

Final Minutes
Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council Conference Call
November 10, 2003

RAC Members Present:	Group Number:	Federal Officials Present:
Dennis Hitt	1	Steve Ellis, DFO Lakeview BLM
Mark Ferns	1	Joan Suther, Burns BLM
Tom Harris	1	Dave Henderson, Vale BLM
Dick Leever	1	Lisa Swinney, Facilitator
Lee Belknap	2	Pam Robbins, OSO BLM
John Bishop	2	Sandy Berain, Burns BLM
Bob Kindschy	2	
Jill Workman (Chairperson)	2	
Chad Boyd (Vice Chairperson)	3	
Cecil Dick	3	
Chuck Graham	3	
Jane O'Keeffe	3	
Walt Van Dyke	3	
Absent RAC Members:		
Vacant	1	
Vacant	2	

Jill Workman, RAC Chairperson

- Opened the meeting at 2:00 pm and announced that we had a quorum.
- Two sets of minutes to approve: Summer Lake and Kahneeta.
- Jill reviewed the minutes from the Summer Lake meeting.
- Jane O'Keeffe moved and Tom Harris seconded that the Summer Lake meeting minutes be approved as read.
 - Minutes were approved.
- Jill reviewed the minutes from the Kahneeta meeting.
- After minor corrections, Bob Kindschy moved and Dick Leever seconded that the Kahneeta meeting minutes be approved as corrected.
 - Minutes were approved with agreed upon corrections.

Lisa Swinney

- Welcome to all...she is glad to be back with the group as the facilitator.

Steve Ellis

- Welcomed new RAC members. We will more formally introduce everyone at the upcoming December meeting in Burns.

Other Meeting Business

Birch Creek Management Plan (Jill Workman)

- Jill indicated that the RAC members were all in favor of the plan presented at the Kahneeta meeting.
 - Tom Harris moved and Mark Ferns seconded that the plan be approved.
 - After brief discussion, the plan was approved.

Beaty Butte Liaison (Jill Workman)

- At the Kahneeta meeting, Chad Boyd was asked to be the RAC's liaison with the Lakeview District on the Beaty Butte matter.
 - Bob Kindschy moved and John Bishop seconded that Chad Boyd be the RAC's official liaison.
 - Steve indicated that he would ask Tom Rasmussen to contact Chad.

Comments on the BLM's draft National Sage Grouse guidelines (Chad Boyd)

- The RAC has not had an opportunity to meet and develop a set of group comments. As a result, the RAC members agreed that individual member comments would be more appropriate.
- Chad has submitted individual comments. Bob Kindschy has also submitted individual comments. Walt Van Dyke has submitted comments on behalf of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Chad Boyd moved and Jane O'Keeffe seconded that the RAC members submit individual comments on the draft sage grouse policy.
 - The motion was approved.

Sustained Working Landscape Comments (Jill Workman)

- All RAC members had received a copy of the draft comments that had been assembled from the Kahneeta meeting, and a synthesis document prepared by Chad.

John Bishop

- Relinquishing permits has a great impact on the economy of counties and livestock ranchers.

Tom Harris

- Tom has buy out concerns on grazing privileges. Mixed feelings, much publicity for and against.
- Add recreation access also in Item #3

Chad Boyd

- Chad will make 2 additions as follows:
 - #2 General – BLM consider the legality of buyouts and their economic impact on local communities.
 - #3 include recreation access.

Jane O'Keeffe

- After the corrections were agreed upon, Jane O'Keeffe moved, and Tom Harris seconded that the combined comments be sent to the BLM state office.
 - Motion passed.
 - Chad will forward the corrected comments to Pam Talbott for distribution.

State and National Budget Items (Steve Ellis)

- The BLM wants RAC input into their 2005 and 2006 budget initiatives and priorities.
- General comments from the council included:
 - The budget items were not very local (too broad).
 - The wild horse and burro program was not listed as a priority.

Jill Workman

- Suggested that the 2006 budget initiative discussion be conducted at the upcoming Burns meeting, when Federal officials can give a report on their local 2006 funding priorities.

Cecil Dick

- We should have Districts and Forest(s) report on their budget priorities.

Dave Henderson

- Forest Service has not asked the RAC for ideas or comments on their budget priorities. The RAC members agreed that they would provide the Forest Service feedback anyway.

Jill Workman

- Jill will write the RAC's recommendations for BLM's 2005 budget initiatives. This will include making the wild horse and burro program a priority, and support the ongoing priority of fully funding the management planning process.
- John Bishop moved and Bob Kindschy seconded that Jill would write the RAC's budget initiatives comments.
- Jill will forward the write-up to Pam Talbott and Steve Ellis for forwarding to the Oregon State Office.

Weeds and Invasive Species comments for WO (Steve Ellis)

- This agenda item came from the RAC chair meeting in Washington, D.C. BLM Director Kathleen Clarke wants to know what is, or has been done by the RACs on weeds and invasive species.

Bob Kindschy

- Several letters have been written by the RAC on noxious weed concerns. This issue is still pertinent.

Tom Harris

- It would be a big help if the herbicide injunction was lifted.

Joan Suther (Burns BLM)

- Forest Service – draft EIS for vegetative management includes vegetative control for invasive species

Chuck Graham

- We should indicate what actions we (the RAC) have taken, and what actions need to be taken.

Jill Workman

- Jill asked if the RAC should reactivate its Noxious Weed subcommittee.

Steve Ellis

- Steve will develop a list of what the RAC has done (letters sent) on noxious weeds in the past. Steve will provide this information to the BLM State Office.

Wrap up

- Weeds and invasive species will be included on the agenda for the Burns meeting.
- Our RAC Charter expires December 10, 2003. Steve will continue to check on the status of the new charter.
- Joe Tague will represent Steve Ellis at the Burns RAC meeting. Steve will be attending a BLM national budget committee meeting on December 8, 9, and 10.
- The next RAC meeting will be at the Burns BLM Office on Monday, December 8th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and December 9 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.
 - Pam Talbott will send information on the meeting, including how to make motel reservations.

The RAC conference call ended at 3:45pm.

Recorder: Pam Talbott