



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Dixie National Forest
Supervisor's Office

AGENDA ITEM # III.

1789 North Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, UT 84721
435-865-3700
FAX: 435-865-3791

File Code: 1350
Date: September 15, 2016

Bryan Thiriot
54 East 750 South
St. George, UT 84770

Dear Mr. Thiriot,

In the Fall of 2014 you applied to serve on the Dixie National Forest – Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). You have been chosen as a member of this RAC. The Dixie RAC was formed to provide recommendations to the Forest Supervisor (Angelita Bullets) on how to use Title II funds that come to the Dixie, under the Secure Rural Schools Act. You have made it through the Forest Services & USDA vetting process and have been selected as a new member!

RAC INFORMATION – Dixie National Forest

By law (the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the RAC is comprised of three categories – A, B & C. Resource Advisory Committees for the Forest Service are limited to a maximum of 15 voting members and 3 replacement members. The FACA also allows for a replacement member in each category.

With the approval of your application, in the latest round, the Dixie RAC now has 15 voting members and 2 replacement members. Per the rules of the FACA, it is required that at least 9 members of the RAC (a quorum) be available to have a voting meeting. Ten of the members have been on the RAC for some time and their appointment is due to expire September 30, 2016, unless they are eligible for reappointment.

The RAC will hold meetings when Title II funds are available to the forest, and after we have received project proposals from the general public. Our last meeting was on April 6, 2016 were we approved 14 projects, with over \$400,000 in Title II funds.

RAC MONEY

As a RAC member your responsibility is to, work with the other members of the committee, in order to recommend projects to the USDA Forest Service for spending, after funding authorization and project proposals have been received. As we have approved the afore mentioned projects in 2016, there are currently no funds and or projects to approve at this time.



AGENDA ITEM # III. (Continued)

RAC PROJECTS

RAC projects must be on or adjacent (with clear benefits to) National Forest System lands. They also must have approved NEPA decisions, or be exempt from such. Projects should have objectives to:

- Improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure;
- Implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems;
- Restore and improve health of the land and water quality;
- Protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat;
- Maintain or obliterate roads and trail, and other infrastructure;
- Improve soil productivity;
- Improvement the forest ecosystem health;
- Restore or maintain the watershed;
- Restore, maintain, and improve wildlife and fish habitat;
- Control noxious and exotic weeds; and/or
- Re-establishment of native species

At www.fs.fed.us/srs/ you can find more detailed background information on the Secure Rural Schools Act and RACs.

As mentioned above, the RAC is not convened until we have funding authorization from Congress and we have project proposals from the public. Projects can be proposed from almost anyone. Likely project proponents may include:

- Resource advisory committee members
- Tribes, counties, state & federal agencies
- Fire Safe Councils, Firewise communities
- Fish, wildlife & watershed interest groups
- Other partners and stakeholders
- Forest Service

FOREST SERVICE RAC COORDINATION

The Dixie National Forest has assigned Joe Rechsteiner (as the Designated Federal Official) and Jason Hamilton (as the Coordinator) to work with you on this RAC. Joe can be reached at (435) 652-3101 and Jason can be reached at (435) 865-3794. Their roles will be further explained at the convening of a future Dixie RAC meeting.

WHO IS ON THE RAC?

To give you an idea of who you are serving with, I have gleaned some very short biographical information about each of you and included it below for you to get a “flavor” of who is on the Dixie RAC. (Note: “Replacement” members are appointed at the establishment of the RAC for each category. They do not vote, but are able to step in as members if for some reason a RAC member must quit the RAC commitment or their term expires.)

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CATEGORY A

- *Anne Smith:* Instructor, Southern Utah University, Outdoor Recreation in Parks & Tourism. Advisor Outdoor Adventure Living Learning Community.
- *Byard Kershaw:* Owner of North Rim Consulting. Member of Kane County Resource Development Committee
- *Carl Albrecht:* CEO Garkane Energy Cooperative. Resident of Loa, Utah. Spent summers as a boy recreating on Dixie National Forest
- *Jim Matson:* Chair of Color Country RC&D Board and associated with Utah Rural Life Foundation Stewardship Center. Resident of Kanab. Background in commercial forestry working many years for Kaibab Industries.
- *H. Dell Lefevre:* Range permittee on the Dixie National Forest. Resident of Boulder, Utah. Garfield County Commission.
- *VACANT (Replacement):*

CATEGORY B

- *Mary O'Brien:* Utah Forests Program Manager for Grand Canyon Trust. Resident of Castle Valley, Utah. Passionate about collaborative land management – actively working with Utah Forests on a variety of natural resource issues.
- *Rick Rosenberg:* Governor's Blue Ribbon Fisheries Advisory Council. Past-President Southern Utah Anglers. Mayor of Santa Clara, Utah. Professional engineer.
- *Alberto Vasquez:* Hospital Executive/Administrator for IHC Garfield Memorial Hospital. American Health Care Executive Advisory Council
- *Bryan Thiriot:* Executive Director – Five County Association of Governments. 15 years of Congressional Staff work experience for the U.S. Senate
- *Donnie Hunter:* State board member for Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Resident of Cedar City. Actively involved in many local, state, and national wildlife groups.
- *Carol A. Sullivan (Replacement):* Retired High School Teacher. Kane County Hospital Board. Kanab City Council member

CATEGORY C

- *Clare Ramsay:* Garfield County Commission. Resident of Tropic, Utah. Former school teacher and coach.
- *James Kennedy:* Retired USU Professor. Rancher. National Resources Environmental Consultant.
- *Paul Nelson:* Iron County Farm Bureau. Resident of Cedar City.
- *Brian Bremner:* Member of Garfield County School Board. Resident of Panguitch, Utah. Garfield County Engineer. Extensive interest and background in management issues related to the Dixie National Forest.
- *Laura Cotts:* Assistant Professor of Physical Science at Southern Utah University. Resident of Cedar City. Enjoys hiking and recreating on the Dixie National Forest.
- *Lawrence Bell (Replacement):* Business Owner, Member of Back Country Horsemen, Cedar City Resident

AGENDA ITEM # III. (Continued)

We have generally been getting authorization for Title II funds on a yearly basis from Congress, and that authorization is usually good for multiple years. As such, we typically hold at least one meeting every other year, if not every year, given we have enough RAC members to make a quorum. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joe or Jason. We look forward to working with you as a newly appointed member of the Dixie Resource Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelita Bulletts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical line extending downwards from the end.

ANGELITA BULLETTTS
Forest Supervisor

cc: Joe Rechsteiner; Jason Hamilton

Enclosure: USDA Dixie RAC Selection Letter and Certificate



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 04 2016

Mr. Bryan Thiriot
54 East 750 South
St. George, Utah 84770

Dear Mr. Thiriot:

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the Dixie Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) representing the interest area of Dispersed Recreational Activities. The RAC has been established in compliance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Act), as authorized and amended in October 2008 by Public Law 110-343. The Regional Forester of the Intermountain Region submitted your name for appointment to this committee.

In accordance with the Act, the RAC was established to improve collaborative relationships between the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the local communities and to provide advice and recommendations concerning projects proposed for funding under Title II of the Act.

The RAC is composed of 15 voting members, representing the broad array of interests listed in the Act. Your appointment will be for 4 years beginning on the date of your certificate of appointment. The Chair will be elected by the RAC. Meetings are scheduled as needed by the Designated Federal Officer in consultation with the Chair and other members of the RAC. Meetings are open to the public.

A certificate recognizing you as an official member of this committee is enclosed. As a RAC member, you will serve without compensation. However, you may be entitled to per diem and travel expenses, while attending meetings, as determined by your local National Forest and in accordance with travel regulations for Federal employees.

Thank you for your interest in and commitment to serving on this committee. I believe you will find your participation to be a rewarding experience. I know that your background and collaborative abilities will be instrumental in ensuring the success of this RAC in accomplishing the duties set forth in the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack".

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



Certificate of Appointment

presented to

BRYAN THIRIOT

*With appreciation for accepting the call
to serve the Nation and the
United States Department of Agriculture
as a member of the*

**DIXIE RESOURCE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

MAY 04 2016

DATE

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

AGENDA ITEM # III. (Continued)



Forest Service
Dixie National Forest
Supervisor's Office

1789 North Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, UT 84721
435-865-3700
FAX: 435-865-3791

File Code: 1350
Date: May 3, 2016

Mr. Jim Matson
Dixie RAC Chair
Dixie National Forest RAC
135 W. Kanab Creek Drive
Kanab, UT 84741

Dear Jim:

I received your correspondence on the projects that the Dixie RAC has recommended for current year funding as well as prior year RAC funding. The committee has identified projects that I will approve as recommended by the Dixie Resource Advisory Committee. These projects met the threshold of at least 50% of the funding that is dedicated to restoration of streams and watersheds OR, maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration of roads. My staff and all the employees of the Dixie National Forest, stand ready to partner with you on implementation of these projects.

In approving these projects that the RAC recommended, there are the two RAC caveats. These are: 1.) South Hollow Cattle Guard – Dixie RAC mandates a minimum of 20' cattle guard, with concrete bases, and has increased RAC funding on this from \$8,919 to \$10,000. 2.) Hells Backbone Road Drainage Maintenance – The funding on this project may increase should the other approved projects not utilize their authorized amounts.

APPROVED PROJECTS

Below are the projects that I approve with the associated funding levels according to the 2 caveats outlined by the Dixie RAC:

Project Title	Project Proponent	Dixie RAC Recommended Funding
Swain's Creek Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Bridge	Charles Hightower	\$ 40,000.00
South Hollow Cattle Guard ¹	Dennis Bramble	\$ 10,000.00
Cowpuncher Water Tank Replacement	Dixie National Forest	\$ 35,000.00
Pine Valley Whipple Canal Connector Trail	Dixie National Forest	\$ 14,000.00
Center Creek Vegetation improvement project	Dixie National Forest	\$ 37,225.00
Hells Backbone Road Drainage Maintenance ²	Dixie National Forest	\$ 72,762.00



AGENDA ITEM # III. (Continued)

Mammoth Creek Dispersed Recreation Watershed Restoration Project	Dixie National Forest	\$	30,000.00
2016 Hells Backbone Infrastructure Improvement	Garfield County	\$	100,000.00
Deer Creek Fence	Garfield County	\$	16,500.00
Parowan City Trails Bridge	Parowan City	\$	40,000.00
New Harmony Trailhead CXT Vault Toilet	Town of New Harmony	\$	17,000.00
Southern Region Beaver Relocation/Riparian Restoration	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	\$	27,600.00
North Creek Bridge Scour Protection	Washington County	\$	21,000.00
Pinto Creek Bridge Scour Protection	Washington County	\$	10,000.00
			\$ 471,087.00
1 - South Hollow Cattle Guard – Dixie RAC mandates a minimum of 20' cattle guard, with concrete bases, and has increased RAC funding on this from \$8,919 to \$10,000.			
2 - Hells Backbone Road Drainage Maintenance – The funding on this project may increase should the other approved projects not utilize their authorized amounts.			

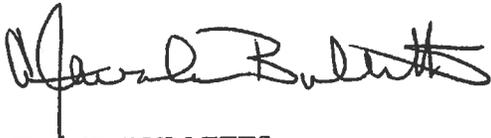
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

By law, we must obligate the authorized funding for these projects by September 30, 2016 (Fiscal Year 2015 funding) and by September 30, 2017 (Fiscal Year 2016 Funding).

NEXT STEPS FOR RAC

By recommending these projects to me, you have fulfilled the primary task that was given to the RAC by the Secretary of Agriculture. There is opportunity for the RAC to review the implementation of the approved projects, but this can take many different forms. My staff can create a brief accomplishments report for your review around October 31, 2016 and 2017 if you are interested. If you would like further interaction with each other on reviewing implementation of projects, I would welcome your suggestions. Additionally, if you have further questions about the process, please contact Jason Hamilton at (435) 865-3794 or Joc Rechsteiner at (435) 652-3101.

Sincerely,



ANGELITA BULLETTTS
Forest Supervisor

cc: pdl r4 dixie RAC committee members; April 2016 Dixie RAC Presenters via E-mail