

Rangeland Improvement Project System - RIPS New Project Fence

Now we'd like to log in to the test training environment and walk through the data entry screens to see how we enter data into the RIPS system. After this training, if you would like to practice, ensure you're using the test training environment so we don't change your actual data in the RIPS system.

First, select the transaction button. Then you'll enter your user name and password. If you have access to multiple offices, select the pull-down and select the appropriate office that you wish to enter data for, and then select the select office button. From the transaction project search screen, you can enter a specific project number and search for that project or navigate through the RIPS system using the buttons on the left-hand side.

The first thing we'd like to do is enter a new project record, so using the button on the left-hand side, select new project. One of the benefits to the current version of RIPS over previous versions is you don't have to enter all the data in order to update your record. There are minimum data elements that are required to save a project record. What's important about this is you must have a RIPS project number tied with the financial project code if you're planning on spending \$8100 for the completion of the project. So the first thing we'll look at is the minimum data elements required to generate a range improvement project number.

First you'll need to enter a fiscal year. This is the year you anticipate the project will be completed. Then enter the improvement name, select the improvement

Rangeland Improvement Project System - RIPS New Project Fence

type. This list will then be used to tailor the following screens to the appropriate project type. In this case, we'll select a fence project. The following screens will then only show information as related to fence projects. You'll also want to go ahead and select the construction agreement type. This can be BLM where the BLM is constructing and maintaining the project, a cooperative agreement where BLM is working in conjunction with another person or entity in both the creation and maintenance of the project, a range improvement permit where BLM is authorizing a person or entity to construct and maintain a project on BLM administered lands, a decision where BLM is decisioning the maintenance responsibilities to a specific individual or entity, and then maintenance agreement.

This is used primarily in Montana where BLM lands have existing projects. BLM will maintain right, title, and interest to those projects, but the maintenance responsibility will be from the primary beneficiary. You'll then need to go ahead and enter your financial project code. You can refer to IM 2001-27 for the block of financial project codes that were assigned to your state. Then contact your state range lead for the specific number you'll need to use when entering into this code here. After you've entered this information, select the save button, and then select the save and continue. Now you'll notice we have a RIPS project number assigned to the project, a project name, and the associated FFS code. Now you can begin work constructing the project out on the field. After the project has been completed and all construction has been done, you can then come back

Rangeland Improvement Project System - RIPS New Project Fence

into RIPS and finish completing the record. First enter the date the construction began, the date construction was completed. Was there a management plan associated with this project? In other words, was this project done in association with an allotment management plan for an area of critical environmental concern, some sort of a coordinated activity plan, fire rehab, a habitat management plan, no plan, recovery for T&E species, or a watershed activity plan. What was the habitat type in which the project was constructed? This is aquatic, riparian, terrestrial, or wetland.

In this case, since we're dealing with a fence, more than likely it'll be a terrestrial. What were your management objectives? In this case, typically fences are for livestock grazing. What was the geographic state that the project was completed in? Then you can select the county. If there are multiple meridians within the state, you have a choice of which meridian the project was completed in. Select the township, any fractional township, the direction, the range, fractional range and the direction, and then the section. In the case of a project that is linear, such as a fence, or a polygon, such as a weed treatment or any other vegetation manipulation, typically this location information is where the project marker is located.

After you've entered all the appropriate information, select next. The next screen shows details pertinent to the type of project we created. Notice the heading. Add fence details. If you selected a water development, this would then say add

Rangeland Improvement Project System - RIPS New Project Fence

water development details, and the following information would be pertinent for that type of project. In this case we're dealing with a fence. What type of fence is it? Your choices include antelope drop panel, electric, exclosure, four strand, net wire, other, smooth wire, suspension, three strand, or wood rail.

If you find you're using the other on a frequent basis, please notify the RIPS user rep so we can update the pull-down menu as appropriate. After you've selected the type, enter your primary units. Notice the primary units of a fence are length in miles to the nearest town. If secondary units are appropriate to the type of project, you will then enter them here. What species were benefited by creating this project? Select whatever is appropriate, and then you can identify a specific species that you plan to benefit. Is this species a plant or an animal? What type effect do you want to have on it, and then is it a threatened or endangered species.

You can also enter the NEPA number for an easy cross reference between this project and the environmental assessment that occurred to show the impacts of the project. Project 1, project 2, undefined 1, undefined 2, and improvement notes are all available just for freeform text that will help you remember what was going on with the project. These fields may or may not be used for any specific project. After you've entered the appropriate information, select next. Now we're going to identify the management unit for which this project was constructed in. You'll identify the allotment number.

Rangeland Improvement Project System - RIPS New Project Fence

If you'd like to identify a specific watershed management area, wildlife management area, or wild horse and burro area, you can. You can also enter multiple allotments if the project extends through more than one allotment. Here is the add improvement cooperator screen. Here you identify who are the cooperators. You'll also identify how much money and material he contributed and any labor or equipment costs that were contributed by the cooperator.

The final screen is your maintenance information screen. This identifies who has the maintenance responsibility as it will appear on the assignment of range improvement report, the last year it was inspected, and the anticipated inspection cycle. The table below shows estimates or recommendations on when these projects should be inspected. The suggested inspection sample for fences is on a five-year rotation. After you've entered all the information, select save, save and continue, select save, save and return, and you'll notice your new project has now been entered into the project search screen.