

**John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC)
Meeting Minutes - Pendleton, OR
November 27, 2000**

Facilitator: Gay Ernst
John Day/Snake RAC Members

Recorder: Peggy Diegan
Federal Officials

Group 1
Terry Drever-Gee, Energy and Minerals - 2002
Adriane P. Borgias, Trans/Rights-of-Ways - 2002
Robert Messinger, Commercial Timber - 2002
Linda Fleming, Commercial Recreation - 2003

Sandy Guches, Acting Designated Fed. Official
Jeff Blackwood, Umatilla NF
Earl Rother, Umatilla NF
Bonnie Wood, Malheur NF
Karyn Wood, Wallowa-Whitman NF
Barron Bail, Prineville BLM
Penny Dunn-Woods

Group 2

Mae Jeanette Henning, Archeological/Historical - 2001
Shirley Muse, Environment - 2001
Berta Youtie, Conservation - 2002
Frank McMurray Jr., Dispersed Recreation - 2003

Group 3
Jay Carr, State Govt. Employee - 2003
Michael Hayward, Local Elected Official - 2001
John Tanaka, Academia - 2002

Absent RAC Members

Absent Federal Officials

Group 1
Robert Morse, Livestock Grazing - 2003
Group 2
Manford Isley, Wild Horses & Burros - 2003
Group 3
Michael Farrow, Indian Tribes - 2001
Timothy Joe Stearns, Public-at-Large - 2002

*Guests: US Senator Gordon H. Smith's Field Representative Richard A. Krikava
Kendell Clark, Area Manager National Recreation Area (NRA)*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 10:15 A.M.

Bob Messinger, Chair

AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW

Gay Ernst

Gay reviewed the agenda. We have a quorum.

ROLL CALL, MEMBERSHIPS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gay Ernst

Sandy Guches Associate District Manager on the Vale District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Acting Designated Federal Official for the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC) was introduced as well as Linda Fleming, who is a new member to the John Day/Snake RAC and representing Commercial Recreation. Barron Bail District Manager from the Prineville District, BLM also introduced himself.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Gay Ernst

Jay Carr moved and Berta Youtie seconded, that the minutes for the September 2000 meeting be approved as corrected. Minutes were approved as corrected. *Correction on Page 3 second paragraph from the bottom instead of landowners use public land manager.

After reviewing the minutes it was determined that the letter of appreciation to the John Day Subgroup had not been accomplished yet and Bob Messinger will do this before the next RAC meeting.

ICBEMP Subgroup

Bob Messinger/Jeff Blackwood

The final EIS is out with a December 8 rollout date where the public can request a copy. The Record of Decision (ROD) tells how projects get amended. (Pipeline) Projects may need to be re-evaluated. Some things will automatically get amended. After the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is out there will be a thirty-day review process time. Jeff suggested that the RAC spend some time figuring how this will work and how projects will overlap.

BLUE MOUNTAIN DEMO SUBGROUP

John Tanaka/Jeff Blackwood

Name changed from Forest Health to the Blue Mountain Demo Subgroup. RAC needs to become more involved with this committee. John met with Bob Rainville to get some suggestions. John's interpretation is that the RAC could give advise on selecting projects/priorities for the subgroup. See handout. The group met this fall and tried to keep a mix of projects for out years. In some cases, Demo money has replaced regular budget. Perception is that there is not a lot of agreement between private and public landowners. Need agreements in place before the government can have partnerships with private landowners. It takes a certain amount of time to get a project in the pipeline. There is a need to test new technology and use new materials. Include this in the program of work for 2000.

JOHN DAY SUBGROUP

Barron Bail

The group is working on the appeal response and hopes to have the Record of Decision (ROD) out in February. Protest responses are not public. A protest can be filed at anytime by anyone. Director will then take in to consideration whether the person had been involved in the process all along or not. Plan makes it clear what the government plans to do because Law Enforcement works better when a plan is in place.

1608 ACT – COUNTIES PAYMENT ACT

Jeff Blackwood/Earle Rother

In the original act counties received a percentage of funds received for timber sales and other permits. The bill will provide stable payments for education and roads in more than 750 timber-dependent counties across this country and real opportunities for environmental restoration on our national forests. The amount going toward schools and roads would represent 80-85 percent of the three-year average of the highest payment years from fiscal years 1986 to 1999. The amount would be calculated on a state-by-state, three-high-year basis, but would be distributed among the counties on a county-by-county three-high-year calculation. Unlike today's system, a county will receive its payment from the General Treasury, regardless of whether a single tree is cut on the national forests. The counties decide for themselves, in conjunction with other stakeholders, how they want to invest the remaining 15-to-20 percent of the average payment. This bill clarifies and underscores county flexibility to use the funds other than those designated for schools and roads in any combination a county chooses from: fire prevention and emergency services reimbursement; stewardship projects; maintenance of existing forest infrastructure; ecosystem restoration; and improvement of land and water quality on national forest lands. With the 1608 Act, counties can take a lump sum payoff and receive no more payments or continue with a percentage. The Resource Advisory Committees are intended to have only an advisory role on projects under Title III. In short, counties are to have full discretion to spend Title III funds for the purposes enumerated under Title III without any restrictions or limitations. The advisory committee members shall be representative of the interests of the following categories:

5 persons who—

- Represent organized labor;
- Represent developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
- Represent energy and mineral development interests;
- Represent the commercial timber industry; or

- Hold Federal grazing permits, or other land use permits within the area for which the committee is organized.
- 5 persons representing---
 - Nationally recognized environmental organizations;
 - Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations;
 - Dispersed recreational activities;
 - Archeological and historical interests; or
 - Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups.
- 5 persons who—
 - Hold state elected office or their designee;
 - Hold county or local elected office;
 - Represent American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized.
 - Are school officials or teachers; or
 - Represent the affected public at large.

Earle Rother-this new process is scheduled to happen this next year and this is a national program. Bob Messinger – the current RAC’s will need to take an official stand. Mike Hayward would like to have smaller area RAC’s to take care of these projects. *Agenda **item next meeting**.

OHV STRATEGY

Bob Messinger

Adriane Borgias will chair a committee consisting of Mae Jeanett Henning and Frank McMurray Jr. to compile RAC comments on the draft OHV plan by January 2, 2001. Folks need to get back to Adriane by Monday December 4. By Dec. 11-12 this committee will get the info back out to the RAC by Email or fax. There will be a conference call on December 19, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. (pst). Peggy will set this up and get info out to folks.

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

BLM and FS already produce a quarterly report that shows current projects. Jeff thinks that we could combine these reports into one report. RAC needs to think of the value received and whether we even need to see this and consider what would we do with the info. Conclusion of the group was that they do not need to come out at the same time if they are linked to the web site.

JAMES KENT REPORT-CENTRAL OREGON

Barron Bail

This report is posted on the Prineville web site. The report identifies how information flows, contact was made, and how folks like to receive information. The report came up with natural groupings. Barron found this document to be quite useful to him as a new district manager. Districts need to develop a plan on how to use the information. The District may want to modify how a message is delivered to the public. Folks liked to be asked what they thought about proposed projects. Analysis shows how folks are communicating with each other. The third party group collecting the information provided a non-partisan opinion. Desired outcome is to meet both the BLM and the publics needs. Gives the folks ownership in processes.

BLM and Forest Service (FS) are moving towards combined leadership in Central Oregon. Two forests are under the leadership of one Forest Supervisor with two Associate Forest Supervisors, one of which will be the District Manager of the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management. Ochoco National Forest and the Prineville BLM District will co-locate their offices.

**HELLS CANYON SUBGROUP
UPDATED CHARTER REVIEW**

Karyn Wood

The RAC voted at the last meeting to continue with the Hells Canyon Subgroup. The Hells Canyon Subgroup committee will report on what works and does not work. Karyn introduced Kendall Clark the Area Manger of the National Recreation Area (NRA), US Forest Service (FS) to address the FS priorities: Wild and Scenic River Plan is on going with implementation, monitoring protocol of specific items. Release of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) will happen in the spring of 2001. The Wallow-Whitman NF including entire forest roads analysis management closure and

motorized. RAC needs to come up with some kind of process to recommend priority items to do in the NRA on an annual or on going basis. RAC agreed by consensus that the Hells Canyon Subgroup would use as their number one priority, the Wild and Scenic Snake River plan to deal with issues and make recommendations to the RAC. Subgroup is to provide the RAC with regular reports. The RAC needs an explanation on how, when, why and the rationale on how a vote came out.

See attached revised charter for the proposed changes to the Hells Canyon Subgroup Charter.

John Tanaka moved and Mae Jeanett Henning seconded that the revisions to the Hells Canyon Subgroup Charter be approved. Motion carried. The charter is attached to the minutes with the approved changes in **bold print**.

Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt will hold an interactive teleconference on November 30, 2000 for RAC members. Questions can be given to Sandy Guches and she will fax them to the conference to be answered by Bruce. The conference will be televised in the Vale Office from 10:00-11:30 a.m. RAC members may go to either a Forest Service or BLM office near their home to participate in this teleconference.

ADJOURN at 4:10 pm

John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes - Pendleton, OR
November 28, 2000

Facilitator: Earle Rother
John Day/Snake RAC Members

Recorder: Peggy Diegan
Federal Officials

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Guests:

Guests: US Senator Gordon H. Smith's Field Representative Richard A. Krikava

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER –8:00 A.M.

Bob Messenger

AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW

Earle Rother

Earle reviewed the agenda.

PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 2001

Earle Rother

1. Blue Mountain Demonstration Area and Consultation Process-Hells Canyon Subgroup, consultation process-demo area connection-responsibility of subgroup -John Tanaka is the contact.
2. Noxious Weeds Subgroup-Info gathering for noxious weeds, eastside weed EIS, scoping, updates, and recommendations—John Tanaka, chair, Mae Jeanett Henning, and Berta Youtie on the committee. John Tanaka is the information contact because of the research being done at the research station.

3. National Fire Plan-planning for 2002 and 2003 Subgroup. BLM has direction to include more sharing in this area. Community component-for updates and action, Frank MacMurray, Berta Youtie, and Adrian Borgias are the RAC contacts.
4. OHV Subgroup management and action-Adriane Borgias, chair, Mae Jeanett Henning, and Frank MacMurray on the committee.
5. Hells Canyon Subgroup-Mike Hayward contact.
6. County Payment Act-Secure Rural Schools Act 1608-act may be an impact to RAC-information
7. ICBEMP Subgroup contact-Bob Messinger, chair, Mike Hayward, Mae Jeanett Henning, Shirley Muse, Terry Drever Gee, Jay Carr, and Mike Farrow on the committee.
8. John Day River Management Plan-February 2001-date to send plan to the judge-disbanded subgroup-information only.
9. BLM/FS land exchanges-information.

Just for a comparison Earle Rother charted the Forest Service Program of Work:

1. Roadless Policy EIS	Due Date	11/7/2000	Information	
2. Transportation Policy EIS			11/13/2000	
3. ICBEMP EIS			12/8/2000	
4. Final All-H Paper			12/15/2000	Information
5. Federal Hydro Power Biological Opinion		12/15/2000	Information	
6. Final Forest Service Planning Regulations also BLM Handbbb0/2000			Information	
7. Secure Rural Schools Act or County Payment			November 2000	
8. Federal Fire Plan			November 2000	

*****Need to have a listing of the names on the subgroups-Peggy give to group today and she will get out to members.

The program of work list is to keep as an on going list and the RAC will need to identify status of items with the group on a regular basis. Each of the subgroups needs to have an action plan for the next meeting. The subgroups will be included on the agenda at the next meeting. To allow time at the meeting for the subgroups to get together the meeting will begin at 11:00 am and the subgroups will meet at 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. prior to the regular meeting. This schedule will begin with the February meeting.

OPEN FORUM

ALL

John Tanaka, Terry Drever Gee, Mae Jeanett Henning and Adrian Borgias will attend the RAC satellite broadcast on November 30. John Tanaka will be the spokesperson from RAC and Jeff Blackwood from the FS. It was decided by the group that John should comment on the fact of how well the FS/BLM and RAC's work together.

Jeff Blackwood green card-RAC is very effective because comments have been emailed to 25 Forest Supervisors as of yesterday. If you don't send in the green card you will get the 300-page document with a package of the proposed decision. If you want the CD copy send in the green card.

Barron Bail informed the RAC about filling two vacancies in his area: Christine (Tina) Welch is the new Field Manager for Central Oregon Field Office, Robert Towne is the new Deschutes Field Manager.

Penny Woods Lookout Mountain Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is going into the scoping process now. The noxious weeds EIS will be out soon with scoping to be done at a later date. Environmental Statement (ES) needs to be done on this. Judy Reed has been selected for the Ralph Heft position and she will report to work in January.

Barron Bail-BLM has on an injunction on what herbicides can be used and the decision maker has changed from the Department of Interior (DOI) to the Justice Department. Now the decision can be reopened and some herbicides may get to be used. FS is looking at the same issues.

Adriane Borgias OHV strategy–heads up–read the draft–reaction was that it is a good effort, however, she does not see this as a management strategy and will work on getting good comments back during the review process.

Berta Youtie–what level can they make comments–confusing on what is wanted from the RAC–they are not asking for individual comments, but from the RAC.

Bob Messinger–general comments with specific concerns, do the bigger picture first.

NEXT MEETING

Earle Rother

The winter meeting will be February 12-13, 2001 in Pendleton, OR–using new schedule of 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. to begin with subgroup meetings. Regular RAC meeting to start at 11:00 a.m. May need to be flexible if a full agenda. Target noon on the second day to end the meeting.

The spring meeting will be May 8-9, 2001 in Pendleton, OR. Suggestion was to have Blue Mountain Demo field trip maybe at this meeting?

The summer meeting will be August 2-3, 2001 with the location of the meeting to be decided at a later date.

Karen Wagner, of the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation & Development-Noxious Weed public relations campaign was introduced to the RAC members.

NEWS RELEASE

No news release needed at this time

EARLE ROTHER

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

KAREN WAGNER

There is a grass roots effort of the Resource Conservation & Development of Noxious Weeds to make a public relations effort to bring attention to the problem and how they affect folks in their daily lives. They include support from numerous agencies whose goal it is to make the community aware of the RAC an article created in the Oregonian about noxious weeds in various stages. The public relations committee is looking for members to help with the curriculum has been developed by BLM for 3-8 graders with a goal to reach the youth to understand the connection with Biodiversity and the connections.

ADJOURN

10:15 am adjourned.

SANDY GUCHES Date
Acting Designated Federal Official

ROBERT MESSINGER Date
Chair

U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE
AND
HELLS CANYON SUBGROUP TO THE JOHN DAY/SNAKE
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 2000 - Revised

Charter

1. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area subgroup to the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council

2. SUBGROUP OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE: Provide representative citizen counsel and advice to John Day/Snake RAC concerning national forest resources located in whole or in part within the Hells Canyon NRA administrative boundary in Eastern Oregon and Washington National Forest. The actual jurisdictional boundary is described below:

The HCNRA is located in the northeast corner of Oregon and west central Idaho and is administered as part of the Wallowa-Whitman, Wallowa-Whitman, Nez Perce, and Payette National Forests. It lies within Baker and Wallowa Counties in Oregon, and Nez Perce County in Idaho.

The principal physical feature of the HCNRA is Hells Canyon. Measuring 7,993 feet deep from mountain peaks to the river, and 10 miles long, it is the deepest river canyon in North America. The HCNRA comprises a unique richness, diversity and productivity of vegetation combining (river canyon lands, and mountains) that supports a diversity of fish and wildlife as well as forage and wood fiber. Where developed areas exist, they are associated with homesteads, old mining sites, and/or pictographs and petroglyphs that are scattered throughout the area. There are 60,000 acres including approximately 33,000 acres or private ownership.

3. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE SUBGROUP'S ACTIVITIES: Since its functions are related to continuing the management of national forest lands and resources within the area of jurisdiction described above, the need for the Subgroup is expected to continue. However, RAC continuation will be subject to periodic review and re-chartering every 2 years as required by Section 14(b) of the U.S.C. Appendix.

4. COUNCIL TO WHOM THE SUBGROUP REPORTS: The John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT: The Administrative support for activities of the Subgroup will be provided by the Wallowa-Whitman RAC's Designated Federal Official.

6. DUTIES OF THE SUBGROUP: The members of the Subgroup will serve in an advisory capacity to the RAC within the Subgroup on the following matters, **as prioritized and specifically requested by the John Day/Snake RAC:**

- a. Do not provide advice to the RAC on the allocation and expenditure of appropriated funds or on personnel actions.
- b. Develop recommendations to the RAC regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the National River Recreation Management Plan, the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.
- c. Develop recommendations to the RAC on monitoring techniques and needs; and assist in the evaluation of resource management in the environment.
- d. Develop recommendations to the RAC on site-specific project initiation, planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- e. Advise the RAC on the establishment of resource management priorities as part of CMP implementation.

7. SUBGROUP COMPOSITION:

a. Groups for Hells Canyon Subgroups

Group 1
Commodity

Group 2
Environmental/Consv.

Grazing
O&G Motorized
O&G Non-Motorized
O&G Uplands
Energy
Fishing/Boating Industry

Heritage
Dispersed Recreation
Landowner
Preservation
Conservation
Fish/Wildlife

Group 3
Other Official

Tribe
Public at Large
Elected Official
Promotional
State Agency
Education/Research

- b. The subgroup will be a total of 18 members, including at least one RAC member.
- c. **The RAC member (s) will assist in providing communication and consistency to the Subgroup.**
- d. In appointing subgroup members, the RAC shall provide for a balanced and broad representation, with respect to social composition of the population.

8. MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, SELECTION, AND SERVICE:

- a. Subgroup members are appointed by and serve at the discretion of the RAC. To be eligible for appointment to the subgroup, a member must have the education, training, knowledge, or experience to give informed and objective advice regarding an industry, discipline, or interest specific to the subgroup or knowledge of the geographical area under the purview of the Council; and have demonstrated a commitment to collaborate in solving management issues. Subgroup members must be residents of either the State of Oregon, Washington, or Idaho.
- b. Subgroup members will be appointed to serve 3-year terms, on a staggered term basis, with one-third of the Subgroup serving each year. For the initial subgroup charter, appointments will begin on the date the charter is filed, with approximately one-third of the members appointed immediately prior to the charter's effective date 1 year later). Approximately one-third of the members' terms will terminate 2 years after the charter is filed, and one-third of the remaining members will terminate after 3 years. Members appointed or reappointed each year thereafter, will be appointed to the same term as the members whose terms are terminating.
- c. The term of a subgroup member, who has been appointed on the basis of his or her status as an elected official, will end when the member leaves office. When this situation occurs, the member will be replaced by another elected official in the same manner as the original appointment.
- d. When any subgroup member fails to regularly attend meetings, without cause, **the Subgroup Chair will notify RAC Chair of the subgroup member absenteeism and** will inform the member, in writing, that his or her service on the subgroup could be terminated if the member fails to attend the next meeting. If the member fails to attend the next meeting following the notifications listed herein, the member's position will be declared vacant by the RAC Chair.
- e. Vacancies occurring for reasons such as resignation, death, moving out of the States of Washington, Oregon or Idaho, or other reasons, will be filled by the RAC for the balance of the term. Such vacancies will be promptly reported to the DFO of the RAC. The RAC will be responsible for soliciting candidate nominations.
- f. At the discretion of the RAC, Subgroup members may be appointed to consecutive or non-consecutive 3-year terms including the possibility of reappointment.
- g. Subgroup members may serve on more than one subgroup within the RAC they represent.
- h. Members of Subgroups shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interests in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or other interests administered by the FS, or in any litigation related thereto. For the purposes of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse, partner, or other family member shall participate in any matter before the Subgroup in which the member has a direct interest.

9. SUBGROUP OFFICERS: The Subgroup may elect its own officers from among its members annually, usually at the first meeting.

10. MEETINGS:

a. The Subgroup shall meet at the call of the Chairperson of the subgroup. All subgroup meetings, including financial reports, shall be open to the general public and representatives of the news media. Any organization, association, or individual may file a statement regarding topics on the meeting agenda, except that the DFO may require that presentations be reduced to writing and copies be provided to the Chairperson for review.

b. The Subgroup will normally meet at least four times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the full group upon request for advice.

c. Regular Subgroup business activities will be conducted using standard meeting rules for internal administrative purposes.

d. A quorum of Subgroup members must be present to constitute an official meeting of the Subgroup. **A majority of the Subgroup constitutes a quorum. It is expected that the Subgroup will provide recommendations to the RAC for their consideration in developing recommendations to the federal agencies responsible for management of the Hells Canyon NRA. In order to approve and send recommendations to the RAC, a simple majority of the Subgroup is needed to affirm that recommendation. In cases where the Subgroup does not have a unanimous decision of its members, one majority report and one minority report may be submitted to the RAC. The reports shall also include a record of those supporting the majority and the minority.**

In all cases a one-page summary of detailed rationale and factual findings for the decisions made shall be submitted to the RAC along with the recommendations or referrals from the Subgroup. This will greatly assist the RAC in developing the final recommendation to the Federal officials.

11. SUBGROUP RECORDS: Detailed minutes of each Subgroup meeting will be kept and will contain a record of the description of matters discussed and conclusions reached; and copies of all documents received, issued, or approved by the Subgroup. **Chair will certify the accuracy of the minutes and submit a copy of the minutes to the DFO, the RAC Chair, and the RAC member (s) of the Subgroup. Either the Subgroup Chair or the RAC member (s) of the Subgroup shall provide reports and activity updates to the RAC at regularly scheduled RAC meetings.** Copies of the minutes will be maintained in the office of the DFO, and will be available for public inspection and copying.

12. ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS: Activities of the Subgroup will require an estimated \$20,000 per year.

13. TERMINATION DATE: The Subgroup will end no later than the expiration of the RAC Charter.

14. AUTHORITY: Section 309 of FLPMA, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1739.

Sandy Guches
Acting Designated Federal Official

Robert Messinger
RAC Chair

Date Signed