

Public Health and Safety Issue Team Meeting#6 Minutes

Where: Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice Center, Wickiup Room

When: Tuesday, February 26, 2002, 1-4 p.m.

Members attending: Marie Towe, Jim Hensley, Keith Brown, Jerry Johnson, Walt Schloer, Glen Ardt, Ron Miller, Lyn Schonborn

Members not present: Bill McCaffrey, Belinda Kachlein, Doug Stout, Alan Keller

Non-members present: Mollie Chaudet, Ken Jones, Tom Teaford, Greg Currie

****Note:** Keith Brown will be out of the office from March 4-22. Questions or comments should be referred to Greg Currie, gcurrie@or.blm.gov, 416-6711. Greg will be responsible for integrating Public Health and Safety issues in the “mushing” process.

Agenda

- 1) Review of minutes and other housekeeping
- 2) Presentation by Tom Teaford, Prineville District Lead Law Enforcement Ranger
- 3) Continuing discussion and development of alternatives

1) Review of minutes and other housekeeping

General Housekeeping

- Keith has email - kmbrown@or.blm.gov
- Received Doug’s email – forwarding to Rec. and Land Uses
- Received comments from Jim, Glen, Jerry – thanks
- No info from Alan, Lyn’s email hates me

What happens next?

- 1) End of February - Individual issue teams submit issue team alternatives to ID Team
- 2) March - ID Team “mushes” all sets of issue team alternatives into DRAFT DEIS alternatives
- 3) Late April – Issue teams will meet separately or together to review DRAFT DEIS alternatives

Social report available soon

Planning boundary changes, includes south side of Prineville Reservoir

Prineville website operating, where are our minutes and other info?

http://www.or.blm.gov/prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm

Calendar, and limited minutes (more being loaded now)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/blm/upperdes/Home.htm>

Everything will be available here in the future...

Correction from last minutes

Prineville Reservoir

Quiet hours and firearm discharge regulations come from a Crook County ordinance, not a BOR ordinance (see Crook County Ordinance 101)

2) Tom Teaford Presentation...

Prineville District – basic info, map
1.7 million acres, 2 LE rangers now, adding 1 more
Lower Deschutes River – 2 officers, 6/1 – 9/1

Firearms

#1 safety problem – no backstop
Other – litter, property and resource damage, noise, anxiety

Vandalism – both private property and gov't property

Explosives – bombs, weapons

HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials)

Fire

OHV

Adjacent landowner conflicts (now dealing with wire or cables across trails)

Solid Waste

More than 100 reports of dumping each year
Both residential and commercial dumping
Cars (75-125 disposed of a year, not getting them all)

Occupancy/Trespass

14 days in a 28-day period
fugitives, drug manufacture/drug sales, vicious dogs

Alcohol and Drugs

Ecstasy, rave parties

Teaford – Tools and Issues

Aircraft presence

Utilize helicopter, fixed wing, with chase car
Program around for about 1.5 years

Tent removal

Can't just remove them
"Abandoned Property" – must be left for 10 days
Ex. Old camping trailers are salvaged for frame, the rest is left behind
Often hard to track down violators and make a case

3) Continuing discussion and development of alternatives

What activities do you focus on? How do you choose?

Public health and safety is #1

Man other factors affect prioritization

Glen – ODFW worked with state police

Established hot activities for a certain month

Tom – we tried that, too many requests, not enough personnel

Law change with automobile responsibility?

Problem – can't identify the owner!

Each car removal cost \$300-400, including labor

Deschutes County had one property with 176 cars abandoned cars on it!

One car cost \$20,000 for disposal
Deschutes County addressed over 800 cars dumped on county last year
Clackamas County – must deal with 500-600 cars per week abandoned on county roads
DMV needs a rule change
*Inability to obtain title and remove the vehicle!
Possible change ... vehicle abandoned on public lands for XX days, sent letter to last owner, no response... remove vehicle after XX days
Return of the “Sheriff’s Title” clause (abolished)
Each County Board of Commissioners would have to sign off on program (it takes \$ to administer the program).
Tow companies – charge \$75-100 per car
Not the meat and potatoes of their business
Cars not picked up immediately
Cars left for long periods are stripped, shot up, and broken into little pieces
Small help – get a good location on abandoned car
Law enforcement can then get back to it, and clear it for removal

Need identical laws on county, BLM, USFS

Jim – not cost effective for county to pursue county violations on federal land
Need close working relationship between agencies
Local taxpayer/voter wants county law enforcement focusing on county-only issues

How about Deschutes County and the USFS?
USFS pays deputy salary
Lake Patrols – paid by Oregon Marine Board

What about the federal rulemaking procedures?
Proposed by district
Goes to Washington D.C.
Published in the Federal Register
30 day comment period
30 more days
Now there is a huge bottleneck, with extra required steps
Office of Regulatory Affairs, Sec. of Interior must approve
Some regulations must also be signed by state director

How do make enforcement more effective?
Always use more personnel
Prosecution
Media attention
Public appreciation and responsibility

County Code Enforcement
No jail, just fines

Who are the illegal dumpers?

Seasonal transients

Parents/kids – kids take trash to BLM and pocket landfill dollars for fun

USFS/BLM – make and enforce regulations concerning firearm discharge

ODFW – make and enforce regulations concerning hunting

Undersheriff – you are responsible for your bullets

Glen – how are the areas around BLM lands zoned? That could be a criteria for establishing closures. If it's zoned residential...

Where should target shooting occur?

Ease of access

Hunting is different

Target shooting areas will/is displacing other uses (whether the activity is being conducted in a safe manner or not)

State Fish and Wildlife Commission

Could put Prineville District issues on agenda and open topic for lengthy discussion

Jerry – the last place I want to go target shooting is in a designed area

Don't want to shoot with crazy people

I want a range environment

Who would take on this responsibility? Lead, noise...

Some members also voiced a strong opinion that there are two types of "target shooters". Those who don't use backstops, don't pick up their trash and brass, shoot at trash and trees, should be referred to as "plinkers" and not included in with the rest of the "target shooters".

If there is a weapon in 50% of households

And people are getting their gun education from family, or television

Education on proper techniques and practices is very important

Orange Alternatives Comments

Law enforcement representatives felt this would be hard to enforce.

Target shooting enthusiasts, especially Jerry, did not prefer this alternative, see comments above.

Presently, there are no know entities stepping forward to manage additional developed shooting sites like the ones proposed in this alternative.

No new criteria were offered by the group.

Teal Alternative Comments

Glen offered possible criteria could center around how lands adjacent to BLM were zoned by the county. This means areas adjacent to residentially-zoned lands could be limited or

closed, but areas adjacent to farm land could be left open. The group did explore this idea in-depth, but most members thought the approach had merit. Glen also commented he felt the size of the block of BLM land was unimportant.

Another proposal focused on criteria for closed areas. One approach would be to close areas designated for some other type of use (e.g. special rec. areas, ACECs, WSAs...).

Another proposal would look at the density of development adjacent to BLM lands, and that would drive the limited or closed status of an area.

Purple Alternative Comments

This alternative seemed to receive the most support from the team.

Crook county has not established any no-shooting zones, at this time it's unknown if Jefferson County has any. Ken Jones, from Deschutes County, will provide the guidelines utilized by Deschutes County for establishing their no-shooting zones.

In all cases, it is presumed the county commissioners would have to approve any no-shooting districts.

Greg commented it could be dangerous to place the counties in charge of designating no-shooting areas on BLM. One possible result could see numerous developments with 60% or greater support for a no-shooting zone, but county officials unwilling to designate because of political or administrative concerns.

Other comments asked if just because an area was a special recreation area, will it always be inappropriate for target shooting? For example, the Millican Valley OHV area is large, and some small areas within that designation might be suitable for firearm discharge.