

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Kern and Tulare Counties Resource Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Kern and Tulare Counties Resource
Advisory Committee

3b. GSA

Committee No.

73541

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

No 12/19/2023 12/19/2025

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

SRS and Community
Self-Determination Act as
reauthorized in PL 110-343,
PL 112-141 and as amended
Agricultural Improvement Act
of 2018 PL. 115-334.

13. Effective Date

14. Committee Type

14c. Presidential?

10/03/2008 Continuing No

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

17b. Closed

17c. Partially Closed

Other Activities

17d. Total

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Since 2010, the Kern and Tulare Counties RAC has met 15 times, and recommended 56 projects for funding, which were all approved by the Sequoia National Forest, totaling \$681,324. Since that time 88% percent of the funds have been spent to complete projects such as trail maintenance, fuels reduction, watershed clean up, and fire lookout restoration. These funds have helped the Sequoia National Forest to build new partnerships with many groups, such as Keepers

of the Kern, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, and Stewards of the Sequoia.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Originally started with 15 appointed members in 2010, 2 members died and one resigned. The remaining 12 committee appointments expired on 9/30/2017. This leaves 15 vacancies, which are expected to be filled in 2022-2023. A nomination packet with 15 potential members representing diverse forest users has been forwarded in fall 2020 to the Washington Office for review, according to a previous report, but can't find any record of it now.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

In 2021 the RAC did not have a quorum and therefore did not meet due to lack of members and COVID. Once a new committee is appointed, the RAC will meet, either in person or via phone/video conferencing, several times a year to review projects. The forest is still in the process of obligating funds toward projects that were previously recommended by the Committee.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The RAC is necessary to improve collaborative relationships among the people that use and care for the National Forests and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with Title II of the Act.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

No RAC committee activity for FY2023.

Designated Federal Officer

Gerald Wayne Hitchcock Deputy District Ranger,
Kern Rive Ranger District

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Ananian, Gary	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Community Organizer	Representative Member
Browning, Paul	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Educator	Representative Member
Carver, Nathan	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Rancher	Representative Member
Daly, Marlon	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Politician	Representative Member
Gomez, Robert	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Bussinessman	Representative Member
Heuer, Ruth	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Community Organizer	Representative Member
Jeans, Guy	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Guide/Outfitter	Representative Member
Kearns, Denis	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Community Organizer	Representative Member
Mahr, Darren	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Businessman	Representative Member
Martin, Joseph	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Citizen	Representative Member
Oschner, Manfred	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Politician	Representative Member
Pengilley, Keith	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Timber	Representative Member
Schanzenbach, Douglas	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Citizen	Representative Member
Shreffler, Patrick	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Businessman	Representative Member
Volpert, Matthew	01/12/2021	01/12/2025	Recreation	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 15

Narrative Description

By recommending projects that maintain and improve the health of national forest ecosystems and improve cooperative relationships among the people who use and care for the national forests, the Secure Rural Schools resource advisory committees support the Forest Service mission to sustain the health, diversity, and

productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The committees specifically support Forest Service strategic goals to 1. Restore, sustain, and enhance the national forests; and 2. Provide and sustain benefits to the American people.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Projects have improved safety of trails by performing needed maintenance, provided fuels reduction surrounding communities to reduce fire risk, and cleanup and public education to protect the wild and scenic Kern River corridor.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Trail maintenance projects using volunteer labor have calculated the value of time contributed.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

56

Number of Recommendations Comments

No new RAC recommendations for FY2023. Title II funds are in the process of being allocated for previous FYs approved project recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

93%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

52 recommendations have been fully completed.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

7%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

4 recommendations are still in progress.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Forest Service (FS) Designated Federal Official regularly reports to the committee on whether recommended projects proposals are or are not approved by the FS. The DFO also reports on actions taken to implement approved projects. This may take the form of verbal reports and presentations at committee meetings, committee field trips and monitoring activities.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

Yes

What is the estimated Number of grants reviewed for approval 0

What is the estimated Number of grants recommended for approval 0

What is the estimated Dollar Value of grants recommended for approval \$0

Grant Review Comments

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments