



*Pend Oreille County*

# *Board of Commissioners*

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October 29, 2018

Recreation & Conservation Office

Re: Colville National Forest OHV Ranger & Colville National Forest Dispersed Site Maintenance  
RCO Grant 18-2499

The Board of County Commissioners supports the pursuit of grant funding for the above referenced projects.

The hiring of OHV Rangers is a very important component to the South End Project that may aid in the opening of additional roads for OHV use providing for much needed connectivity. With the implementation of Rangers, this will assist in the solution to illegal OHV use by educating those who utilize the trails and encouraging the protection of the landscape. Building solid relationships between the Forest Service and the OHV community will certainly lead to improved recreation experiences.

This project will hire two OHV Rangers, purchase educational materials and provide OHV training. The goal of this project is to educate the public on State and Federal OHV regulations, responsible trail riding etiquette, resource protection and provide forest information related to other activities/uses. The Rangers will monitor routes identified for OHV designation in future phases of the South End Project implementation plan. There are currently 237 miles of OHV designated routes open in the project area with an additional 129 miles of routes to be opened. The end result will be a loop route system connecting communities in Pend Oreille and Stevens counties. The Rangers will be working to improve the relationship between the multiple users and continue to lead the CNF OHV Ambassador Program established in 2015.

Dispersed sites are an important part of the effort to open the Forest to the outdoor enthusiasts. These sites can be challenging to maintain but are crucial to deter illegal dumping and other public health concerns. These maintenance employees offer benefits to the public by providing a safe camping opportunity while protecting the natural resources. Furthermore, providing jobs in Pend Oreille County gives a boost to our economy.

This project will support the operation and maintenance of 20 campgrounds, 60 information sites and trailheads and 800 dispersed campsites across the Colville National Forest. The maintenance work to be

completed consists of the following: trash removal; toilet cleaning; hazard tree removal; water system repairs and testing; general repairs of picnic table, fire rings, signs, information boards; noxious weed removal; and visitor contacts. With funding from this project, the forest would hire two GS-5 Recreation Technicians and two GS-3 Forestry Aids to perform the needed maintenance work across the forest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Kiss, Chair

  
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Mike Manus, Vice-Chair

  
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Karen Skoog, Commissioner