

UPPER DESCHUTES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
Issue Team Meeting
February 11, 2003

News Flash! Preliminary Draft Maps Available on Prineville District Website!
http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm The only maps not available are the transportation and access maps. They will be available as soon as possible but probably not until Feb. 19.

Hard copies of Maps will be available in Bend at the Deschutes National Forest Supervisors Office (1230 Highway 20 E) in the Metolius Conference Room from 1-3 Tuesday, February 18 and from 9-12 Wednesday, February 19.

See attached list for those attending:

Mollie reviewed the process for getting to the preferred alternative.

Process includes:

1. Individuals evaluating the alternatives based on the factors agreed on at the December 10 meeting by the groups built around interest categories (each individual in each group was given a form to record their ratings of the alternatives):
 - a. Ecosystem Health
 - b. Aesthetic values of the natural landscape
 - c. Recreational Opportunities
 - d. Economic Benefits
 - e. Integration with communities
 - f. Feasibility
2. The evaluations of the alternatives by individuals will be based on review of the summary of alternatives and the preliminary effects analysis for each of the Issue Areas (distributed at this meeting). **Completed Evaluations Due to BLM by Dec. 20.**
3. The **interest subcommittee** consisting of representatives from each of the above interest groupings will use the quantitative ratings, comments attached to the ratings, and their own analysis of the alternatives and preliminary analysis of the effects of the alternatives **will convene on Tuesday, February 25 and the following two Tuesdays (March 4 and March 11)**. The task of the subcommittee will be to recommend a preferred alternative based on consensus. The preferred alternative may be any of the alternatives presented, a combination of elements from the alternatives and/or could possibly contain elements not now included in any of the alternatives.
4. When the subcommittee completes a recommendation the entire Issue/Interest Team will be reconvened for a final review (**Meeting expected between March 17 and April 4**) before the recommendation is forwarded to the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Subcommittee. While the goal is to develop

consensus. If consensus is not possible majority and minority reports would be forwarded to the PAC Subcommittee.

5. The PAC subcommittee will review and forward the Issue Team recommendation to the full PAC and may add to the recommendations of the Issue Teams. However the Issue Team recommendations and majority and minority reports will be forwarded to the full PAC unamended.
6. The full PAC will then make a final recommendation (the recommendations of the Issue Team and the subcommittee may be modified) to the BLM. Again the unamended recommendations of the Issue Teams will be attached to the PAC report to the BLM.
7. The BLM will make the final decision for the Preferred Alternative after considering the PAC recommendation and input from local, state, and tribal governments as well as reviews from the BLM's State and Washington Offices. The BLM will publish the preferred Alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in the Summer of 2003.

After Review of the process Mollie reviewed the Alternatives by noting

- Key comparisons
- Common Approaches
- Common Management Direction

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 2

- Least amount of change to current situation
- Greatest amount of multiple uses (& conflict)
 - Case-by-case resolution of conflicts
- Heaviest impact on wildlife
- Current range of vegetation (vs. historic)
- Expands military use 20%
- Corridor from Redmond to Bend
- Hwy 97 access only at Deschutes Junction or interchange at Quarry

Alternative 3

- Reduces conflicts with wildlife
- Historic range of vegetation
- Greater opportunity for "blocking up" public lands
- Least level of "mixed use"
- Higher conflict between Land Use & Recreation/Adjacent Landowners
- Reduces military use by 30%
- Transportation: reduce collectors, more local roads available for closure
- Corridor from Redmond to Quarry St, interchange at Quarry

Alternative 4

- Recreation: separate uses to facilitate various recreational activities

- Reduction in grazing from Alternatives 2 & 3
- Lower conflict with wildlife than 2 (higher than 3)
- Fewer seasonal closures to limit impact on wildlife
- Current range of vegetation
- Corridor from Redmond to Deschutes Junction, interchange at Quarry St.

Alternative 5

- Manage for low conflicts in urban areas
- Current range of vegetation
- “Middle of the road” for wildlife
- Grazing reduced in “urban” areas (NW portion of planning area)
- More shared trails for recreation than in 3 & 6
- Middle of the road for recreation
- Corridor from Redmond to Deschutes Junction, interchange at Quarry St.

Alternative 6

- Manage for low conflicts in rural areas (SE portion of planning area)
- Grazing reduced in rural areas
- Wildlife protection in rural areas
- Expanded military use
- Corridor from Redmond to Deschutes Junction, interchange at Quarry St.

After Lunch the group split into Interest Teams for initial review of the alternatives and to ask BLM specialists questions about the Alternatives.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

- Alternatives are “ideal” – but are they enforceable?
- Historic range: restore to pre-European settlement conditions
- Current range: focus restoration efforts on specific objectives/resources (see p. 4 of Alternative Summary)
- Conflicts with wildlife are high in all Alternatives in Bend-Redmond corridor
- Mollie will try to translate maps into a PDF file for internet access next week.

Presentation by George Read for South Redmond Collaborative Planning Team

- Local communities need flexibility for transportation corridor between Redmond & Deschutes Junction
- Allocating BLM land for that purpose is desirable
Alternatives 4, 5 & 6 meet this interest

Presentation by Bill McCaffry from OMD expressed Concerns: No Alternative that meets the needs of the military.

- Total acreage includes some unusable land (south of Pronghorn Resort)
- Land north of Pronghorn may become unusable, depending on secondary access road
- Most likely area for expansion to compensate for unusable land is north of Hwy 126

- Some Alternatives reflect no off-road use for public recreation in military area, & military is exempt
 - Problems with inconsistency
 - Military could mitigate for impacts

EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

- + Opportunity to discuss Alternatives in depth with Interest Groups
- + Opportunity to walk around & study maps displaying effects visually

- Limited to one matrix only per person, concerned about more than one Interest
- Issues may be weighted without enough information
- Availability of maps for review, necessary component to understand alternatives
- Intellectual/conceptual overload
- Hard to get tuned in again after time lapse between meetings

Note: If you did not attend the meeting and want copies of the handouts please call Mike Williams at 541-416-6862 or e-mail: upper_deschutes_RMP@or.blm.gov

**NOTE: For those attending the meeting:
 WRITE YOUR NAME ON YOUR INTEREST RANKING SHEET,
 ENTER RAW SCORES FOR EACH FACTOR, & RETURN TO
 BLM OFFICE BY 4:30 PM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20:**

Mail to:

**Mike Williams
 Bureau of Land Management
 3050 NE 3rd St.
 Prineville, OR 97754**

Or fax to: 416-6798

Issue team Members Present

Jim Angel
Glen Ardt
Geoff Babb
Merrie Sue Carlson
Jerry Cordova
Bob Davison
Joani Duford
Gary Farnsworth
Ed Faulkner
Brian Ferry
Russ Frost
Nancy Gilbert
Kent Gill
Bill Fockler
Jamie Hildebrandt
Anne Holmquist
Matt Holmes
Steve Jorgensen
Bill McCaffrey
Laren Woolley
Scott Carlson
Susan Gray (added after e-mail)
Catherine Morrow
Clay Penhollow
Darrell Pieper
Barbara Pieper
George Ponte
George Read
Tammi Sailor
Walt Schloer
Sarah Thomas
Marie Towe
Alan Unger
Alan Van Vliet
Kerrie Wallace
Martin Winch
Robin Vora

BLM Staff Present

Robert Towne
Marci Todd
J.C. Hanf
Mollie Chaudet
Phil Paterno
Ron Wortman
Steve Castillo
Greg Currie
Bill Dean
Lisa Clark
Keith Brown
Michelle McSwain
Ron Gregory
Sue Stewart
Mike Williams
Eli Ilano