

# RAC

# events

on the Fremont-Winema National Forests



October 2007  
Issue VII

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## Fabulous Projects Funded for 2008

The Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met August 20-21 to determine which of the 33 proposed projects by the Forest and the public, would meet the intent of the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS) and the priorities of this RAC to move forward for funding.

With reauthorization of the SRS coming so late in the year it was a challenge on all sides to get proposals into the RAC, review them and schedule a committee meeting to determine prioritization before the September 30th deadline. But the Fremont-Winema RAC is an exceptional group and they handled the pressure with ease. Meeting for two days at the Lakeview Interagency Office, they heard the proponents give an overview of their project and were able to ask questions. By the end of the second day the Committee narrowed the field down to 22 projects. This was not an easy task and the RAC had to get creative with their resources if they wanted to fund the maximum amount of projects.

Of the twenty two projects funded, fifteen fall within Klamath County and the other eight in Lake County. The split between private projects and Forest projects funded, was approximately one third of the total. The Title II dollars totaling 2 million this year will go towards three noxious weed treatment projects, one of these is a partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Also, funded this year are nine projects that will address fuels and contribute to enhanced land health. The Committee continued with their past practice and funded eight more projects that not only improve watersheds but create better fish habitat.

This RAC prides themselves on working together for a common goal. The majority of the Fremont-Winema RAC membership have served together since 2002. Their dedication has proven year after year to be a great benefit not only to the Forest but to the adjacent private lands. They attempt to cover entire watersheds and land bases hoping to have a long lasting effect, rather than going for the shotgun approach.

### RAC COMMITTEE

#### MEMBERS

*Lani Hickey (chair)*

*Pete Talbott*

*Gary Johnson*

*Sherm Radtke*

*Melvin Dick*

*Fred Rasmussen*

*Mary Baker*

*Bill Duke*

*Anita Ward*

*Richard Brown*

*Craig Bienz*

*Clair Thomas*

*Jane O'Keeffe*

*Al Switzer*

*Don Gentry*

*Brett Johnson*

*Dan Shoun*



The Chewaucan River in it's fall splendor by Tom Iraci

## Putting Local People to Work at Ecosystem Restoration

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## Title II Accomplishments 2007

The realization that the Title II funds would disappear after this year was a great incentive for the Forest and private proponents. There was a lot accomplished on the ground in the 2007 fiscal year.

The Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Committee recommended 29 projects for funding with Title II monies in 2007. Of the twenty-nine, ten are now complete, fifteen have been awarded to contractors making those funds obligated and the remaining four are in preparation to go out for bid. As with most years there were carryover projects to complete as well as the newly funded projects.

The Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS) measures the economic impact of the Title II dollars with reporting back the local employment figures at the close of each contract. In the past year, across Lake and Klamath counties Title II dollars put to work 471 individuals for a total of 3766 days.

The accomplishments with those same dollars related to ecosystem restoration are impressive. With emphasis on healthy forests, 11,770 acres were thinned with some of the acreage also receiving a burn treatment. Other types of projects that contribute to better forest health include the irradiation of noxious weeds. This year there were 1,621 acres of noxious weeds treated by hand and with spray. The teams also identified another 394 new sites. This RAC has consistently supported treating entire watersheds and this year 5 fish barriers were replaced with new culverts while one was removed altogether. This work opened up a minimum of 20 miles of stream and river to clear fish passage.

With the reauthorization of SRS this work will continue on the Forest and adjacent lands for at least one more year. Stay tuned to see what great things will come out of the 2008 projects!



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*As the 2007 Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to all the current and past Fremont/Winema Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members for the time and expertise they contributed to the Title II special project selection process. It has been an honor for me to work with all of you and I am very grateful to have been part of a group that provided such invaluable assistance to the Forest Service. After visiting numerous project sites over our two day field trip, it became very apparent how important these funds are to the Forest Service, improving forest health and putting local people to work.*

*While not wanting to gloat, we as a group should be extremely proud that we were part of a lot of the good things that took place in the Fremont-Winema Forest over the last six years. The RAC was instrumental in advising the Forest where the Title II monies should be spent and which projects they believed to be the highest Priority. The collaboration between the different interests and individuals within this RAC is awesome!*

*In addition, I would like to say thank you to Amy Gowan, Cindi Nolan as well as project leads and proponents for all their hard work that contributed to our successful committee work, meetings and field trips. It's been great! I hope to continue working with all of you in the future.*





## The Paisley Town Weir is Complete

In the last issue of RAC Events we shared pictures from the weir celebration.

The Paisley Town Weir Diversion is complete, finishing a 5 year – long project with the ultimate goal of assisting the Red Band trout population in the Chewaucan River to return upstream with out barriers to their spawning grounds.

The weir project was an undertaking of gargantuan proportion! The cost of the design alone was staggering for the proponents . But as one partner contributed, the group was then able to leverage money from another partner. And as the saying goes, and so on and so on and...

The entire bill for this project was \$2,824,610.and the list of partners is well over 100. To understand the project you need to see first hand the weir that created the barrier. (picture) This was not the best design to meet the needs of the river and it's inhabitants, it was the solution used for it's time. The diversion project will benefit not only the water users but there is a great possibility that it would create an economic boost to the surrounding communities with the increase in recreation opportunities as well as having tremendous benefits to the fish habitat.



The weir removal and construction of the diversion was only one part of an entire watershed restoration. In all ,there were a total of eight separate projects ranging from juniper eradication to bank stabilization as well as six culvert replacements or removals. These projects covered both private and public lands and contributed to the water-shed wide approach taken by the Fremont-Winema RAC when prioritizing the use of Title II funds.

The public showed their vote of confidence by hosting the first annual

“Chewaucan Challenge” this past summer. The contest had mixed reviews but according to the participants and the proponents... they will be doing it again.

For More information on the Chewaucan Challenge go to...  
<http://www.chewaucanchallenge.com/>



**For more information please contact Amy Gowan, Designated Federal Official, at 530-841-4421 or Lucinda(Cindi) Nolan, RAC Coordinator, at 541-943-4451.**

## The RAC Field Tour 2007 (a glimpse at the present and the future)

The weather looked to be a threat to the tour this year. However, this group is tough and ventured on, prepared for the worst, but happily rewarded by only a few sprinkles.

The first day began with hushed voices while the group tried to catch a glimpse of the song bird inhabitants around the Fish and Wildlife cabin on Klamath Lake. On this particular morning the birds were to be banded by the Klamath Bird Observatories Biologists and staff. They are using some of the information gathered to determine how the burning and thinning treatments in the area are affecting the return of the song birds. The group was encouraged by the findings, intrigued by the process and would have liked to linger here all day.

The next two stops were examples of the thinning and burning treatments in and around the Klamath and Chiloquin Ranger districts and communities. These project sites not only highlighted the restoration of wildlife habitat but were also excellent showcases of partnerships. One such collaboration included the Forest and the Klamath Tribes working together to establish a plan with the best possible outcome. The “leave islands” in the Lone Pine treatment area are a result of this joined effort.

The forest behind the Silver Lake Ranger District is beautiful after a night of rain. The morning of day two began in the Hager Mountain treatment area. The Group walked through the fall and early spring prescribed burn. Clearing out the dense tree population has opened up the forest to once again grow and thrive. Craig Bienz from the Nature Conservancy talked about the woodpecker monitoring that has been ongoing in this area since 2002. The monitoring was in part to determine the effects that this type of treatment would have on the cavity bird population. The data collected has helped the Forest and the environmental community in working together to make public and private lands not only healthier but better wildlife habitat.



The afternoon was spent on the beautiful Chewaucan River. Overlooking the winding river from a road above, was a spectacular vantage point to view the restoration work below. The treatments along the river banks ranged in age from the early 1980's to work completed in the last few weeks. Stabilization of the riverbank was accomplished by planting vegetation and downed trees along headcut areas. There was also work completed to enhance the gravel bars. And the final piece was the removal of the Ben Young creek culvert.

This two day tour highlighted partnerships, collaborations and the leveraging of funds to treat entire watersheds, create healthier forests and to foster relationships. Kudos to all and job well done.



***RAC Events***  
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