

**John Day/Snake  
Resource Advisory Council  
May 23-24, 2000  
Enterprise, Oregon**

Thursday, May 23, 2000  
In attendance: Gay Ernst-Facilitator

Forest Service Office, Enterprise-field trip  
Peggy Diegan-Recorder

John Day/Snake RAC Members

Federal Officials

Group 1

Adriane P. Borgias, Trans/Rights-of-Ways  
Terry Drever-Gee, Energy and Minerals  
Robert Morse, Livestock Grazing  
Robert Messinger, Commercial Timber

Juan Palma, Designated Fed. Official  
Jeff Blackwood, Umatilla NF  
Earl Rother, Umatilla NF  
Tina Welch, Ochoco NF

Group 2

Manford Isley, Wild Horses & Burros  
Berta Youtie, Conservation

Group 3

Jay Carr, State Govt. Employee  
Michael Hayward, Local Elected Official  
John Tanaka, Academia

Absent

Group 2 Mae Jeanette Henning, Archeological/Historical  
Group 2 Frank McMurray Jr., Dispersed Recreation  
Group 2 Shirley Muse, Environment  
Group 3 Timothy Joe Stearns, Public-at Large  
Group 3 Michael Farrow, Indian Tribes

Absent Federal Officials

Karyn Wood, Wallowa-Whitman NF  
Bonnie Wood, Malheur NF

Guests:

Teresa Smergut	Jerry Erstrom	Jim Roberts	Nels Christoperson
Nick Lunde	Paul Service	John Williams	Kara Chatwick

**AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW - INTRODUCTIONS - 8:00 a.m.**

The group met in the Forest Service Interpretive Center for an overview of the days activities.

Field trip agenda included stops and discussions at the following spots:

- Kuhn Ridge - Forest Health, Silviculture Prescriptions, Fire (both prescribed and wild), Blue Mountain Demo Area, and Wallowa Resources (a community-based group).
- Troy - lunch, BLM Wild and Scenic River Issues, Noxious Weeds, and Land forming events.
- Eden Bench - Grazing Permits, Noxious Weeds, and Mixed Ownership's.
- Arrived back at Enterprise - approximately 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday May 24, 2000

Rama Best Western Inn conference room, Enterprise, OR

In attendance: Earle Rother-Facilitator

Peggy Diegan-Recorder

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Robert Messinger, Commercial Timber

Gay Ernst, Acting Designated Fed. Official  
Jeff Blackwood, Umatilla NF  
Tina Welch, Ochoco NF  
Karyn Wood, Wallowa-Whitman NF

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Group 3 Jay Carr, State Govt. Employee  
Group 3 Michael Farrow, Indian Tribes  
Group 3 Timothy Joe Stearns, Public-at Large

Juan Palma, Designated Fed. Official  
Bonnie Wood, Malheur NF

Guests:

Teresa Smergut                      Kurk Wiedenmann                      Dan Tippy                      Rob Lamb                      Mack Birkmaier  
Tanis Hester

**AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW** -Terry Drever-Gee(acting chair for Robert Messinger) called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.. Gay Ernst (Acting Designated Federal Official) determined that there was not a quorum present at this time. Group 1 and 2 ok, group 3 not. Earle Rother reviewed the agenda.

**MINUTES APPROVAL** minutes for December 1999, March 2000 could not be approved because of lack of a quorum and will be continued to the next meeting. Correction to the March 2000 minutes - instead of saying attachments say handouts.

Earle reviewed action items from the March meeting. All action items were completed with the following exceptions: Juan and Jeff are still working on the disclaimer for the Social Circle Map, Jeff Blackwood, Bonnie Wood, Karyn Wood and Juan Palma are to work on the list of questions to ask the panel at the September 6-7 RAC meeting in Walla Walla, WA. Gay/Earle/Juan/Peggy to arrange meeting. Juan needs to send a letter of invitation to other RAC's in Eastern WA and SEORRAC and to all three Idaho RAC. Second day action items. Earle covered all action items in the meeting. RAC needs to come up with a plan to get the minutes approved in a timelier manner.

**JOHN DAY SUBGROUP REPORT:** Dan Tippy

Because of lack of a quorum, Dan Tippy will work with Gay to schedule a Hells Canyon conference call to obtain approval of the subgroup report from the RAC. The absent RAC members are to review this report and approve at the conference call. Short time frame since this needs to go to the printer in two weeks. All the land is recreational that is in the wild and scenic area. Some areas will be done into wildlife food and cover crops to enhance the wild and scenic area to keep weeds out. Boating use will be put on a permit system when we get to a level of use (Deschutes River will be used as a model to follow). First come first served. Final report released by July 14 to start the 30-day protest period. January 2001 will come out with a record of decision.

**Action Items:** Will seek advice from RAC with monitoring, when to implement, type of adjustment needed. RAC is recommending to the subgroup not the other way around. Bob Messenger will do a letter of thanks and a summary with Dan Tippy.

**HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Kurk Wiedenmann, LaGrande Acting Ranger

Handout # 1 mineral claims are not an issue at this time because there are no active claims at this time. Have had many amendments to the 1980 management plan. Subgroup focused on alternatives E, N, and W. Need to bring campgrounds up to standards. Upgrade Buckhorn area. Also, on the Idaho side. E and W establish appropriate use. FS alternative is to close 30% of the road system, county 29%. Native wants to close 73% of the existing roads. Snake River does have motorized use on the river. Landing strips remain the same and some may add additional area's in ID. No off site landing in the Hells Canyon, area must use developed landing sites. Common theme for roads: use seasonal closures for management and protection; provisions for permits language needed.

Issue: vacant allotments, vacant means open/available for use; majority opinion-vacant allotments would have no use until decided at next planning process. Release DELIS Feb 2000 closes June 22. Content analysis and revisions hope to have FEIS and ROD February 2001. FS wants to abolish the vacant sheep allotments in their plan to keep the bighorn sheep separate from the domestic sheep.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mac Birkmaier-rancher- long time resident in area.

We do not want the wolf introduced here because of family and livestock safety. The problem is that the wolves that were placed in Idaho had a special designation that if they bothered the rancher they could be relocated. Here in Oregon the wolf is an endangered species. As cattlemen it is our job to protect the livestock. We do not want to raise them and have them chased to death by the wolf. I will not allow the wolves to decimate my herds. Not fair to give us the problem when the wolves do not come from here. Fish and Wildlife Service has been asked to take the wolves back and they have refused to do so. They have taken a female wolf back to Idaho and now this female has a new litter. Just continue to take the wolves back to Idaho when they encroach in Oregon. I went to the county court and the court has agreed to pass a measure that says they do not want wolves in Oregon, also went to the national level in

Washington DC where the grizzly bear was also included. Wolves can weight up to 175 pounds. They are as big as a man. Consider it another club to deplete our resources here. OR Department of Agriculture went on record as apposing the plan to allow wolves into Oregon. Want the wolves recaptured and relocated and then take the wolf off of the endangered species in Oregon. Handout #2-4.

### **FOREST HEALTH UPDATE-Drever-Gee and Hayward**

Issue to get consultation done in a more timely manner. Bugged down process to get some thing done. Public processes must be gone through. Governor's panel is looking at the over stocked timber stands issue/prescribed fire.

**Action Item:** Does the RAC want to deal with the overstocked timber stands issue of prescribed fire.

### **RENEWAL OF RAC MEMBERSHIP - Ernst**

Terms are up for four positions plus Craig Lacy's. Federal officials will be getting together soon to select these positions. We have received applications for all positions. May need to do a conference call in August.

Karyn Wood - the subgroup has 6 positions open. Issue subgroup meets in mid September so this needs to be done.

### **HELLS CANYON SUBGROUP PRESENTATION- Rob Lamb and Karyn Wood**

Broad comments in plan. Handout # 5-6. What is the balance between protecting the environment and recreation? Captured common theme's. Clarification, yes or no. It was decided that the RAC members that were present would vote on each item in the presentation and that the recorder would compile the votes and send out to the RAC members prior to the conference call on June 26, 7:00 pm pacific time. Conference call-validate the John Day Subgroup. Messinger will send a letter with the RAC endorsements. Collectively, the RAC sends the subgroups their endorsements.

Quorum how to deal with. What do we do about the lack of quorum and not being able to vote, etc.? Need to make a better effort between the groups so that we cover the meeting.

**Action Items:** Juan will make a personnel phone call to each RAC member prior to each meeting. Terry as vice chair would send a letter to everyone as a reminder that they will be taken off the committee if they miss more than two meetings. Recorder to send out compiled votes prior to the conference call on June 26.

