

Montana Federal Lands Access Program

2016 Request for Proposals Informational Webinar

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Western Federal Lands

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Overview

- Federal Lands Highway
 - FAST Act & FLAP
 - PDC & TAG
 - Investment strategies
 - Proposal selection process
 - Match requirement
 - Tips for developing good proposal
 - Learn new acronyms to impress family and friends
 - Questions and hopefully some good answers
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Federal Lands Highway (FLH)

- FLH is an office within the FHWA
 - 3 Division Offices
 - Eastern, Central, Western
 - Deliver projects that access
 - National Parks
 - National Forests System Lands
 - National Wildlife Refuges
 - BLM Lands
 - US Corp of Engineers Lands
 - Tribal Lands
 - BOR Lands
 - DOD Facilities
-

Federal Lands Highway (FLH)

Western Federal Lands



Eastern Federal Lands

Central Federal Lands

Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Western Federal Lands (WFL)
 - Located in Vancouver, WA
 - Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska
 - About 200 staff
 - Provide
 - Planning
 - Project development
 - Construction
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Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Beartooth Highway



Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Gardiner Gateway Project



Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Elk Lake Road, Red Rock Lakes NWR



FAST Act Overview

- Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
 - Program authorized through 2020
 - Funds expire in 3 years
 - Requires minimum 4 year program of projects
 - Includes Federal Lands Highway Program
 - Funds allocated annually
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Federal Lands & Tribal Transportation Programs

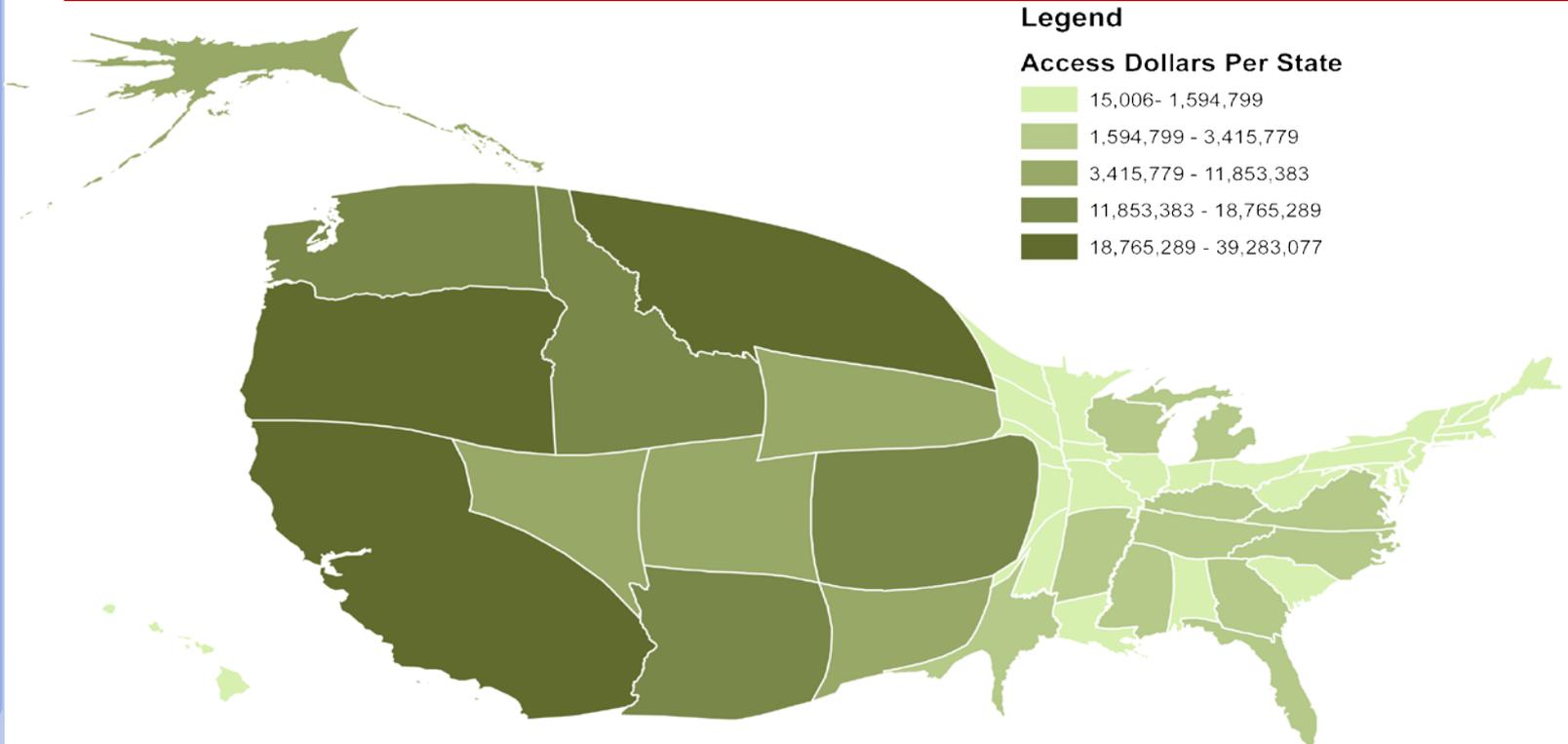
	Annual \$
Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP)	\$335-\$375 million
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	\$250-\$270 million
Tribal Transportation Program	\$465-\$505 million
Nationally Significant Federal Lands & Tribal Projects Program	\$100 million

What is the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)?

- “Access Program” goals
 - **Improve transportation facilities** that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands
 - **Supplements State and local resources** for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities
 - With an emphasis on **high-use Federal recreation sites** and **Federal economic generators**



Access Program Dollars by State | A Cartogram



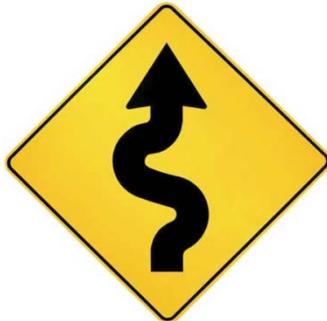
Sources:
State Shapefile: US Census
Access Dollars: FLHD, Access Program Funding Table Dated 10/26/2012

Puerto Rico is not represented, but will receive around \$78,000 per year in Access Funds

Allocated by formula

Federal Lands Access Program

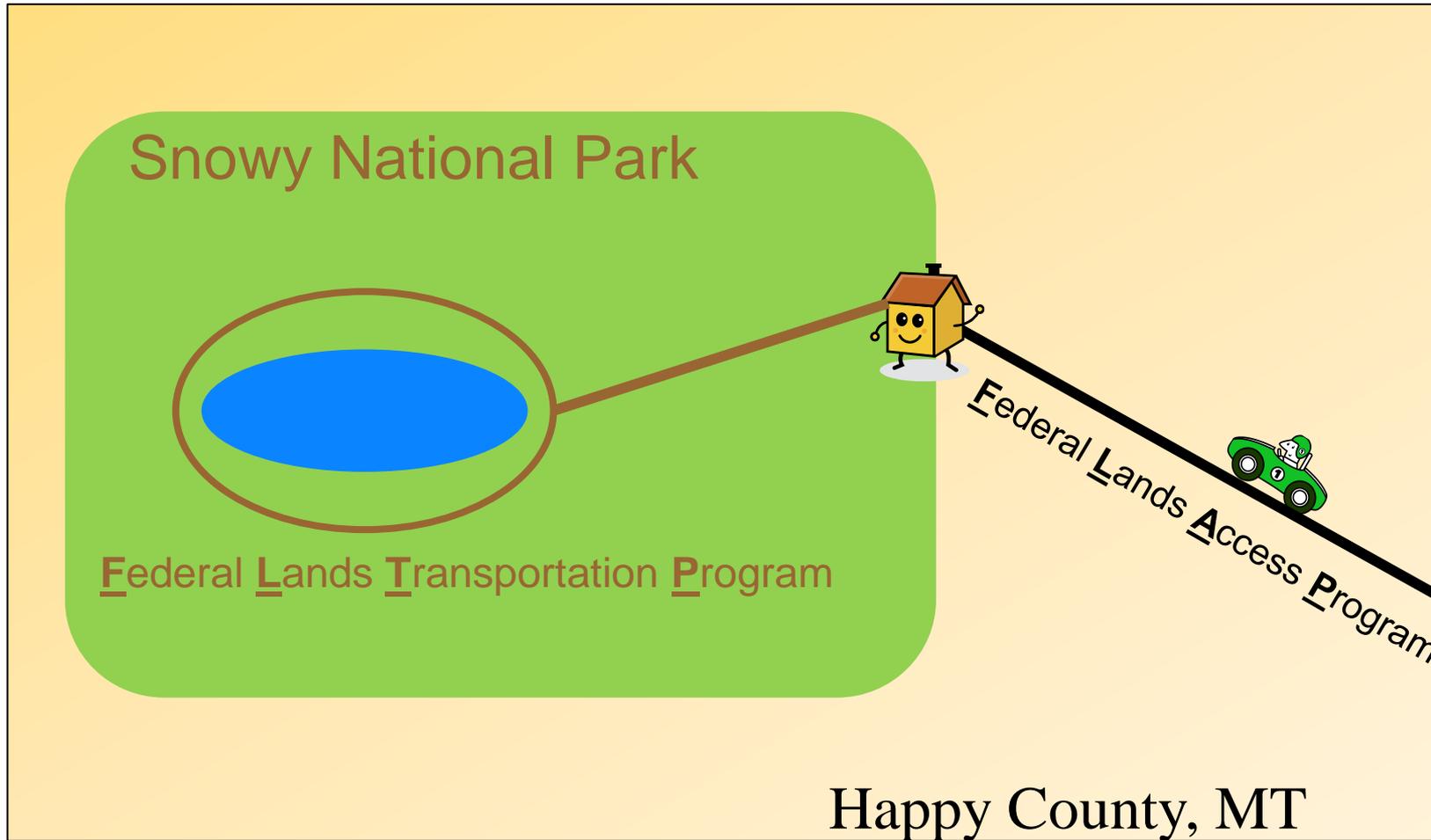
- Where can FLAP funds be spent?
 - On a Federal Lands Access Transportation Facility
 - public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system
 - located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands
 - title or maintenance responsibility is vested with State, County, Local Government, or Tribe
 - Vested- bears majority of the cost



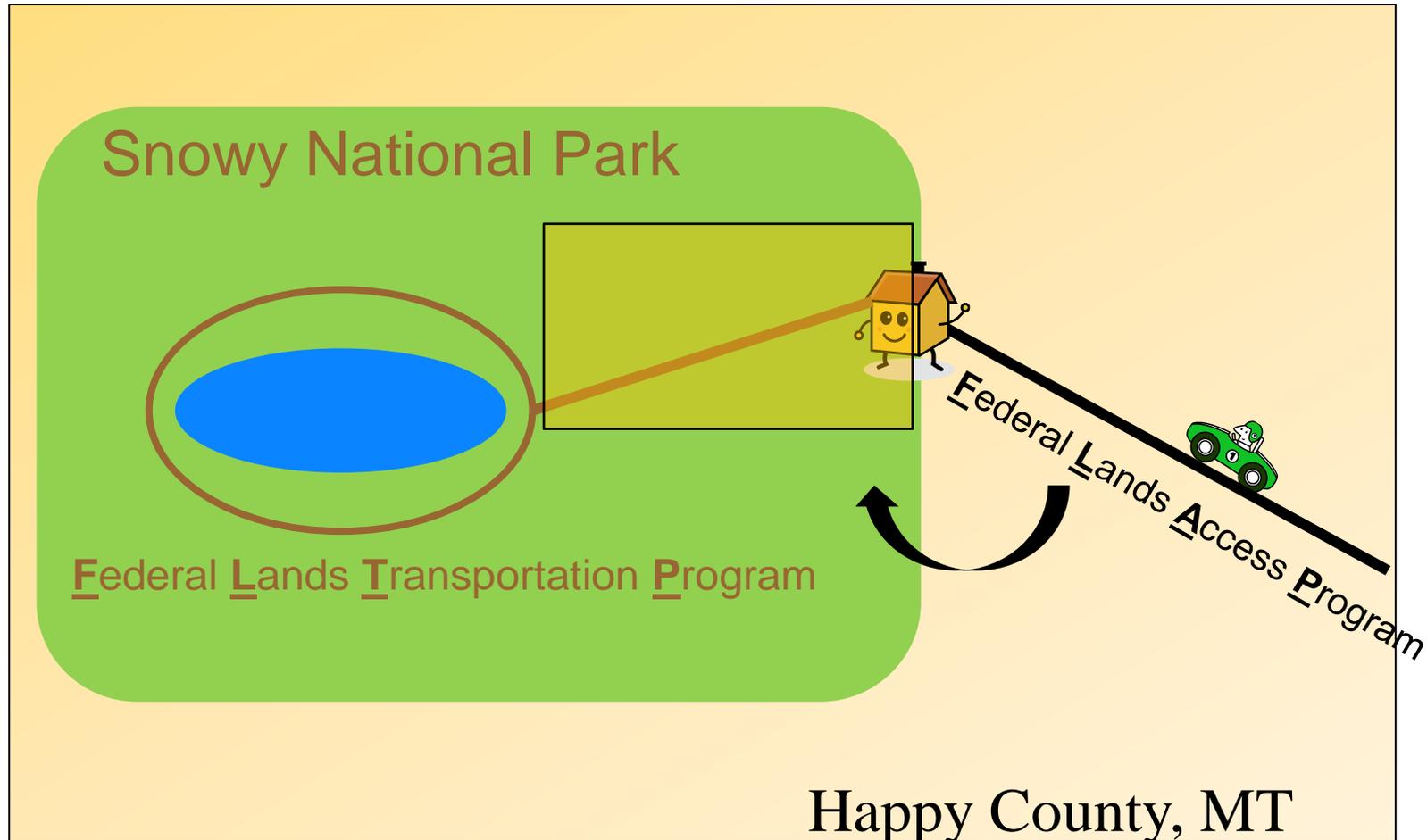
Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- Important items to remember...
 - This is a transportation program, this is not a “grant” program.
 - Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands has stewardship and oversight responsibility for **ALL** projects.
 - It’s called the Federal Lands Access Program not the “Let’s Build a Nice Road for the State/County Program” (LBNRSCP)!
 - Proposals are jointly submitted by local agency and FLMA, early and on-going coordination is key to success.
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Where can funding be spent?



Title or Maintenance Responsibility?



Where can funding be spent?

- Transportation facilities that provides access to Federal Lands...
 - BLM
 - BOR
 - USACE
 - NPS
 - USFS
 - USFWS
 - DOD
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Programming Decisions Committee (PDC)

- Who makes programming decisions?
 - The Programming Decisions Committee
 - Members include representatives from:
 - Federal Highway Administration
 - Western Federal Lands Highway Division
 - State Department of Transportation
 - Montana Department of Transportation
 - Local Government representative
 - Montana Association of Counties
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Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

- Who evaluates proposals?
 - A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is made up of several entities to help evaluate proposals that includes:
 - WFL
 - MDT
 - MACo
 - FLMA representatives from:
 - NPS, USFS, USACE, BLM, DOD, and USFWS
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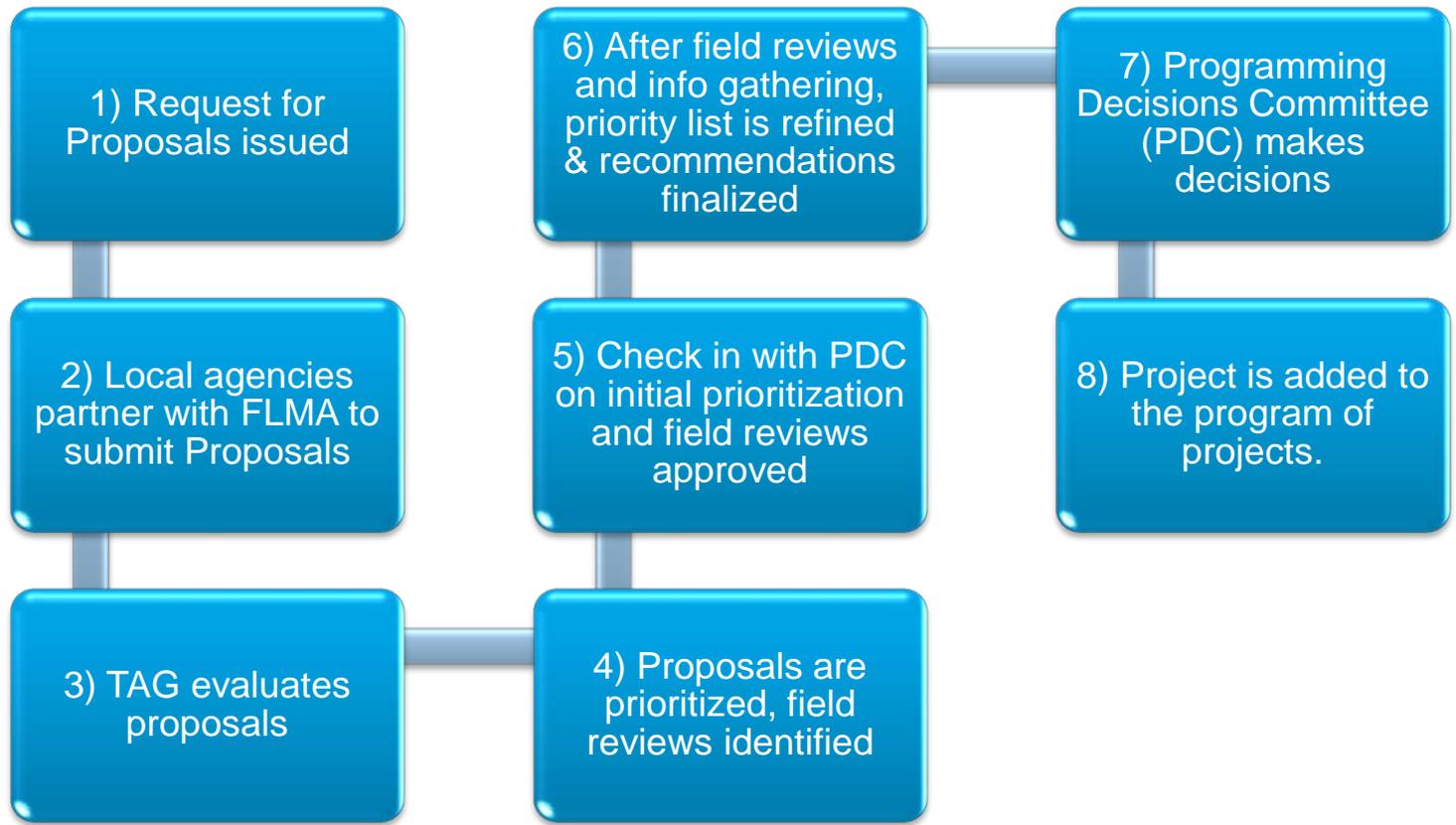
Investment Strategy

- Maximize the use of limited funds by emphasizing:
 - MT authorized for about \$22 mil annually
 - Proposals that access high-use Federal recreation sites and Federal economic generators
 - Preserving existing access to Federal Lands and restoring serviceability of the assets
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Investment Strategy (con't)

- Maximize the use of limited funds by emphasizing (con't)
 - Proposals where important access will be lost
 - In general, investment levels should be proportional to the % of use that is directly related to Federal Lands
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Proposal Selection Process



Proposal Selection Process (con't)

- PDC will make final decision also considering:
 - Agency priorities
 - Applicant's share of the costs, previous federal investment specifically related to project, availability of funds, leverage of funds
 - Project delivery schedules
 - Environmental and right-of-way constraints
 - **Access Program contingent on available funding and authorizing legislation.**
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Proposal Selection Process (con't)

- After PDC makes final selection WFL prepares match agreements
 - Consider lead agency if other than WFL
 - Capability assessment
 - PDC concurrence on lead
 - Assure match is acceptable
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Match Requirement

- Statute (23 USC 120); FedAid Rules
 - Varies by State - MT is 13.42%
 - Match can be:
 - Cash (Non-Federal see below)
 - In kind services (labor), r/w, materials (rock, culvert, etc), equipment
 - Valued at fair market value
 - For materials and services, work eligible **after** funding agreement signed.
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Match Requirement (con't)

- Limitations:
 - Non-Federal Funds unless specific statutory authority otherwise. Exceptions include:
 - Federal Lands Transportation Program/Tribal Transportation Funds
 - Federal Land Management Agency funds (Non Title 23/49)
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2016 MT FLAP

Request for Proposals

- RFP opened Dec 3, proposals due **Apr 1**
 - MT authorized for about \$22 million, minimum proposal size \$100,000
 - For construction funds available in 2019 and 2020
 - Types of projects include capital improvement, enhancement, surface preservation, transit, planning and research
 - Proposals must be submitted **jointly** by State, county, town, tribal, municipal or local government and the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) being accessed
 - Match is 13.42%
-

Types of Projects

- Capital improvement
 - Rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads and bridges
 - Safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, bridges, signing and associated road appurtenances
 - Enhancement
 - Road and trail improvements
 - Interpretive signs, kiosks, viewpoints, restrooms, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, trailheads, and improvements that reduce vehicle-wildlife conflicts
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Types of Projects (con't)

- Surface Preservation
 - Surface preservation of roads, trails and adjacent vehicular parking areas.
 - Chip seal, crack sealing and aggregate courses
 - For FY 2019
 - Transit
 - Construction of transit facilities
 - Operation and maintenance of transit facilities
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Types of Projects (con't)

- Planning
 - Engineering studies, corridor management planning, bicycle/pedestrian planning, and alternative transportation planning
 - Provide valuable information for future FLAP proposals
 - Research
 - Evaluate solutions that enhance access, safety or sustainability. Must be broad-based and applicable to multiple Federal Land Management Agencies
 - Wildlife-vehicle collision avoidance measures, context sensitive roadside safety features, and congestion management strategies.
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RFP Timelines

- Project proposal packets went out Dec 3, 2015
 - Completed proposal to WFL by **Apr 1, 2016.**
 - TAG reviews proposals and provide initial recommendations to PDC in June
 - TAG field reviews projects in July
 - Additional data gathering in Aug
 - PDC makes final programming decisions in Sep
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Tips for Developing Good Proposals

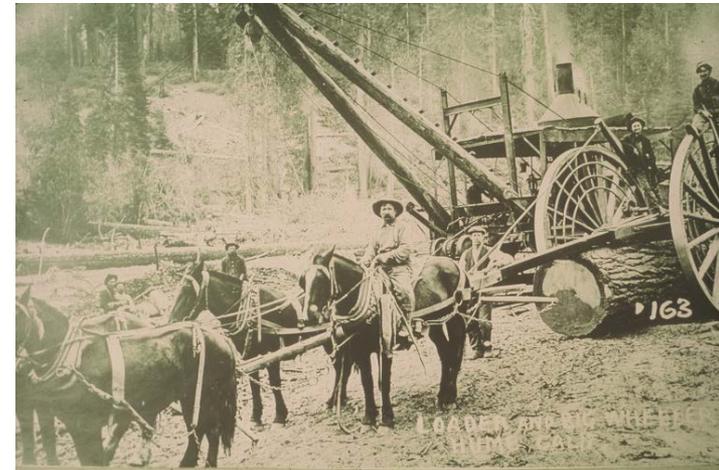
- Turn it in on time...
 - ...by turning it in early!
 - Get all the correct signatures
 - Write to criterion
 - Safety
 - Preservation
 - Recreation & Economic
 - Mobility
 - Sustainability & Environmental Quality
 - Readiness & Support
-

Tips (con't)

- Include map
 - Show federal land
 - Show federal high use recreations sites and federal economic generators
 - Other Federal Lands roads (FLTP inventory)
 - Include photos
 - Include letters of support
 - For restrooms, think “rest area”
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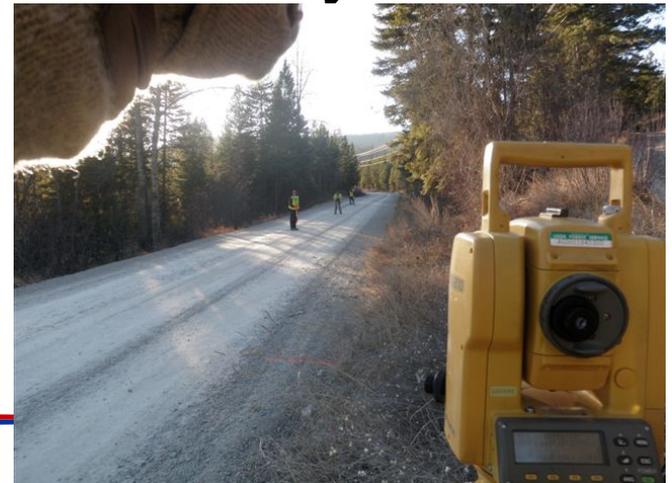
Tips (con't)

- Mind the page limits (30 pages) and file size (10 mb)
- Make sure you have good project maps and clear photos
- Sometimes you have to state the obvious



Tips (con't)

- Be clear about the intended work
- Be succinct
- Be clear about who should deliver the project
- Be clear about the match and any additional funding



Tips (con't)

- Size your request to a reasonable project- MT receives about \$22 mil annually for FLAP
 - Minimum proposal size of \$100,000
 - FLMAs
 - User information
 - % federal land related traffic
 - Mapping the federal lands that the project accesses
 - Help edit proposals
 - Coordinate with your representative to the TAG!!!!
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Proposals Delivered by Others

- WFL is responsible for Stewardship and Oversight regardless of what agency delivers the project
 - Begin with the assumption that will WFL delivery project, but can still request LPA delivery
 - PDC makes final decision on LPA request to lead project delivery
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Questions



The Oracle of Delphi speaks....
