

John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC)  
Meeting Minutes – Baker City, OR  
May 15, 200

Facilitator: Jon Stewart

Recorder: Judy Bolander

**John Day/Snake RAC Members**

- Group 1** Terry Drever-Gee, Energy and Minerals – 2003 **excused**  
Adriane P. Borgias, Trans/Rights-of-Ways – 2003  
Steve Courtney, Commercial Timber – 2005  
Bill Crawford, Jr, Commercial Recreation – 2004 **absent**  
Robert D. Morse, Grazing Permittee - 2003
- Group 2** Shirley Muse, Environment – 2004  
Berta Youtie, Conservation – 2003  
Manford Isley, Wild Horses & Burros – 2003  
Joseph P. Jones, Archeological/Historical - 2004  
Frank G. MacMurray, **Dispersed** Recreation - 2003
- Group 3** Jay Carr, State Govt. Employee – 2003  
Michael Hayward, Local Elected Official – 2004  
Robert A. Brunoe, Indian Tribes – 2004 **absent**  
Timothy J. Stearns, Public-at-Large – 2003 **excused**  
John A. Tanaka, Academician – 2003

**Federal Officials Present**

Barron Bail, DFO, Prineville, BLM  
Jeff Blackwood, Umatilla NF  
Craig Cartright for Larry Timchak, Ochoco NF  
Dave Henderson, DM, Vale  
Penny Dunn- Woods, Baker Resource Area/Vale BLM

**Federal Officials Absent**

Roger Williams, Malheur NF  
Karyn Wood, Wallowa Whitman NF  
Pam Robins, Medford BLM (Eastside RAC coordinator)  
Sandy Guches, Acting DFO  
Tina Welch, Prineville, BLM  
Jennifer Harris, Malheur NF  
Earle Rother, Umatilla NF  
Joe Buesing, Spokane BLM

Guests: Anita Bilbao and Dave Schmitt

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM by John. A quorum was not present initially but was reached shortly after it was called to order.

### **Motions Passed**

- 1. Approval of the minutes with three changes. Mike Pellant, John Okeeffe and the word herd on page 8.**
- 2. To broaden our category of Wild Horse and Burro to include Fisheries and Wildlife. We will follow up with a Charter Change. We also want to include candidates for this position who have a broader background in fish and wildlife**
- 3. A change in Group 2 that would eliminate the word *DISPERSED* from the title. Making it *Recreation***
- 4. To dissolve the ICBEMP Committee.**
- 5. To form a subgroup using one member from each group.**
- 6. To write a letter to Lindsay Ball to help with Sage Grouse listing.**
- 7. To adjourn.**

**John presented Shirley Muse with the New Century of Service Award from the Forest Service for Jeff Blackwood. The citation was read, which thanked Shirley for her dedication to resource issues, collaborative efforts and personal sacrifices.**

- 1. Youtie/Courtney Approval of the minutes with three changes. Mike Pellant, John Okeeffe and the word herd on page 8. Passed**

**Barron spoke on recruiting nominations for the RAC positions ending this year.**

**Review of motion #3 from the last meeting regarding the mapping letter.** The letter has not been done because of funding and the amount of work the letter would create. The letter will be put on the table until the December meeting.

**The Horse and Burro issue was discussed.**

- 2. Youtie/Courtney Moved to broaden the Wild horse and Burro position of this RAC to a wildlife area position.**

There are two ways to change it 1. by changing the charter which is a long process or 2. by giving a message to the Federal Officials.

- 2. Amendment to motion: Youtie/Courtney To broaden our category of Wild Horse and Burro to include Fisheries and Wildlife. We will follow up with a Charter Change. We**

**also want to include candidates for this position who have a broader background in fish and wildlife. Motion Passed with amendment.**

**3. MacMurray/Muse Moved to make a change in Group 2 that would eliminate the word *DISPERSED* from the title. Making it *Recreation*. Passed**

We will submit this but we can't guarantee that they will change it. The announcements have already gone out and they cannot be changed.

**National RAC Chair Meeting in Washington DC Summary: John Tanaka**

The first meeting in Phoenix, in November was used to take input from the Chairs. At this meeting, they told us what they were doing and gave us reduced opportunities for input.

They have developed a new web site for RAC. They have a RAC recharge team and a RAC coordinator. Twinkle Thompson was appointed as the new coordinator.

The recharge team will be used to:

To make sure the RAC works on real issues.

See how well the managers use the advice RACs give them. This includes feedback on what they did with the advice they were given.

Don't ask for advice on things that aren't going to be used.

RAC appointments and Charter signing problems.

Idaho's RAC came to the meeting with a list that will make things run more smoothly.

Twinkle will be located in Phoenix.

They did a lot of briefing. They did a whole afternoon on endangered species.

The RACs brought up the issues of early involvement and rule changes. OHV issues were high on the list.

They are getting back to doing annual work plans for RAC.

Invasive National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Initiative, Rangeland Regulations, Energy, Large Scale Endangered Species are the kinds of things they see from a national perspective as being important.

There will be one meeting of the chairs a year but it will be at another location.

## **Barron on the Wilderness Area FLPMA**

Section 603 set a process giving 15 years to inventory the Federal Lands the met wilderness characteristics. This was done by BLM in 1991.

Section 202 required BLM have an administrative inventory plan for various resources of the identified study areas.

After the 1991 report, they identified administratively more areas that were being managed under the interim guidance. UT sued and it was agreed that there was not authority beyond Section 603 of FLPMA. BLM can manage for wilderness values for non-motorized use, but we can't identify as a wilderness area for our managements systems. This is still not totally settled.

## **Dave Schmitt on Blues Revision Team**

Planning is intended to be a continual process. The forest plans have been amended over the years. It will take four years to complete this plan. This is not enough time to include everything people want in the plan. This is just one step along the way to creating the forest plan.

Data to consider:

- More people are coming to use the forest.
- There are more fires, insect kill and epidemics.
- Studies that have been completed.
- Court rulings and agreements.
- Who we work with has changed.
- The laws and regulations have changed.

The proposed regulations will be more people based. It will focus on out come.

Many things will not change that are already in place. The change that will have the most impact is the objection process. This will allow the decision to go right to court and speed up the objection process.

The formal process starts in October. The first two years will be planning years. The second year we will develop post actions. The third year we will start the NEPA process. This should take two years to come to the final decision. The target date is September of 2007.

We will have one EIS and three records of decision from each of the forests in the Blue Mountains.

**John Tanaka: This RAC wants to be involved early in the process.**

### **Dave Hatfield on the Planning Rule/ Categorical Exclusion:**

The planning rule is not out yet. It was extended until April 7. An email was sent to some of the RAC members about the extension. The comment period is closed and they are reviewing the comments.

The Exclusions are not published yet. There are three categories relating to small timber harvests. There are two categories relating to fuel reduction and fire rehab.

E.A.s will be shorter to get at any significant affects. There are pilot programs to see how an EA can be reduced to 15 or 20 pages.

C.E.s are written by definition. All agencies have their list to create and category activities.

### **ICBEMP Updates Shirley/Jay**

We should move past the ICBEMP we have a committee and ICBEMP is out.

#### **4. Carr/MacMurray To dissolve the ICBEMP Committee. Passed**

It was determined that a subgroup would be useful to coordinate with Dave on how the RAC would best be of service.

**5. MacMurry/Youtie to form a subgroup using one member from each group.** Shirley, Mike and Steve were appointed to the group.

#### **Sage Grouse Recovery Update. Berta Youtie**

It was suggested that writing a letter on behalf of the JD RAC could help get the process moving. Lindsay Ball may be the person to send it to. This should help with the listing.

#### **6. MacMurray/Muse To write a letter. Passed.**

Berta will draft a letter send it to John and then email it out to everyone.

### **Range/Forest Conditions. Sustaining Working Landscapes on Federal Lands Dave Henderson**

There are five areas that this administration would like to see move.

1. Conservation Partnerships
2. Reserve Common Allotments
3. Voluntary Allotment Restructuring
4. Conservation Easements
5. Endangered Species Mitigation

They want to bring this to the RACs in print and then do a presentation for us. This should be a subject for the Fall meeting. It could be a large part of the September meeting.

<http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/wo/fy03/im2003-126ch1.htm>

**From the web site:** “Since that IM was issued, the States have been provided a slide presentation on these concepts for use in public outreach and WO 220 hosted a conference call where we discussed our needs and expectations regarding SWL policy development. The purpose of this IM is to provide the timeline for SWL policy development and further describe our expectations.”

**Attachment 1: sets forth the time line. The states should have provided the RACs with a request for their advice and recommendations regarding the draft policies and proposed implementation mechanisms. August 8, 2003 for a period of one week. By September 19, 2003 Each RAC should have met, received public comment, discussed the draft SWL policy, and provided advice to the State Director on the draft SWL policies.**

This could have an impact on Rights-of-Ways and water issues.

Washington DC is questioning people and wants to use the RACs. There will be one session consisting of a two hours telephone conference. You will answer questions and provide them with information. The conference will be at an appointed time in a three-day period.

We hope to set up a sub committee from both RACs that are knowledgeable on grazing issues. We want six from this RAC and six from the other RAC. We hope to meet the week of June 16 or June 23 for one day at an agreed location. We will try to get the Washington office to give us some information on what they will be asking in their later meeting with us.

The volunteers from our RAC are: John Tanaka; Jay Carr (June 24 or 25); Berta Youtie (June 23 week); Joseph Jones (June 23 week); Robert Morse (weather related June 24 or 25); Adriane Borgias (June 24 or 25)

**Public Comment: No public comment.**

**Open Forum/Roundtable:**

- **Dry Conditions Discussions: Barron Bail**
- June will be a pivotal month on what will happen this summer. There is a web site via the University of Nebraska that is updated every week. Run their 6 to 12 week animation that shows you how the drought patterns are changing in the West. It is located at: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.
- There are some different vegetation conditions this year. This has been caused by the unusual weather conditions.
- The fish are back and the 20 pound ones are biting.

- Hell's Canyon RMP is about to get a point of release. NOAH fisheries is involved. This group could be involved in that. The sub group has a meeting scheduled for the end of June for two days. There was a sub group meeting in Baker City and six people attended.
- The Biological Opinion on Noxious Weeds is out. There is a decision on the Fuels Program on small parcels in Union County. Cove is ready to go out the public.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire property near Grand Rhonde in Washington or Oregon.
- YCC programs in Central Oregon are successful programs.
- The RAC may want to push for a Regional Study on Federal Lands from a water stand point. If there were dollars, put to the issues it may make it easier for federal agencies to receive more funds to combat the problems. The Forest Service could possibly be interested in the project.
- BLM, the State of Oregon and the Forest Service signed a memorandum of understanding with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs on working together on their seated lands.
- To alert the RAC membership the state director or representative will be attending RAC meetings in the future to hear first hand about our issues.
- Little Canyon Mountain is proceeding. There has been a lot of clean up. There are Stewardship contracts involved. This means that goods can be traded for services that can last up to ten years. This is not a back door to a timber sale. There are reports to congress involved and certain conditions for any money above cost.
- Proposed schedule for the combined RAC meeting in September was discussed.
- Nine people raised their hands that they would be attending the meeting in Warm Springs.
- Twinkle Thompson wants to get new members together for training.

## **7. Tanaka/Morris to adjourn**