

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC) Meeting  
Minutes February 23-24, 2004  
Hines, Oregon**

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>Group Number</b>	<b>Federal Officials Present</b>
<b>Dennis Hitt</b>	1	Steve Ellis, DFO Lakeview BLM
<b>Tom Harris</b>	1	Dave Henderson, Vale BLM
<b>Dick Leever</b>	1	Karen Shimamoto, Fremont-Winema NF's
<b>Lee Belknap</b>	2	Joan Suther, Burns BLM
<b>John Bishop</b>	2	Rick Smith, Malheur NF
<b>Bob Kindschy</b>	2	
<b>Jill Workman</b>	2	Pam Talbott, Recorder
<b>Chad Boyd</b>	3	Lisa Swinney, Facilitator
<b>Chuck Graham</b>	3	
<b>Jane O'Keeffe</b>	3	<b>Guests</b>
		Todd Forbes
		Gary Foulkes                      Kit Muller
<b>Absent</b>		Rhonda Karges                      Bill Supulski
2 Vacant Positions		Tom Rasmussen                      Mark Armstrong
Mark Ferns	1	Gretchen Burris                      Lesley Richman
Cecil Dick	3	Karla Bird
Walt Van Dyke	3	

**MEETING FACILITATOR**

**Lisa Swinney**

- Lisa welcomed everyone to Burns and went through the agenda items.
- We had self introductions of all members present.

**ADMINISTRATION AND OLD BUSINESS**

**Jill Workman, RAC Chairperson**

- There is a quorum for this meeting.
- Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair.
  - Jill Workman Chair
  - Tom Harris Vice-Chair
- RAC members still very concerned about timeliness of appointments.
  - We still have two positions open at this time.
  - Members voted to send Chad's letter of concern to the Director.
  - Chad will draft the letter and forward it to Pam for finalizing and mailing.
- Charter changes will be addressed at the Lakeview meeting.
  - Jill asked members to review the Charter for necessary changes.
- Minutes from the November 10, 2003 conference call were approved as amended.
- Minutes from the December 8-9, 2003 meeting were approved as amended.
  - Both sets of final minutes will be posted on the web page.
  - Draft minutes are not official and are not posted on the web or available to the public.
- Healthy Forest Initiative comments will be presented in Lakeview.

**NOXIOUS WEEDS PRESENTATION BY BURNS DISTRICT**

**Lesley Richman, Bonnie Rasmussen and Michael Carpinelli**

- Power point presentation on cooperative weed management program in Harney County.

- Well done and enthusiastic presentation.
- Harney County Weed Management Partnership.
  - Education and Awareness - beneficial for early detection.
  - Action activities include biological releases, grazing, cultural, manual, and chemical treatments.
    - Highest priorities are identified annually. Funding comes from cost share programs and outside grants.
    - Remain proactive for early detection and monitor.
- The RAC was asked for help with the slow completion of the national vegetation EIS. Push for completion or move ahead with lifting the Oregon injunction.
  - Jill asked Lesley to write up a letter with the important points.
  - The council voted to send three letters stating the problems and consequences.
    - Letter on the National EIS to BLM Director and Chief of Forest Service.
    - Letter to the State Director and Regional Forester on the status of the injunction.
    - Letter on legislation to Director and Chief with cc's to delegation and county commissioners in affected counties.

## **PROPOSED GRAZING RULE UPDATE**

### **Bob Hopper**

- Power point presentation on the Proposed Grazing Rule Revisions.
  - The Purpose for revisions:
    - Improve and promote cooperation
    - Protect health of rangelands
    - Increase management efficiency and effectiveness
- RAC members were concerned about the short time frame for comments on the draft EIS.
- Group agreed to send in a letter, by March 2, 2004, expressing concern about the short comment period. The letter will also indicate that the RAC members will be sending in formal individual comment letters.
  - Jill will draft the letter and copies of the final will go to all members.
  - Molly Brady, WO (Bob Bolton, WO) comments from the RAC would be accepted until March 19, 2004.

## **PYGMY RABBIT INVENTORY UPDATE**

### **Todd Forbes**

- Power point presentation of history, habitat, distribution, and occurrence.
- The Pygmy rabbit is a BLM sensitive species.
  - 70,000 acres have been surveyed and 40 Pygmy sites have been documented on the Lakeview District.
  - They are smaller than a Cottontail or a Jack rabbit.
  - They are Sagebrush obligates, found mostly in 'Big Sage' areas.
- It is important to document numbers and locations before possible listing as endangered species.

## **NO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Sage grouse – Chad Boyd**

- Feb 11 meeting with Director Clark.

- 90 day finding will be out on March 29, 2004
- List of sagebrush obligates in increasing – need to look at all of the species interacting together.
- The Director said there would be National umbrella plan over state plans then local level plans.
  - Scoping meetings coming up, Chad will get dates.
- Chad requested that another person is needed on the committee that is helping the state develop the state plan. Chad will check with Walt.

### **Beaty Butte Issue – Chad Boyd**

- Draft action involved heavy use at spring areas.
  - Move east gulch road
  - Make enclosure on heavy use canyon area.
  - Cattle guards on road so gates are not left open.
  - Extend fence along main road where cattle are entering canyon area.
- Plan needs some monitoring added to it.

### **STEENS/ANDREWS RMP – COMMENT REVIEW**

#### **Gary Foulkes, Karla Bird**

- Gary handed out a large package of all the comments on the draft RMP and the responses.
  - Issues – scheduled to be done in October
  - Draft over 5000 comment letters – 1000 real letters not counting form letters.
  - Less than 100 comments that were useful. Mostly personal opinion not helpful comments.
- Alternative D preferred Balanced uses and protections in cooperation.
- There are two documents the CMPA and the Steens/Andrews RMP.
- There is a difference between a planning document and an implementation document.
  - Planning documents are not site specific, usually more general, like a vision.
  - Implementation is site specific and detailed.
  - Contractor- not an issue.
    - Local mineral section in the document was written by district minerals person not the contractor.

### **FEDERAL OFFICIALS – RAC PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Fremont-Winema NFs - Steve reporting for Karen

1. Involve people in Klamath tribes plan.

Lakeview BLM – Tom Rasmussen

1. Warner Wetlands - Pepperweed is spreading within the 51,000 acre ACEC.
2. Fuels projects – 15% of resource area can be treated each year.
3. Lakeview District would like the RAC to help with fuels planning and priorities.
  - a. Fort Rock Area projects.
  - b. Large fuels breaks along roads.
  - c. How do you treat juniper in sage grouse habitat?
  - d. RMP implementation priorities on the plan.

Vale BLM – Dave Henderson

1. HFI subcommittee needed to review plan.
2. Weeds/Veg EIS needs to be completed.
3. Bully Creek review beginning.
4. Wild Horse Program:
  - a) Horse program needs to have changes made by congress.
  - b) Example: Some type of ownership without purchase (adopt) from sanctuary.

- c) Unadoptable horses are very expensive to maintain – sanctuary life is not self-sustaining. Maintenance \$1.25/horse at sanctuary \$456/year/horse.

Burns BLM – Joan Suther

1. Wild Horses – Would like ideas on ways to decrease numbers of horses on the range.
  - a. Repeat customers/ adopter support program for new people.
  - b. Encourage use of pharmaceuticals.
2. Fuels management projects.
3. Dry forest restoration projects HFI
  - a. SHEDs – dry forest restoration
    - i. Aspen stands
    - ii. Juniper management
4. Juniper management all methods HFI
5. Upland ecosystem management projects; woodland/shrub land restoration.
  - a. O-WEB grants available.
6. Weeds are an ongoing concern.

Malheur NF– Rick Smith

1. Grazing & Fuels
2. No projects available as this time.

Fremont-Winema NF – Karen Shimamoto

1. Forest health – Hazardous Fuels
2. Noxious weeds
3. Range AMP's
4. Co-Generation
5. OHV-Scenic Byway

## **FEDERAL OFFICIAL UPDATES**

Lakeview – Steve Ellis

- Lakeview RMP has been signed.
- Water conference in Klamath Falls currently going on.
- Draft Klamath River plan, new alternative being worked on.

Vale – Dave Henderson

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year review on Bully Creek RMP is going on.
  - Individual allotment meetings for ones that don't meet standards.
- Malheur County Fire Issue.
  - Dropping plan for landowner participation in suppression.
    - BLM/FS in Oregon must meet all qualifications.
    - Oregon rules are different from Nevada.
  - Vale is working on new rules for landowners.
- New Associate State Director.- Jim Kenna  
New Deputy State Director for Resources – Mike Mottice  
Vale – New Associate District Manager – Larry Frazier

Burns – Joan Suther

- Work is still going on with the RMP.
- Eagle Pitcher mine has been asked to update their work plan with photos.
  - Diatomaceous Earth and the acid bi products need to be researched.
- Budget – flat but down and only a few seasonals this year.

- Announcement – April 2-4, 2004 Migratory Bird Festival

Malheur NF-Rick Smith

- Supervisor signed the fire rehab. Project.
- Monument TS sale is out for bids.

## **BLM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Kit Muller**

- Power point presentation on Developing Funding Strategies for Land Use Plans.
  - Re-engineered the budget process.
  - Developed the planning budget initiative.
  - Identified the need to ensure successful plan implementation.
  - Reviewed previous efforts.
  - Held workshops with BLM managers.
- Developed budget objective to build on land use plans.
- Started three pilot projects – Lakeview is a pilot.
  - Select categories of work then develop workloads, projects and task details.
- Bring in outside partners to help throughout the process.

## **THE KLAMATH TRIBES FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Karen Shimamoto**

- Power point presentation on the Klamath Tribes Forest Plan.
  - This is the Klamath Tribes Forest Plan not the US FS.
- The plan is an overview of what the forest would look like with the Tribes managing the lands.
- The emphasis is on restoration.
- Karen thinks it is very close to the FS management vision.
- The plan did not address recreation or grazing and public access.
- The group questioned if this area is within the RAC boundaries.
  - Steve will get a ruling from the solicitor on the RAC boundaries.
- Karen will have Janne Joy present the facts about the History of the Klamath Tribe at the Lakeview meeting.

## **FOREST SERVICE APPEALS PROCESS**

**Bill Supulski**

- Power point presentation on the appeals process in the Forest Service.
- The Forest Service is governed under 36 CFR.
- Restoration Umbrella has been developed
  - Healthy Forest Initiative
  - Healthy Forest Restoration Act
  - National Fire Plan
  - 36 CFR Policy changes NEPA and appeals
- New categorical exclusions for FS and BLM
  - No appeals
- New emergency situations process to allow projects to proceed.

## **FOREST HEALTH INITIATIVE PRESENTATION**

**Steve Ellis and Karen Shimamoto**

- Power point presented to Representative Walden at Medford hearing.

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan, a plan for “at risk communities”.
  - Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel treatments and recommends treatment methods.
- At-Risk Community; a group of homes or structures within or adjacent to Federal land where conditions are conducive to large-scale wild land fire.
- Wildland-Urban Interface means an area within or adjacent to an at-risk community.
  - Generally no more than 1 ½ miles.

#### **NEXT MEETING ITEMS**

##### **May 23-25, 2004 Lakeview BLM, Lakeview, Oregon**

- Charter review for possible changes.
- Biomass Plant in Lakeview
- Sub committee reports and status
- HFI – HFRA projects
- Determine RAC role with District and Forest projects
- Sage grouse update
- Klamath Tribe Plan and RAC involvement
  - Janne Joy History of Klamath Tribes
- Optional Forest Tour on Sunday - HFI Projects
- Lakeview Noxious weed presentation
- RAC role with Lakeview RMP implementation

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Emergency Charter amendment-is it possible for boundaries.
- Chad’s letter about delayed appointments
  - Check on Chad’s acceptance letter
- Chad’s request for another person on state Sage grouse committee. Chad will ask Walt.
- Charter Changes
- Three letters on Weeds
  - National EIS to Director
  - Oregon injunction
  - Legislation letter with cc’s to commissioners
- Grazing Rule changes
  - Jill to draft letter on short time frame for responses
  - Individual letters – Molly Brady says 3/19/04 last day to comment

Meeting adjourned at noon.