook County | | |
| Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) | Tillamook Estuaries Partnership | \$7,855.67 |
| Campground Maintenance and Improvements | Northwest Youth Corps | \$13,600.00 |
| 2017 Title II Projects Multi-County | | |
| Coos Bay BLM - NYC Youth Partnership | Northwest Youth Corps | \$20,364.29 |
| New River - Floras Creek Gorse Control Collaborative | Curry Soil and Water Conservation District | \$5,000.00 |
| Solid Waste Clean Up | Coos Bay BLM | \$6,000.00 |
| Total | | \$506,988.97 |