

**Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan
Preferred Alternative Subcommittee
Summary of Consensus
May 10, 2004**

The Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (UDRMP) Preferred Alternative Subcommittee met on the following dates:

Date	Topics
4/14	Recreation/ Wildlife
4/15	Recreation/Wildlife
4/20	Recreation - Trails
4/27	Vegetation
4/29	Lands
5/4	Minerals/Military
5/6	Grazing/Public Health and Safety

The Subcommittee considered options for changes¹ to the Preferred Alternative of the Draft UDRMP and Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed changes and areas of consensus are described below. Copies of the meeting notes that summarize each of the topics and presentations to the Subcommittee are available upon request. You can view the meeting notes on our web site:

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

Recreation and Wildlife

- **Proposed change:** Drop seasonal motorized closure on road use in La Pine
Consensus → *In areas of primary wildlife emphasis in La Pine, guidelines would include the following: If needed, establish a seasonal closure (as a result of site-specific or area analysis) to benefit or retain a high level of use by targeted wildlife species, and achieve wildlife objectives.*
- **Proposed change:** Allow some trail links in “roads only” and “non-motorized emphasis” areas
Consensus → *Provide language to provide for some (motorized) trail links in “roads only” and “non-motorized emphasis” areas. Analysis of actual trail links would occur at a site-specific scale.*
- **Proposed change:** Allow for some “developed” OHV use (play area and short loop trails open in winter) in Prineville/Prineville Reservoir Area to improve mix of use.

¹ Note that options for change were prepared by the BLM interdisciplinary team for the Recreation/Wildlife; Recreation – Trails; Vegetation and Lands categories, and by “focus groups” (subgroups of the Issue Team) for Minerals, Military, Grazing, and Public Health and Safety.

***Consensus** → Provide language to allow for some “developed” OHV use in the Prineville/Prineville Reservoir area to meet local community needs. Developed area is anticipated to be similar to Rosland in La Pine, something with definable boundaries, a parking area, several miles of concentrated trails (potentially in “roads only” or “non-motorized emphasis” areas, avoid getting too far north if possible); target the NW portion of these geographic areas. Avoidance areas would include important wildlife habitat and features. The area is provided in the context of a larger transportation system plan that is intended to provide overall benefits. Placement would consider ecological conditions, and conflicts between users and residents.*

- **Proposed change:** Allow motorized use on abandoned canals west of Barr Road in the Cline Buttes Block.
***Consensus** → Remove language that designates canals west of Barr Road as non-motorized*

- **Proposed change:** Modify wildlife guidelines for North Millican
Consensus:
 - *Across North Millican, achieve primary wildlife emphasis by targeting a Habitat Effectiveness (HE) of 50-60% for road influences, and have concurrent (integrated) treatment goals to maintain or improve other habitat variables (such as fragmentation, connectivity, forage, cover, distribution/quality, water availability, etc). Note: wordsmith, specification of habitat variables left to BLM.*
 - *Patch size more variable, with some occurring around 1000 acres, but have some smaller in less effective habitats, and some considerably larger in key habitat areas.*
 - *Avoid locating motorized trails within 2-4 miles of any active leks or within high value wintering habitat for deer/elk.*
 - *Seasonally close road/trail system to OHV use within areas or along portions of the trail system. Some open year round: some portion seasonally closed.*
 - *Concentrate year round open trail areas in/near areas of lower value habitats.*

Recreation – Trail Uses

- **Proposed change:** Modify direction for shared/separated trail uses.
***Consensus** → Provide overall emphasis/direction for shared use, but allow some separation of uses by trail design and emphasis at area Management Plan level*

- **Proposed change:** Modify direction for non-motorized trail densities to trail design criteria
***Consensus** → Use descriptive criteria for function of trail system (rather than trail density goals) such as:*

- Provide a range of opportunities/difficulties
- Provide all day use or connections to other trail systems
- Separate uses and disperse trail users
- Provide inter use
- Avoid conflicts between private lands and motorized trail routes
- Provide multiple loops
- Take advantage of natural features and interpretive opportunities

Vegetation

- **Proposed change:** Modify emphasis on vegetation management from “Historic Range of Variability” (HRV) to “new name” that would more clearly reflect ecological, social, and economic objectives and limitations to implementation.
 - Consensus on the following concepts →*
 - Focus on restoration and function of key components of vegetation communities (e.g. shrub-steppe or ponderosa pine) rather than “historic range of variability”
 - Acknowledge substantial human development, occupation, and influences in plan area
 - Include specific emphasis on considering the social and economic factors in vegetation management decisions (i.e.: fire protection, recreation, visuals, hunting)
 - Acknowledge inability to get very close to HRV in developed portions of the planning area
 - Emphasize application of HRV concepts more in uninhabited portions of plan area, less in developed portions.

Lands

- **Proposed changes:** De-emphasize land exchanges (consistent with BLM State and Washington Office policies); eliminate lands classified for future Redmond urban expansion if they are not supported by final urban reserve study numbers for this planning cycle
 - Consensus → The above changes are reflected in the following table under “New Alternative 7”*

Land Tenure Classification	New Alternative 7	
	Acres	Percent ²
Z1 – Retain	323,775	80%
Z2 – Retain/Exchange	62,620	15%
Z3 – Disposal	15,185	4%
CE – Community Expansion	3,612	1%

² Denotes percentage of total BLM-administered lands within the UDRMP area.

Minerals

- **Proposed change:** There were no substantive changes proposed under the minerals topic.

Military Uses

- **Proposed change:** Modify areas available for training activities
Consensus →
 - Drop “Steamboat Rock” area
 - Does not meet needs of military
 - OMD is willing to do some work to improve the site, but those activities are more appropriate as a request by BLM to the National Guard as a cleanup day
 - Modify area “E” to include additional area
 - The requested change better centers the training activities around the one road the military is permitted to use
- **Proposed change:** Change the concept of “rotation areas” and restoration treatments
Consensus →
 - Change rotation concept to “satellite” concept, such that:
 - area 2 provides an alternative training area for the type of maneuvers that occur in area D of the core area
 - area 3 provides an alternative training area for the type of maneuvers that occur in area E of the core area
 - Use of areas 2 and 3 based on training needs and condition of area.
 - Note: Under all alternatives uses of areas are limited to a company or smaller operation. Larger operations could be considered anywhere in planning area subject to site-specific analysis.
 - Establish “baseline” conditions prior to beginning training in areas 2 & 3. Restoration to “baseline” would determine when and whether continued training activities would be allowed in those areas.
 - Note: The establishment of baseline and how it will be measured has not yet been agreed to
- **Proposed change:** Provide for exception to season of use restrictions for areas 2 & 3
Consensus → Allow for a possible waiver of seasonal restrictions to allow use April 15 (current restriction is Dec 1 – April 30) after consultation with BLM and ODFW to ensure wildlife needs are met.
- **Proposed change:** Changes proposed to objectives and guidelines
Consensus →

- *Improve incorporation by reference of guidelines which refer to the INRMP, ICRMP, and '95 EA, all of which describe the history of rehabilitation actions*
- *Drop Objectives related to cleaning up and restoring recreation and dumping areas (note these are now a subset of the second objective).*
- *Include appropriate land use plan terms and conditions from existing permit to clarify conditions of uses allowed in each area.*

Grazing

- **Proposed change:** Modify grazing matrix to allow greater flexibility for BLM managers in whether allotments with low demand would remain open or could be closed³ or put into reserve forage allotment status.
Consensus → modify grazing matrix so that allotments with low demand could be open, closed (if relinquished by a willing permittee), or included in a reserved forage allotment at the discretion of the BLM.

Public Health and Safety

- **Proposed change:** Modify criteria applicable to firearm discharge in areas identified as “Closed” to Off-Road Motorized Use and Non-Motorized Recreation Emphasis to:
 - Provide criteria for when an area could be closed to all firearm discharge (consistent with similar direction elsewhere in the plan)
 - Allow for continued firearm discharge adjacent to large ownership blocks where such use is allowed or to types of zoning where such use is generally allowed*Consensus → Modify guidelines for Objective PHS2 (as follows), and modify map of firearm discharge closure areas as necessary.*

“Decisions concerning these firearm discharge closures will consider numerous factors including but not limited to: Incidences of dangerous firearm discharge (e.g. BLM firearm discharge citations, reports of recreationists being hit, or nearly hit by firearm discharge), type of recreational activity, compatibility of activities, type and size of recreational groups, geography, topography, presence of facilities (parking lots, bathrooms, roads, trails, interpretive signs and exhibits), land status of surrounding properties, and ease of closure enforcement. Areas adjacent to other public lands or private lands zoned for agricultural or forest uses may remain open to firearm discharge if consistent with adjacent land management direction.”

Map Modifications

Geographic Area	Specific Parcel	DEIS Designation	New Designation	Rationale
Northwest	Two isolated	Closed to	No closure	Adjacent to other

³ Closed means temporarily closed for the life of the plan.

	parcels next to USFS	FDULH		public lands
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- **Proposed change:** Modify criteria to include developed facilities with natural and cultural resources when restricting use of firearm discharge in some areas

Consensus →

- *Modify guidelines for Objective PHS -3 (as follows) and modify map of firearm discharge closures as necessary.*
- *“Protect **developed facilities** [proposed added words], or natural and cultural resources from the impacts of firearm discharge.*

Map Modifications

Badlands	COTEF	No closure	Closed to AFD	Developed facilities
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- **Proposed change:** Add language to allow for exemptions to firearm discharge restrictions for government representatives besides just BLM

Consensus → *Modify exception language (A closure to firearm discharge would not apply to) to include “Other government personnel in emergency situations.”*

All items described above will be briefly presented to the entire Issue Team on May 17, 2004. Issue Team members will have an opportunity to raise concerns about areas of consensus reached by the Preferred Alternative Subcommittee. The results of the meeting will be brought to the Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) on May 20, 2004 for the PAC’s final recommendation to the BLM.