



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Helena  
National Forest

Lewis and Clark County  
Resource Advisory  
Committee, Montana

# Resource Advisory Committee

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND  
COMMUNITY SELF-  
DETERMINATION  
ACT OF 2000

## Proposal Guidelines 620/2007



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### General:

The Lewis and Clark County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) recommends project funding under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. The Helena District Ranger of the Helena National Forest 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 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 County. Funds must be spent on projects that benefit federal land, although projects don’t have to be located on federal land. All applicable federal laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, 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 in September 2005 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, 2007, and funds allocated to the RAC by that time may be spent until September 30, 2008.

**How to Submit Project Proposals:**

Proposals must be submitted on the “Title II Project Submission Form” and “Supplement”, available from the Helena National Forest Public Affairs Office(PAO). 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 Public Affairs Officer, Amy Teegarden at [ateegarden@fs.fed.us](mailto:ateegarden@fs.fed.us) . Proposals must be submitted no later than August 15, 2007.

Proposals are then numbered, photocopied, and put on the agenda for the next available RAC meeting. Applicants are requested 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 Requirements:**

The Lewis and Clark County RAC will accept project proposals until August 15, 2007. The RAC will then try to make all project recommendations by its next meeting in early September. Once projects are completed, project proponents are asked to present a brief final written report to the RAC.

The Lewis and Clark County 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

**For More Information:**

Call the Public Affairs Officer for the Helena National Forest at (406) 495- 3730 or send an email to [ateegarden@fs.fed.us](mailto:ateegarden@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 Lewis and Clark County RAC are based on payments to states from the following National Forests:

**Flathead National Forest** (Spotted Bear Ranger District), Helena (Helena, Lincoln and Townsend Ranger Districts).

**Lewis and Clark National Forest** (Rocky Mountain Ranger District) and Lolo National Forest (Seeley Lake Ranger District).