

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

51 FOSS

CHILCOTT 

IMAN 

STOLTZ 

BURROWS 

Members Present.....Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Jeff Burrows

Date.....October 4, 2012

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 8:30 a.m. to acknowledge Commissioner Greg Chilcott's election to the Office of MACo President.

► At 9:30 a.m. the Board met with Julie Foster, Director of the Ravalli County Economic Development Authority and Deputy County Attorney Howard Recht for a discussion on the Montana Rail Link (MRL) and certain questions about the agreement with MRL on the delivery of services to a Stevensville vendor. It was agreed that Attorney Recht will review the contract prior to any further discussions with MRL about the delivery of services.

► The Board met at 9:40 a.m. with Ravalli County Economic Development Authority Director Julie Foster to discuss and make a possible decision on the creation of the TIFD (Tax Increment Finance District) for water and sewer infrastructure in the Hamilton area.

Julie gave a quick update on the process. The Board's consensus was to create the district. Julie indicated normally funds from the Community Economic Development Grants fund these types of districts, however there is no funding left in this fund, so the Department of Commerce has indicated the county can apply for Big Sky Trust Fund monies. These monies can also be utilized for a 'Neighborhood Plan', similar to zoning but specific to a smaller area and developed by the community. Julie will contact a few engineers and ascertain what their charges are for the development of TIFD(s). She will bring that information back to the Commissioners.

► The Board met with Fair Manager Deborah Rogalli and Fair Commission Member RAN Pigman to discuss and make a decision on the parking plan at the Fairgrounds. RAN stated he had two meetings with the City since the last discussion held between the county and city at the Hamilton City Public Works Department. The new plan includes extra parking near the sheep barn on a paved area as well as the drive through area around the center exit and a walking path through the center court (which is what the city wants). RAN stated at this point these plans need to be worked up by an engineer, then presented to the City of Hamilton. The Board stated

they want to make sure the county has a clear understanding of what the City wants. At that point RAN can develop a Scope of Work bringing that back to the Board for review prior to hiring or going out to bid for engineering services. It was agreed this new parking plan will enhance the parking for the Event Pavilion and Fair events.

► The Board met at 10:30 a.m. with Jeff Hasskamp and Christa LeCoure, representatives of Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance to discuss insurance options for 2013. Present was Human Resource Director Robert Jenni. Robert noted they are looking at higher costs of employee insurance next year so he is working with Blue Cross/Blue Shield as well as other insurance companies for estimates based upon insurance claims for 2012.

Jeff stated the current rates are based upon Ravalli County's claims, although we do benefit from the pooling of insurance with other groups. He discussed the wellness program (tobacco, cholesterol, blood pressure, age appropriate cancer screenings, weight mass index) and premium rewards for healthy lifestyles. In 2009 and 2011, Ravalli County claims exceeded premium paid. For 2012 which includes August, the county has exceeded premiums paid by over half a million dollars. Last year our rate increase was roughly 16%. As they look at 2013 they anticipate a larger premium increase.

Howard asked about the solvency of Blue Shield. Jeff stated they are solvent with reserves at \$132 million dollars but they have a yearly underwriting loss. Howard asked about merging of Blue Cross into another company. Jeff stated in the middle of September Blue Shield announced their intention to merge with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois, New Mexico, Nebraska etc.. This will give them more in reserves with a larger pool, thus a more stable company because of the scale. Howard noted it appears an administrative savings will occur, but as to the claims, will there be a bigger claim increase? Jeff stated the county will receive some savings because of the scale, sharing of technology, and the administrative costs should continue to come down. But our state underwriting stays local.

Jeff addressed some changes in the health care reform such as 26 year old children being able to stay on their parents plan; preexisting conditions will be allowed with no waiting period. Hopefully the more people that are insured, with early onset care, health care costs will come down, but in the short term the costs will stay at 10-14% increase.

Ravalli County has 152 health insurance subscribers; 42 of that total include dependants; 30 are employees only; 10 with one dependant; 9 with multiple dependants; 39 employee with spouse. 32 employees take cash in lieu and 13 retirees are on cobra. Robert also addressed how some family's could go onto the State of Montana's Healthy Families assistance plans for their children. Ravalli County must have 75% participation in the plan to be an eligible group. Jeff is estimating a 40% rate increase, so under the current cost structure with the lower deductible, instead of costing an employee an additional \$297 per month for a tiered rate, it could cost as much as \$660 per month more. With the high deductible, it could cost an employee \$237 per month instead of the current cost of zero out of pocket. Jeff listed some options as well for composite and tiered rate.

► At 11:30 a.m. the Board held an interview with RAN Pigman, applicant for the Fair Commission.

► The Board met at 12:00 p.m. with Dan Ritter of the Bitterroot National regarding the termination agreement between Ravalli County and the Forest Service for the West Fork Road Riparian Management Project. This meeting was carried over from October 2nd for decision. Dan presented the project submission form which explains the project description, goals and objectives (see attached) which was for Fiscal Year 2011 funding. If the Commissioners still want to move forward on this project, RAC could review the projects for FY2012 and move this into their list of projects, providing the funding would be spent by September 2013.

**Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to terminate the agreement for the West Fork Road Riparian Management Project #11-PA-11010300-015. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion. Discussion: the FY2013 Ravalli County budget does not have the match monies set aside. All voted "aye". (5-0)**

► The Board met at 1:30 p.m. with Road Administrator Eric Anderson for a personnel matter. Because Eric turned in a letter of resignation yesterday for other employment with an engineering firm, the personnel meeting did not take place. Instead, Eric brought the Commissioners up to speed on various projects they are working on, issues that need to be addressed in the near future as well as bridges that should be reviewed for erosion and structural aging issues. Discussion included use of personnel for task positions as well as leadership positions. Eric addressed the lack of budgeted funding for anticipated work output.

► Commissioners Foss, Chilcott and Stoltz approved the purchase of a printer for the County Attorney's Office as presented by Request (for Angela Wetzsteon).

**2008 - 2011 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS  
PUBLIC LAW 110-343  
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM  
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Ravalli County

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official): D1-10-11

Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2011

2. Project Name: West Fork Bitterroot River Riparian Management	3a. State: Montana 3b. County(s): Ravalli
4. Project Submitted By: Ravalli County Road and Bridge Department	5. Date: April 30, 2010 (revised September 29, 2010)
6. Contact Phone Number: David Ohnstad, Ravalli County Road and Bridge Department 406-363-2733	7. Contact E-mail: dohnstad@ravallicounty.mt.gov

<b>8. Project Location:</b>	
a. National Forest(s): Bitterroot NF	b. Forest Service District: Darby and West Fork Ranger Districts
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Numerous sections along the West Fork Bitterroot River Road; from the junction with US Hwy 93, south to Woods Creek; approximately 34.2 road miles.	

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:** The goal is to provide enhanced environmental management of the Bitterroot River, its tributary streams, wetlands, and riparian areas within the highway easement along the entire length of the West Fork Bitterroot River Road (West Fork Road). The objectives are to: 1) identify, map and delineate these Riparian Management Areas (RMAs); 2) Preserve the physical and biological integrity of the RMAs through development and application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and minimization and avoidance measures; 3) Analyze RMAs for restoration opportunities; 4) Restore and Enhance RMAs.

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) Within the entire length of the West Fork Bitterroot River Road easement, identify Riparian Management Areas on maps and on-the-ground; analyze two or three RMAs for preservation and restoration opportunities; and implement preservation, restoration, and enhancement strategies.

b. Detailed:

**PHASE 1 RMA identification, mapping, signing, and management prescriptions; to be completed in federal fiscal years 2011 and 2012.** Riparian Management Areas (RMAs) will be identified and delineated within the easement of the West Fork Bitterroot River Road. These management areas will be established as approximately 150 feet wide where the highway parallels the West Fork Bitterroot River and 50 feet wide on both sides of intersecting drainages that flow into the West Fork Bitterroot River, including perennial and seasonal creeks and other waterways. Wetland RMAs will be established employing 50 foot

wide buffers. The scope of this effort will be limited to the established highway easement.

Within these Riparian Management Areas, BMPs will be developed to protect, maintain and enhance the integrity of established management areas. These practices will include mitigations for tree removal and pruning, weed management, brush clearing, slash disposal, use of chemicals, deicing/sanding of the highway, roadway drainage, storm water management, and off-road use of heavy equipment. The boundaries of RMAs will be documented in the field and will be established using sub-meter GPS instrumentation. The differentially corrected GPS data will be used in an Arcview GIS software program to produce geo-referenced RMA maps on color aerial photograph backgrounds (see Exhibit 1, attached). Acreage of each RMA will also be determined using the GIS software. These maps and supporting documentation will be available for public and private use during planning or implementation of projects within the West Fork Bitterroot River Road easement. Both ends of the RMA (or of groups of RMAs where they occur in close proximity) will be marked on the ground along the West Fork Bitterroot River Road using a post to which will be attached a permanent metal "Ravalli County Riparian Management Area" sign (see Exhibit 2, attached). County and state employees, contractors and other interests will be notified of the significance of these postings. The basic design may be supplemented by attachments that would indicate that a particular activity may be precluded within that particular RMA.

**PHASE 2 Riparian Restoration, Enhancement and Monitoring; to be completed in federal fiscal year 2012.** Following the mapping effort, a reconnaissance inventory will identify opportunities to plan and conduct riparian restoration and enhancement activities within two or three RMAs. The improvements may include stream and riverbank stabilization, native vegetation restoration, invasive and noxious weed management and drainage improvements within the roadway easement. This phase also will include one field season of monitoring (see monitoring section).

**11. Types of Lands Involved?**

State/Private/Other lands involved?  Yes  No

**Land Status: Project area includes private, state, and National Forest System lands.**

If Yes, specify: These lands occur within the established West Fork Bitterroot River Road easement.

**12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)**

- Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
- Restores and improves land health.
- Restores water quality

**13. Project Type**

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify): Establish, preserve, and enhance Riparian Management Areas
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Establish, preserve, and enhance Riparian Management Areas	

<b>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish</b>
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved: direct benefit estimated at 0.1 miles; indirect benefits- 34 miles
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved: direct benefit estimated at 0.1 miles; indirect benefits- 34 miles
Acres of native species reestablished: to be determined through the initial inventory phase of project
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction): estimated at 1 acres riparian habitat; a more definitive estimate will follow the initial inventory phase of the project
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: estimated at 1 acres riparian habitat; a more definitive estimate will follow the initial inventory phase of the project
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: estimated at 0.5 acres; a more definitive estimate will follow initial inventory phase of the project
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: estimated at 0.75 FTE over the length of the project; a more definitive estimate will follow the initial inventory phase
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit: \$ 3,000 salaries and improved recreational opportunities
Other: Riparian area protection along the West Fork Bitterroot River Road: approximately 34.2 road miles

<b>15. Estimated Project Start Date:</b> March 2011	<b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date:</b> December 2012
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities. This is a cooperative effort between the Bitterroot National Forest, Ravalli County, and private landowners along the West Fork Bitterroot River Road.**

18. Identify benefits to communities. Enhancement of stream water quality and riparian health along a wild and scenic corridor used substantially by local residents and by out-of-area recreationists.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources? Maintains healthy rivers, streams, and wetlands, provides protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, benefits threatened bull trout in the West Fork Bitterroot River.

<b>20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?</b> (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber?  Yes  No

<b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b>
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$ 15000
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- Other, please explain:

**Project Recommended By:**

/s/ Lisa Philipps  
 Chairperson  
 LISA PHILIPPS  
 Resource Advisory Committee

**Project Approved By:**

/s/ Julie K King  
 Forest Supervisor  
 JULIE K KING  
 National Forest

# Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

## Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys		\$ 9500		
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation	\$1850			
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering		\$ 500		
f. Contract/Grant Preparation			\$ 650	
g. Contract/Grant Administration			\$ 950	
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries		\$ 2000		
j. Materials & Supplies	\$ 500	\$ 3000	\$ 13500	
k. Monitoring			\$ 3000	
l. Other			\$ 15000	
1.				
2, Partner Indirect Cost				
m. Project Sub-Total	\$ 2350	\$ 15000	\$ 33100	
n. FS Indirect Costs				
<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>\$ 2350</b>	<b>\$ 15000</b>	<b>\$ 33100</b>	

NOTES:

G, C. Ravalli Co. RBD equipment rental

Attachment:

#24 Monitoring Plan- West Fork Road Riparian Management Areas; Ravalli County, MT; RAC Proposal

**Part A. Inventory, mapping, and signing portion of the project:** Inspect the West Fork Road each year in the fall and in the spring to ensure the RMA signs are still in place. This will be performed by the county, using county funds. This monitoring will consist of an on-the-ground inventory of all RMA delineations established through the GPS effort. Missing or damaged signs will be replaced by the Ravalli County Road and Bridge Department.

**Part B. Vegetation management portion of project:** Based on the recommendations of the Bitterroot National Forest's South Zone fisheries biologist and the county's environmental consultant, two or three riparian areas will be selected for restoration projects. For each RMA restoration project the following pre-project information will be collected, as appropriate.

Existing condition:

- 1) species and percent cover of dominant plant species and all invasive and noxious weeds
- 2) size classes/structure for woody species
- 3) over-bank plant cover by species (shading and food sources for fish)
- 4) basic site features ( e.g. landform, slope, percent bare soil, soil drainage class, surface soil textures and other pertinent physical properties, soil pH)
- 5) color digital photos from the plot center at each sampling site toward the four cardinal directions

Regarding follow-up field monitoring, items 1,2,3, and 5 will be repeated, as appropriate, in the year 2012 field season to document changes in these features over time. This will assist in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the restoration efforts as well as that of the applied site-specific BMPs. This monitoring will be done by the county's environmental consultant, who will provide a monitoring report to the Ravalli County Road and Bridge Department.

Part C. Other monitoring related to BMPs: In years 2011 and 2012 an assessment of roadway management activities conducted within the established RMAs will be conducted by the county's environmental consultant through interviews with Road and Bridge Department personnel and field reconnaissance trips scheduled as needed. This review will consider treatments, avoidance measures, and BMPs applied within the RMAs. The results of this inventory will be compared to the BMPs prescribed for the particular RMA to establish conformity with these measures. A report of the findings will be submitted by the consultant to the Road and Bridge Department Supervisor.

Exhibit 1. Examples of Riparian Management Areas along the West Fork Bitterroot River Road.

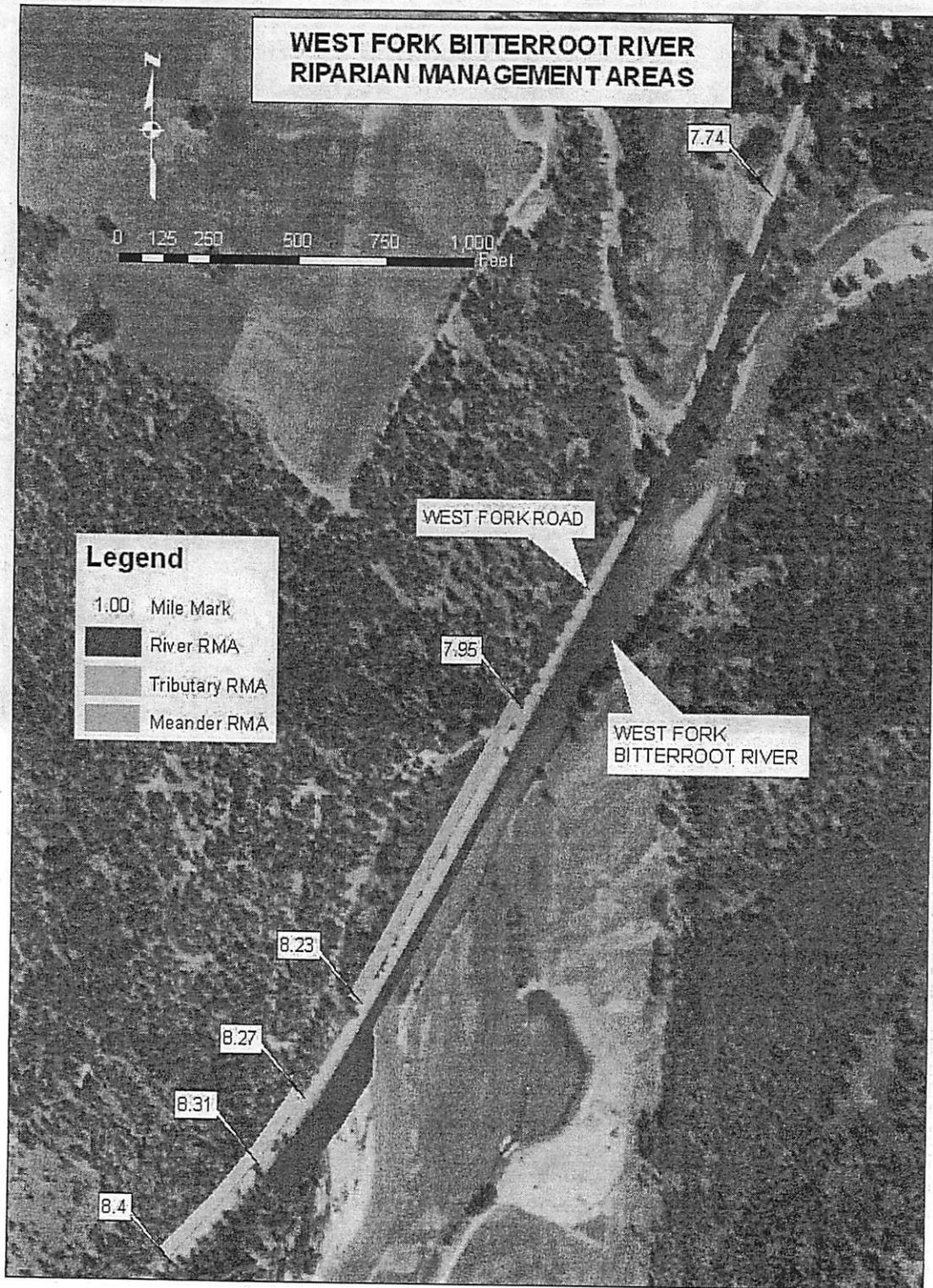


Exhibit 2. The Riparian Management Area sign. These will be posted on both ends of the RMAs within the roadway easement along the length of the West Fork Bitterroot River Road.

