

**MEDFORD RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE, OREGON ROOM
AUGUST 11, 2003**

The objectives of the Committee are to improve collaboration relationships between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and local communities, and provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) or the Secretary's designee (s) consistent with the provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, P.L. 106-393.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Category 1

Gene Bowling
Rauno Perttu
David Hill
Daniel Ratty

Category 2

Phillip Lang
Vernon Pew
Jack Shipley
Richard Smith
David Strahan (after lunch)
Howard Heiner, Alternate
Jeffrey Hanson, Alternate

Category 3

Sue Kupillas

WELCOME!

Tim Reuwsaat
Designated Federal Official
Medford District Manager

Sue Kupillas
Medford RAC Chairperson
Jackson County Commissioner

Tim Reuwsaat introduced himself and gave a history of his experience with the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). He is looking forward to meeting everyone and seeing how they determine which projects to fund.

Sue Kupillas thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Tim Reuwsaat as the new Medford District Manager. She reviewed where the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, which established the RAC, began and some projects that have been funded in the past. Sue asked the group to focus on projects that reduce fire danger after the terrible fire season our region had last summer.

RE-INTRODUCTIONS

RAC members and BLM support staff introduced themselves. Since there were not enough members from Category 3 to form a quorum, the members agreed to make all decisions tentative until a quorum meets and approves them.

MEETING GUIDELINES, PROCESS - Facilitator – Teresa Gallagher-Hill

Teresa Gallagher-Hill reviewed the guidelines for the meeting using Robert's Rules of Order. She also reviewed the meeting agenda.

REVIEW/APPROVE MEETING MINUTES - Sue Kupillas

October 10, 2002 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
ELECTION OF RAC CHAIRPERSON - Teresa Gallagher-Hill

Sue Kupillas was nominated and approved to serve as chair for the next year. Approval is tentative until a quorum vote. Sue accepted and said that she appreciated the RAC group confidence in her.

PAST PROJECT PROGRESS CHART - Roger Schnoes, Project Coordinator, Medford District

Roger Schnoes provided an overview of what has been accomplished in FY 02 and FY03. 11 projects have been completed of 97 approved. \$735,000 has been spent in five southern Oregon counties, making a significant impact on our economy. Roger explained the process (i.e. obligating funds, etc.) for implementing the projects that RAC recommends.

Decision: RAC decided that project updates will be posted on their web page.

KLAMATH COUNTY PROJECTS

Wedge Watkins, Klamath Falls Resource Area (RA) representative, reviewed the process for deciding which projects were included in the Klamath County proposal. First, the county solicits proposals from BLM and the public. A committee in the BLM office then goes through the submitted projects and makes recommendations to the Klamath Falls County Commissioners. This year, the County Commissioners decided to move money from Title III and use it for Title II projects. Wedge reviewed the four proposals.

Questions/Concerns:

- Concern about funding the Spencer Culvert Design. This would only pay for one function; there is no guarantee that there would be money to complete the project.
- Concern about Spencer Watershed Riparian Fencing because it is on private land and would be in support of a private business.
- Concern on the public submission, BLM Restoration, about spending \$38,000 for a new vehicle for use of Klamath County Corrections Facility – could it be leased or bought used? Key concern addressed by Roland Gangstee from Klamath Community Corrections. He said that the vehicle will need to haul a trailer in addition to people. Roland said that the county used Jackson County's program as a pattern for their proposal. He added that leasing is not a popular concept in Klamath County. If partial funding is provided, Klamath County may be able to get matching funds. The bottom line is, they need a vehicle to get the work done. Roland stated that Klamath County Commissioners were supportive of buying a vehicle. The Klamath County Commissioners have committed significant Title III funds for this proposal. Sue Kupillas and Jack Smith spoke to the success of the program in Jackson County.
- The question was asked if the Matchbox Thinning project could be completed by the corrections facility. Roland Gangstee responded that the workers are there for too short of a time to make training them in thinning techniques cost effective.

Public Comment:

1. Anita Ward spoke in favor of the Spencer Culvert Replacement Design project and the Spencer Watershed Riparian Fencing project.

RAC Vote:

Jack Shipley moved that the committee vote on each project individually. The motion was seconded. There was further discussion regarding the Spencer Watershed Riparian Fencing project. The attached table reflects the motions made and approved tentatively for Klamath County Title II funding. The only

project that was not approved was the Spencer Watershed Riparian Fencing project because it did not receive a unanimous vote.

MUTIL-COUNTY PROJECTS

Roger Schnoes gave a presentation on the four projects in this category. One was proposed by BLM, and the other three came from public submissions. Roger did a brief orientation of each project. The vote for each project will be done within the individual county presentation.

Public Comment:

1. Sandy Shaffer spoke in favor of the Grant Coalition Coordination project. She said that it would allow more local coordination of grants so that the grants are being used most effectively. She recommended having a staff person and local coordination group.

There was a question as to who the staff person will be and who will fund that position. Mary Smelcer said that that was still to be decided. Jack Shipley spoke in favor of the project. Sue Kupillas said that she thought it would be important to have all counties coordinate on grants.

2. Vincent Pyle, a Forest Service (FS) employee, spoke in favor of the ODF Website Development. He said that with the recent cuts in FS funds, they would not be able support this website. Vincent said that the web site would contain details about fire regulations, prevention activities, suppression efforts and fire weather.
3. Keith Massie, Jackson County GIS, talked about the Wildfire Communication Web Site project. He said that the site would improve communication during a wildfire event between fire camps and the public. The web site would contain fire maps and daily fire updates. Keith stated that the site would be easy to use for both fire camps and the public. Jack Shipley asked if the two web site proposals (ODF and Wildfire) could be combined to make more efficient use of the funds. Keith said that he believed that there was a potential to combine the two sites, but he would have to talk further with Vincent Pyle.
4. MJ Harvie, who is a member of the fire staff for the FS, spoke about the Medford Air Tanker Base project. She said that this money would support the staffing needs and base lease needs. This is a multi year project.

CURRY AND DOUGLAS COUNTY PROJECTS

Lynda Boody, Field Manager of the Glendale RA, gave an overview of the proposed BLM Curry/Douglas projects. Roger Schnoes presented an overview of the publicly submitted projects in both counties.

Public Comment:

1. Walt Gayner, from Douglas County, spoke in support of the Cow Creek Restoration project and the Interior Douglas County Gorse Removal project.

Questions/Concerns:

- In Douglas County -- Rauno Perttu asked if the Cow Creek Restoration project was an environmental situation or if the restoration was primarily for property owners along Cow Creek. Lynda Boody said that it was primarily a private property issue. Walt Gayner said that Cow

- Creek is a destabilized system and that this restoration makes sense for the Cow Creek system.
- Discussion followed as to how to cut \$283,870 from the list and what to cut.
- Concern was expressed that the Cold Springs Camp Recreation Area project missed the mark on fire reduction.
- Railroad Crossing Upgrade project -- Jack Shipley said that maybe we should live with a bumpy crossing. Howard Heiner said that he had a problem with repairing railroad crossings. He did not think that is the way RAC money should be spent.
- A recommendation was made that the last two public submissions (Interior Douglas Gorse Removal and the Medford Air Tanker Base) be funded because they are fire related.

RAC Vote:

The attached tables reflect the motions made and the projects tentatively approved for Curry and Douglas County Title II funds.

JACKSON COUNTY PROJECTS

Rich Drehobl, Field Manager, Ashland Resource Area (RA), gave an overview of the proposed BLM Jackson County Projects. Roger Schnoes presented an overview of the publicly submitted projects in the county.

Questions/Concerns:

- Phillip Lang expressed concern about doing preventative projects to prevent dumping rather than just cleaning up dumping as an aftermath. Sue Kupillas commented that as dumps charge more, illegal dumping increases. Good police work and effective public lookout systems were suggested by Richard Smith as preventative actions that are in use now.
- Phillip Lang felt that RAC was being asked to spend money for private stock issues on several projects, such as fencing, and that these should be paid for by the cattle owner
- Jack Shipley asked if Ashland RA was ready to implement the Johns Peak OHV. Kristi Mastrofini, Planner & Environmental Coordinator for Ashland RA, replied that the funding received for FY03 was requested to complete the first year surveys, public outreach, and prepare the draft EIS. The funding requested for FY04 is to complete second year surveys and to prepare the Final EIS and Record of Decision.
- Gene Bowling, commenting on the Lake Creek OHV restoration project, said that the damage is actually being done by big trucks.

Public Comment:

1. Frank Lang commented about the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and the ongoing grazing impact study being done. He asked RAC to vote against the stockmen's requested projects.
2. Tom Jacobs introduced himself as representing Jennifer Walt and as a proponent from the livestock operators. He suggested that the projects submitted by the stockmen would improve riparian areas in Cascade Siskiyou National Monument by keeping cattle out of them. Tom added that these projects would also help support sustainable agriculture in the valley.
3. John Roberts spoke on behalf of the Old Ferry Road Committee for approval of the Old Ferry Road Relocation project. He explained the project submission.
4. Pam Galey, of the Upper Rogue Watershed Association, supported the Old Ferry Road Restoration project.

5. Nancy Ames Cole, a private land owner by Pilot Rock, asked the RAC to reject the stockowner's request.
6. Lori Cooper, of the Soda Mt. Wilderness Council, spoke in opposition to the stock owner's request.
7. Vivian McAleavey, of the Greater Applegate Community, supported funding the Cantrall Buckley Park Master Plan.
8. Charlie Boyer spoke in favor of the noxious weed program and funding a weed coordinator position. He also supported the stockmen's request.
9. Anita Ward opposed the stockmen's proposal.

Additional Questions/Concerns after the public comment period:

- Jack Shipley had several questions on the livestock management requests. Did the original agreements that these cattle owners signed include terms for dispersement? Rich Drehobl answered in the affirmative. Jack then asked why the price that these cattlemen pay is so low. Tim Reuwsaat answered that it was set by Congress.
- Rauno Perttu asked if Johns Peak OHV Activity Plan and EIS could be spread out over several years. Rich Drehobl responded in the negative.
- Richard Smith suggested that the RAC should fund the projects that related to fire issues/reduction first.
- The question was asked if the Jackson Creek Fuels Reduction project could be partially funded. Rich Drehobl said that it could, but this would mean putting off treating some fuel reduction projects, elsewhere. Sue Kupillas asked if Forest Camp does any fuels reduction, as in Jackson Creek Fuels Reduction. Rich said that this would mean shifting from contractors, who use equipment to complete the job, to hand crews, like Forest Camp, to do the work.
- Phillip Lang moved that the Committee remove the three fence related items. There was no second.
- There was a discussion on the Livestock Management Proposal. David Hill spoke in support of it; Vernon Pew and David Strahan spoke against it.
- Richard Smith spoke in support for the Dump and Trash Cleanup project.

RAC Vote:

The attached table reflects the motions made and the projects tentatively approved for Jackson County Title II funds.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY PROJECTS

Abbie Jossie, Grants Pass Field Manager, gave an overview of the proposed BLM Josephine County projects. Roger Schnoes presented an overview of the publicly submitted projects in the county.

Public Comment:

1. Jim Hawkins, a teacher at North Valley High School, spoke in favor of the Golden Outdoor Discovery Center as an educational tool. He said that the Center would be a great way to get the community and the students involved with the building of the proposed Kiosk.
2. Corky Lockard, who works for Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District, spoke in support of the Cathedral Hills Forest Health Project.
3. Donna Chickering, Coordinator for the Middle Rogue Watershed Council, spoke in support of the

projects that they had submitted.

Questions/Concerns:

- Rauno Perttu asked about funding of fire project on private land in Cathedral Hills. Discussion followed.
- David Strahan brought up his concern of funding a marine deputy and the precedent it would create. Discussion followed. Mary Smelcer brought up the fact that the functions of this position do protect the resources of the river. It was decided that this position needs to be rewritten to specify the qualifications so that it fits in with the mandate of the RAC. Sue Kupillas read the definition of a Ranger: to restore/improve land, health and infrastructure. She was unsure if this definition applies to the marine deputy position.
- Abbie Jossie said that there were \$55,000 additional dollars that Grants Pass Resource Area did not need for a previous RAC project. That amount was added to the amount of money that Grants Pass RA has to use for FY04 projects.
- In relation to funding the Integrated Woodland Management project, the question was asked if anyone knew the status of the Illinois Valley Fire plan funded from Title III. No one knew the status.

RAC Vote:

The attached table reflects the motions made and the projects tentatively approved for Josephine County Title II funds with the addition of one follow-up item: BLM was asked to provide more specific qualifications in the project description for the Rogue River Co-op Marine Deputy to show how this position supports the RAC mandate.

Final RAC Vote:

There was unanimous agreement that all projects funded today would be tentatively accepted as recorded. There was a question of clarification - Klamath Falls has \$71,137 that was not dedicated for a project at this meeting. Will this money stay in Klamath Falls to be used for projects there? There was unanimous agreement that the money would be used only for Klamath Falls projects.

Action Items:

1. BLM will post project updates on the RAC web page.
2. Grants Pass RA will rewrite/revise the Co-op Marine Deputy Proposal to include more specific qualifications that meet the RAC mandate.

WRAP-UP-Sue Kupillas and Teresa Gallagher-Hill

There was a discussion of how to proceed since there was not a quorum present at this meeting. It was decided that the BLM Oregon rooms C and D will be open Thursday, August 14, 2003. All RAC members that can will attend in person and from 10 – 11 a.m., they will brief the members that were not present today on the projects that were tentatively funded. A conference call will follow at 11 a.m. with those who can not attend in person, and a final vote will be taken if a quorum is present. The entire meeting will be open to the public.

The meeting was adjourned one half hour early at 4 pm.