

MEDFORD RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE, OREGON ROOM
October 10, 2002

The objectives of the Committee are to improve collaboration relationships between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and local communities, and provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) or the Secretary's designee(s) consistent with the provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, P.L. 106-393.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Group A

Gene Bowling
David Hill
Link Phillippi
Rauno Perttu

Group B

Philip Lang
Richard Smith
Jack Shipley
David Strahan
Howard Heiner - Alternate

Group C

George Fence
Sue Kupillas
Daniel Ratty
Jim Kolen

Welcome!

Ron Wenker
District Manager
Designated Federal Official

Sue Kupillas
Medford RAC Chairperson
Jackson County Commissioner

Ron Wenker –Just returned from a three month work detail in Washington DC. Mary Smelcer now back in Washington DC on same work detail.

Sue Kupillas – Sue welcomed Rauno Perttu as a new RAC member, replacing Amy Burrows (Organized Labor). Sue commented that the President's visit was very successful from county point of view; the Jackson County International Airport and Jackson County Expo were honored to host. The President toured the Squire Fire and recognized the good work the BLM has accomplished. The Squire Fire represented the good management practiced by BLM.

Sue stated that she recognized that the discussion of the Cascade Siskiyou Monument is outside the scope of work the RAC committee can undertake and clarified that the RAC as committee will not give advice on the Monument. However, Sue urged the RAC members to be educated about the Cascade Siskiyou Monument

Re-Introductions: Roundtable

Meeting Guidelines: Group determined no need to review the meeting guidelines.

Review/Approve Meeting Minutes: Notes from August 8, 2002 meeting approved.

Agenda Review: Teresa Gallagher-Hill, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda and stated that the public comment time was designated from 2:45-3:00, however, the time identified in the Federal Register was 2:30-3:00. Teresa advised the group that the schedule needed to remain flexible if public requested participation at published time.

Follow Up Action Items

Revised Project Description: At the August 8, 2002 meeting, the committee requested more information on the following project submissions. Bob Korfhage discussed his edits and revisions of the applications of 1) Umpqua Basin Watershed Council, 2) 7 Basins Watershed Council, and 3) Little Butte/Bear Creek Water Project Plan.

- Umpqua Basin Watershed Council (Fishery enhancement): Fisheries Biologist position on staff of Umpqua Basin Watershed Council. Focused on opportunities for products that the position would produce as opportunities for restoration. Motion to fund for one year with a report back in one year on results. Motion failed. Decision: Will not be funded.
- 7 Basins Watershed Council: Funds for data collection equipment to bring back to BLM and Watershed Council to enhance water quality. Funds to assist in data collection.
- Little Butte/Bear Creek Water Project Plan: Paul Kay gave a presentation on this project. Paul stated the revised proposal requested less money (\$99,000). Proposal contains about 220 miles of canals and water storage facilities. Goal is to conserve water to use as water resource producing better quantity and quality of water for fish and forests. Use funds for public outreach and education to get early public involvement. Would provide money for books and education to be accessible for the public. Decision: Approved \$99,000.

Remaining FY 03 Funds - Field Manager's Proposals

- Johns Peak EIS: Rich Drehobl, Ashland Field Manager, and Kristi Mastrofini, Writer Editor, presented the proposal for Johns Peak EIS. A slide show was viewed and benefits of having a management plan were discussed. The project proposed using funds to contract the specialist work for completion of EIS. Contracting specialist would accelerate time needed for completion of management plan.
- Panther Creek Restoration Projects: Lynda Boody, Glendale Field Manager, requested the Committee consider using \$72,000 for the Douglas County Panther Creek Restoration Projects. Decision: Approved.

County projects were approved in the following order:

Klamath County projects.
Curry County projects.

Jackson County projects.
Douglas County projects.
Josephine County projects.

Humbug Project: The Humbug project was motioned to not fund. Motion carried.

A motion followed to put extra money on the road maintenance, \$69,000. Motion approved, project funded.

Cascade Siskiyou National Monument: Rich Drehobl – Ashland Field Manager, Lorie List – Interpretive Specialist, and Howard Hunter – Assist. Manager, presented a slide show of the monument. Howard Heiner, RAC member, requested the RAC have additional briefings on the road network and maintenance needs for the monument.

Additional Topics:

- Fires Update: Ron Wenker gave a general overview of the impacts of the recent fire. He advised the RAC that BLM requires an EIS to conduct salvage operations and Medford hoped to have documents out early next year for public review. Fire salvage documents to be available in 2004.
- RAC Legacy: Sue Kupillas commented on what the RACs legacy should be. Following is a list of future priorities.
 - Fire hazard and noxious weeds. Become proactive as with noxious weed eradication.
 - Hoping to use innovative pilot projects and use local resources to promote future utilization of forest products and management techniques.
 - Infrastructure built in the 30s to access areas. Funding has dropped.
 - RAC could partnership with various special use groups to help with stewardship.
 - Decrease in sawmills and timber industry. Need more projects fostered to initiate concept of commercial utilization to serve social and economic needs. Social and economic considerations always to be included in projects.
 - Educational component. Field trips. Inviting folks to go join us.
 - Foster communication and trust between diverse groups.
 - Follow-up as with the goat projects and Boaz project. Encourage innovative projects and presentations to the committee.

Public Comments:

Kathleen Donham: Kathleen requested the agenda be posted on the RAC WEB page. She commented that only the April 11, 2002 minutes are on the WEB page. She also requested that the results of field trips be

available on the WEB page.

Dave Willis: Committee needs to pay attention to public desires.

New Business

FY 02 Project Implementation Progress Report: Bob Korfhage gave a presentation. Will any overrun funding be applied to other projects in the county? Will be bringing in a table for future meetings showing over runs and where the extra money was applied. Need to be accountable for money. Committee needs to be aware of "red flags". Over runs or under funding and jobs not done appropriately. Committee will rely on BLM to act as financial watchdogs.

Application Process and Review Check: Bob Korfhage asked if there were any changes needed on the application. Information goes into a database.

- Build in 10% overhead costs into spreadsheet.
- Amount requested on the front page and page for budget detail included in form.

Next Meeting: Sue Kupillas and Facilitator

- Need to have '04 projects completed by September 30, 2003.
- Projects are to be submitted by June 1, 2003.
- RAC tentatively agreed to meet June 19, 2003 to review submitted projects and will schedule an additional field trip at this meeting.
- RAC recommended BLM put areas of emphasis on the WEB page to make public aware of project priority. Timelines should be on WEB page.

Wrap-Up: The group did a review of how the process worked. All agreed that the meeting format and subsequent project recommendation process was successful.

3:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned