



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Helena
National Forest

Missouri River
Resource Advisory
Committee, Montana

Resource Advisory Committee

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND
COMMUNITY SELF-
DETERMINATION
ACT OF 2000

Proposal Guidelines

Revised June 2011



General:

The Missouri River Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) recommends project funding under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, which was reauthorized in October 2008. The Helena National Forest Public Affairs Officer is the “Designated Federal Official” (DFO), who under this law has the responsibility for approving RAC recommendations.

Funds for the RAC are designated by the Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Teton County Commissioners. The law allows them to designate up to 20 percent of federal funds they receive under this law to Title II.

Projects must be located within Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Teton counties. Funds must be spent on projects that benefit National Forest System (NFS) land, although projects do not have to be located on NFS land. All applicable federal laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, and federal contracting and procurement laws apply to projects no matter where they take place. Payments for approved and completed projects are made by the U.S. Treasury.

Section 2(b)(2) (page 3 of the law) lists the kinds of projects the RAC can allocate funding

- (A) road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration*
- (B) soil productivity improvement
- (C) improvements in forest ecosystem health
- (D) watershed restoration and maintenance*
- (E) restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat
- (F) control of noxious and exotic weeds, and
- (G) re-establishment of native species

**Section 204(f) (page 12 of the law) requires that at least 50 percent of funds be used for 1) road maintenance, decommissioning, or obliteration, or 2) restoration of streams and watersheds.*

Members of the RAC were appointed to three-year terms by the Secretary of Agriculture. Each member represents a particular interest group, as outlined in the law.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 expires on September 30, 2006, and funds allocated to the RAC by that time may be spent until September 30, 2007. In October 2008, Congress reauthorized the law for an additional three years, which will continue until 2012.

How to Submit Project Proposals:

Proposals must be submitted on the “Title II Project Submission Form” and “Supplement” forms, available from the Helena National Forest Public Affairs Officer (PAO) or on the Helena National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena. Proposals must be clearly stated and provide complete information as to the nature of the project and its relation to forest resources, its sponsors, and its implementation and management. Proposals must be consistent with applicable Forest Plans and other federal laws.

Send completed forms by email to RAC Coordinator/DFO Kathy Bushnell at kbushnell@fs.fed.us. Proposals must be submitted no later than **July 22, 2011**.

Proposals are then numbered, photocopied, and put on the agenda for the next available RAC meeting. Applicants are expected to attend the meeting to answer questions about the projects. Forest Service employees who submit proposals must first have the approval of the affected District Ranger and then may send proposal forms to the Helena PAO.

RAC Evaluation Guidelines:

The Missouri River RAC will accept project proposals until July 22, 2011. Once recommended and approved projects are completed, project proponents are asked to present a brief final written report to the RAC.

The Missouri River RAC favors projects that:

- have multiple benefits;
- have low administrative costs;
- leverage other funding;
- have community support;
- have complete applications and meet deadlines;
- have demonstrated feasibility;
- creates and/or retains jobs.

For More Information:

Call the Public Affairs Officer for the Helena National Forest at 406-495-3747 or send an email to kbushnell@fs.fed.us. On the web, you can learn more about RACs at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/payments>.

Affected National Forests

Funds for the Missouri River RAC are based on payments to states from the following National Forests:

- **Helena National Forest:** Helena, Lincoln and Townsend Ranger Districts
- **Flathead National Forest:** Spotted Bear Ranger District
- **Lewis and Clark National Forest:** Rocky Mountain Ranger District
- **Lolo National Forest:** Seeley Lake Ranger District