

**Salem District
Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes**

June 17, 2004

Attendees:

RAC Members: Mark Luedtke, Dave Schmidt, Wayne Geisy, David Hanson, Don Hopkins, Walter Cate, Rod Klawitter, Annabelle Jaramillo, Charles Hurliman, Cliff Adams, Larry Sowa, Chuck Hurliman, and John Lindsey.

Alternate RAC Members: Mickey Bellman, Ron Adams.

Salem BLM: Paul Jeske, Judy Akahoshi, Fran Philipek, Rick Kneeland, Belle Smith, Steve Cyrus, Lee Folliard, Ron Exeter, Randy Gould, Cindy Enstrom, Lisa Soo, Dan Nevin, Dave Roberts, Claire Hibler, Trish Hogervorst, and Jose Linares.

Oregon State Office BLM: Jim Hallberg

Other: Greg Hickelman, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Chuck Knoll, Benton County Public Works; Patrick Smith, CPRCD; Stacy Carpenter, Benton SWCD; Janet Wright, Columbia County Roads; Ethan Nelson, NW Youth Corp.; Lindsey Buchholz, Polk County, Jerry Jackson, Polk County; Randy Wharton and students from Nestucca High School.

Suggestion was made to not schedule our meetings the same day as the Willamette Province.

Annabelle Jaramillo, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Introductions were made for those in attendance.

Agenda review:

Paul Jeske distributed a schedule (see attached) outlining the times allowed for each county and limiting presentation to 5 minutes. If we can adhere to this schedule, we should be able to finish the meeting by 4:00 p.m.

Do we want to start with the multi-county project proposals? It was decided to address them county-by-county as we go through the presentations.

Paul Jeske: We have a Powerpoint presentation on the status of existing projects which does not have a lot of new information since the pre-proposal meeting and suggested that we distribute a printed copy and show this during lunch or later to give more time to go through recommended projects. This was agreed upon by the RAC.

As far as the spreadsheet listing projects to be reviewed today, we do not have final figures from the counties. Jim Hallberg, BLM OSO RAC Coordinator said that we should have them by Tuesday, June 22. We are showing last year's contributed amounts as an estimate to work with for today's meeting.

RAC members appointment expire the end of this year. All RAC members and alternates must resubmit an application if they want to be considered to remain on committee. We are also recruiting for other applicants. The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to June 30. We will have the application forms available today if you need a copy.

Chair Dave Schmidt arrived for the meeting and assumed Chair duties from Vice-Chair, Annabelle Jaramillo.

The spreadsheet reflects overhead levels the same as last year with 10% added for BLM projects and 5% for non-blm projects and where needed an additional \$3,000 for assistance agreements.

The RAC voted on overhead percentages and this was agreed upon by a quorum of the committee.

Those County Commissioners present were asked if the allocations from the counties were going to be similar to last year as we have listed as a starting point?

- Annabelle said that for Benton County we can increase the allocation to \$260,000.
- Chuck Hurliman said that Tillamook's would be approximately the same as last year.

The spread sheet was updated to reflect the increase for Benton County.

MULTI-COUNTY PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Knotweed Control Project, Patrick Smith, Cascade Pacific RC&D (Marion/Yamhill/Polk/ Linn/Benton/Columbia/Clackamas/Washington)

- Question was raised as to what information is available as to the effectiveness or injection treatment? Patrick said it was highly effective and observations and research data is available. What percentage grows back the next year? Statistics shows it kills 95%-100% first time where spraying only gets 80%. However, injection is more labor intensive and it is fully approved for use in Oregon and with FDA. Aquamaster is the herbicide being used.
- There is an OWEB grant for \$51,000 that spans 11 counties and 10 watersheds to assist with funding.
- Treatment is being done in Linn County in the upper end of Crabtree and Thomas Creek and working on BLM lands with BLM funding and RAC the project on adjoining private lands.
- The whole area needs to be treated and other invasive weeds such as Blackberry to take care of the problems and spraying would cover the whole area at a lower cost and take care of all the weeds not just Knotweed.
- Patrick said that if the concern of the RAC was the methods used they could look at treating a number of weeds as a group rather than strictly Knotweed.

Call the DR, Ron Exeter, BLM Botanist (Benton/Polk/Lincoln)

- Ron handed out a Marys Peak Resource Area ranking of the projects for their resource area.
- This proposal is to purchase a giant oversize DR mower to mow brush. We are asking for \$1,000 from each county for a total cost of \$3,000. The mower would be used to mow large batches of berries, etc., where it is not feasible or safe for a tractor to operate. The mower would last several years and could be used throughout the district.
- The Westside of the Salem District does not have an Environment Assessment in place for using herbicides at this time and the mower would be a way of curtailing growth of these plants.

Native Seed Collection and Native Seed Increase, Clarie Hibler, BLM District Botanist (Clackamas/Linn/Marion/Tillamook/Multnomah)

- We have current contracts that we can increase by any allocated dollars for this project. This is used for revegetation projects and mostly blue wild rye. We also have interagency contracts BLM Eugene and the Willamette NF covering the Cascade seed zones and other zones.
- Questions asked as to who does the collections? They are done under contract and at this time we have 3 contracts in place for seed collection and seed increase.
- The range of counties listed was developed from the resource area needs for seed internally and split among the counties involved by BLM.
- The plants are mainly shrub species (Dogwood, Salal, Grape and Thimbleberry) for the restoration areas

Northwest Youth Employment (NYC) Ethan Nelson Program Director (Benton/Clackamas)

- Work will be going on at the Horning Seed Orchard the week of July 25 and Sept 12-13. Ethan invited members and BLM to come and see the crews in action. Other times they will be working in higher elevation areas. Call if want to see the crews in action in other areas such as the recreation sites.
- Question raised as to the project also dealing with a variety of noxious weeds and BLM also has proposals submitted for noxious weed control and wanted to know about coordination with these projects? The NYC projects are not in the same project areas as the BLM noxious weed projects.
- NYC is a new non-profit group started in 1984 with students. The students are recruited thorough local youth service agencies. We send packets to schools, give presentations, do website posting and by word of mouth. There are 26 crews and they earn minimum wage and no taxes are taken out. They are charged a minimal \$7.50 per day to cover food costs. There is also a tuition fund to cover the costs for low income students.
- Asked why not bare root seedlings? The elk eat the smaller ones so the larger seedlings have a better survival rate.

Road Culvert Conditions Survey, Dan Nevin, BLM Engineer (Linn/Marion/Clackamas/Multnomah)

- This project is to collect culvert data on the rest of BLM roads in these counties. We have a listing of 3,000 and there are approximately 7,000 in field. The listing would be published and we would use it to prioritize what needs to be repaired or replaced do have routine maintenance. Funding would be used for BLM Road Maintenance crews. This is for 1,100 miles in the Cascades resource area. Fish and Wildlife have done culvert inventories for some of the watersheds in Clackamas County. Most of them were installed 25-30 years ago and are rusted through and need replacement our maintenance dollars are only enough to cover general maintenance such as blading.
- We are coordinating with other watershed councils and they are more in lower portions of the streams and we are looking at the upper portions with emphasis more on bridges. We are also coordinating with other agencies such as USFS, timber companies and private land owners.

BENTON COUNTY

Ron Exeter, Marys Peak Botanist and Randy Gould, BLM Marys Peak Supervisor went over BLM the BLM projects.

- The BLM Noxious Weed project is to reduce infestation of noxious weed species and other non-native plants including Scots' Broom, Knotweed, blackberries, knapweeds, thistles and other species on BLM managed lands within Benton County.
- South Fork Access culvert lining is for replacement of a culvert lining.
- Winnie road drainage project is for replacement of 30 pipes that are rusted out in this project area most of which were installed in the 1950's. It's a variable project funding request and with the lower dollar amount we could start work on the priority pipes the full amount would complete the project. We do have some Jobs-in-the-Woods funding to start the project but not enough to cover all the work needed. There are 25,000 miles in road system and annually we maintain 600 miles/year which only covers basic grading and road maintenance. Question raised as to why can't fund some under timber sale contracts? We do include in contracts where we can but this is mainly in LSR areas that cannot be logged. These roads are open for public access.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Ron Exeter, Marys Peak Botanist and Randy Gould, BLM Marys Peak Supervisor went over BLM the BLM projects.

- North Fork access road drainage is also a variable funding request similar to Winnie Road in Benton County and is also for culvert replacement. It cost approximately \$2,000-3,000 to replace the the smaller culverts and the larger culvert replacement can go up to \$15,000.
- Noxious weed project is to reduce infestations of noxious listed weed species on BLM lands in Lincoln County.

POLK COUNTY

Ron Exeter, Marys Peak Botanist and Randy Gould, BLM Marys Peak Supervisor went over BLM the BLM projects.

- Gooseneck/Neuman Road restoration project is for culvert replacement and slide failures.
- Joe Gates project is to install two gates across areas where there has been a lot of dumping in the area. The road system would be open during hunting season.
- Question: Why gate the road why not try to catch the dumpers and/or have SOLV cleanup? Answer: We have found that if we gate the roads we have a better chance of catching them.
- Noxious weed project for Polk was funded last year and we are working with Jerry Jackson, Polk County on an assistance agreement to reduce infestations of noxious weeds on BLM and Polk County lands. This project ranked high for both BLM and the County. This agreement also includes trash cleanup. Work would be done by Polk County prison crews.
- Chuck Knoll, Benton County gave a DVD presentation on the S. Fork Improvement project. This presentation was created to used at other meetings and worked well.

Question asked if the if the top priority was the drainage issue? Chuck said when video taken Phase 1 stream restoration and drainage and 12 additional cross culvert drainages have been completed since the video was made and this summer's project will improve the drainage system.

- Running surface will be a concrete treated base 10-12 inches base phase oil mat surface. Phase 3 puts a deeper oil mat. The width is 22' and at the narrowest point but we have widened some of the narrow sections. Paving the road also makes it safer. Benton County and Polk Counties have the lowest amount of road funding (from fed road tax and gas tax) than other counties in Oregon. Benton County uses interns from OSU and have completed a database culvert inventory which is updated regularly. Original project estimated at \$900,000 and with using this type of road base we are saving \$350,000. This is scheduled to be a 5-year proposal.
- Question: Does Benton have a program requiring haulers to have a permit and responsible for damage? They do have a permit policy and contract with ODOT including weight limits.
- The chip seal project is a 11 mile BLM project of the same road.
- The culvert lining project is also a BLM project on the same road.

Stacy Carpenter, Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District

- Stacy did a Power Point presentation on the Fish Passage & Habitat assessment program. The project is to provide a common map and database on fish passage barriers and stream habitat to support cooperative effective fish passage improvement projects on a subwatershed basis. Works with many partnerships and various landowners .
- Question: How benefit BLM lands? The work is mainly with private land owners and fish moving upstream to federal lands for cooperation most fed streams and fish passage upstream and this is on the lower portions of the streams and this opens the fish passage up for the upper portions leading to BLM lands..
- This will be a model for a statewide fish passage program.
- We have an additional \$40,000 from OWEB to restore Beaver Creek on BLM lands and because of this program we were able to get funding from other sources which we would not be able to do without this program.

Motion was made to fund the S. Fork Road Improvement project, the Knotweed Control, NYC Youth Employment, a reduced amount of \$45,500 for Fish Passage assessment, Call the DR, with the remaining going to the Winnie Road Project. (Spread sheet has dollar allocations listed). Motion seconded and the RAC voted on the motion. Category 1 did not pass the motion. Motion failed.

Question asked as to why no vote? The objection was to reconsider multi-county projects and reservations on funding them when there are other projects that believe are higher priority. Part of the RAC was uncomfortable with eliminating the multi-county projects until we see how other counties look at funding them.

The motion was amended to remove the Call the DR project with all additional going to Winnie Road. The motion was seconded, vote was held, motion passed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Nestucca Connections:

- Randy Wharton and students from Tillamook High School gave a presentation on the Nestucca Connections projects which are the Fish Habitat and Nestucca/Jane Creek projects listed for Tillamook County.
- The project includes campground cleanup for BLM recreation sites including Elk Bend, Alder Glen, Rocky Bend, roadside brushing, Alder marking, photopoint monitoring on the Upper Nestucca River, tree planting, soil sampling, etc. This is in partnerships with BLM, ODF&W, USFS, SOLV, Tillamook estuaries, Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District, local watershed councils, local chamber of commerces, Tillamook County Commissioners and the National Forest Foundation.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Ron Exeter, Marys Peak Botanist and Randy Gould, BLM Marys Peak Supervisor went over BLM the BLM projects.

- In regards to ranking by BLM in priority order they are NF Access Road and Noxious Weed. The RAC initial ranking was for the NF Access Road first. Call the DR is a new project since the pre-proposal round.
- Motion was made for all Lincoln County allocated RAC funding to go to the N. Fork Access Road Project, this was seconded, vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

POLK COUNTY

Jerry Jackson, Polk County Sherrif's Office, Dumpsite Cleanup.

- This project would model the Dumpstoppers one in Clackamas County. The problems are dumpsites on public lands. Looking at a reactive process for reporting, investigating, prosecuting and initiating cleanup. Don't have manpower at this time to do cleanup nor time to look through items to try to make identification of who dumped the garbage. Offenders will be given community service to go out and cleanup these sites. County to fund development of the program, creation and maintenance of a website for the public, education/advertising costs, investigation and prosecution. County signs are being placed in the field to try to deter dumping, explaining how to report violations and to educate the public. The RAC funding would fund a staff position to supervise a work crew and fill in gaps for the new program using inmate crews and those on probation. Asking for \$10,000 to start but mainly planting a seed for the project and can do more work if were allocated additional funding.

Ron Exeter, Marys Peak Botanist and Randy Gould, BLM Marys Peak Supervisor went over BLM the BLM projects.

- BLM priority for Polk county is the Noxious weed project, the RAC priority was for the Goose Neck/Neuman Road project.

Motion was made to apply the full allocation to the Dumpsite cleanup. The motion was seconded, discussion was related to why fund more than they asked for to start up the program. The motion was dropped.

Suggestion made to fund the dumpsite cleanup and remainder to the Gooseneck/Neuman Road project. Also, why not split the funding equally between the dumpsite and Gooseneck.

The Knotweed program is also important statewide. Asked if partial amount of funding to Gooseneck would give enough funding to do some work. Some work could be completed at a lower level of funding.

Motion was made to fund the dumpsite cleanup and the BLM Polk Co. Noxious Weed project and carry over any remainder to next year. Motion was seconded. Voting occurred and motion failed.

Motion was made to fund dumpsite cleanup and the remainder and any additional allocation to go to the Gooseneck/Neuman Road project. Motion was seconded. Voting occurred, motion passed.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Rick Kneeland, BLM Tillamook Resource Area Supervisor

- For clarification, the two Nestucca Connections projects are the fish habitat project and the Jane Creek/Nestucca project and BLM is supportive of this program. In the past the RAC funded Southern Flame upland forest program which was a similar project using Nestucca Connections and is now completed. Jane Creek is a follow-up similar project on upland forest and the Nestucca fish habitat is the second year of a project that was funded by the RAC last year. The RAC and BLM both rated these two projects high and also high priority by the county and goes with the Healthy Forest Initiative.

Motion was made to fund Nestucca Fish Habitat Restorations, Nestucca/Jane Creek Habitat Restoration with any remainder or additional funding to go to the Native Plant Cooperative Nursery. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed.

YAMHILL COUNTY

With only \$4,396 funding available there isn't really any one project proposed that could be funded.

Motion was made to put all allocated funding for Yamhill County towards the Watershed Fish Passage Barrier Assessment project. The motion was seconded, vote was held and the motion passed.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

- Motion was made to allocate all Columbia County funding to the Bacona Road Drainage Improvement project. Motion was seconded, voted on, and motion passed.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- RAC and BLM priority is for the Pottrtz Road Project.

Greg Hinkleman, Washington County Sheriff's Office

- Inmate Work Crew project to cleanup dumpsites This project is to use inmate work crews to cleanup dumpsite and forest reclamation on BLM and includes painting and posting boundaries. WILOJ (Work In Lieu of Jail) project which also does a garden to provide food for the inmates and other projects. This proposal will work similar to the WILOJ program. It has a dedicated supervisor and Title III funds are being used to pay for the supervisor. We plan on working the crew 20 hours a week but this is flexible based on funding. It would also

include purchase of equipment for the crew such as a trailer, power tools, hand tools, outdoor clothing and safety items such as goggles, etc.

- Discussion on experience with prison crews doing the reclamation work and would need a BLM personnel on site if doing reclamation work. Rick Kneeland, BLM Tillamook, said he was also concerned about this and had met with them and if crew was going to do this type of work a crew leader would be trained by BLM. Another option was brought up that Oregon State University has professionals on this type of work that could possibly be available to work with the crews. The crew consists of 8 inmates for 20 hours a week and they would like to do this project year round if funding was available.
- Pottratz Road was ranked higher and BLM was asked if the amount of money estimated to be allocated by Washington County would be enough to complete any work? Some work could be completed with less money and this amount would be beneficial toward Pottratz.
- Rick mentioned that Pottratz Road was funded for \$10,000 last year, but it will take about \$67,000 to actually deal with failed culverts and stream activity to get road back into use. We now have right players with Washington County as a cooperator to work on this road. This is a county road across a private landowner going into BLM lands this year's money and last year's money would fund part of the project and in priorities BLM may be able to supply some additional funding for this project. There are two proposals in this project, but the main component is the failed culvert and the second part won't do any good without fixing the culvert. We cannot commit that BLM will be able to contribute additional funding. Priority funding is going to key watersheds and this one does not fall into a key watershed category. If we have any left over funding we can look at other opportunities and but we probably won't be available to use other BLM funding. Katrina, BLM Acting Tillamook Field Manager said that county does not have any funds to contribute. We would anticipate the road being open to the public in the future. If the culvert is not fixed, the county could fund a gate but that would preclude access to the area. Fish and wildlife has some funding and looking at issues like this that is available to private landowners.
- It was suggested that due to lack of funding and uncertainty towards higher priority work a recommendation was made that the RAC funding allocation to towards the Washington County work crew for 2005.

A motion was made to fund the Washington County BLM Inmate Work Crew for the full amount of allocated funding for Washington County. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed.

Chuck mentioned that unless you have been to Pottratz Road you can't realized how big of a problem and project it is.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Tom Ortman, Dumpstoppers, Illegal Dumping Prevention and Cleanup

- Joint project with BLM, USFS, Weyerhaeuser, Blakeley, Sandy City Schools, Hampton Tree Farms, State of Oregon and the other partners. We are working together with law enforcement entities to share information between agencies. Good to see other counties getting involved in the same programs. We are installing signs in English, Spanish and Russian. Dumping is down about 40% since implementing the program; shooting is still a problem, car thefts, and commercial dumpers are harder to catch. One offender was sentenced to 64 month in jail. This has bee a success story from past funding; hope the RAC sees fit to fund it again this year so we can keep on cleaning up the woods. We also hope to try to be able to open gated areas at least during hunting season.

Belle Smith, BLM Cascades RA Supervisor:

- The BLM Clackamas Law Enforcement Agreement project is basically the same as last year. It would pay for the agreement with the county to continue the agreement. This year's target areas are the Molalla Recreation Corridor, Hillockburn area and other BLM administered lands within Clackamas County that are interspersed with private lands. The Salem District only has three rangers and with 300,000 acres we do not have enough staffing. Issues are dumping, vandalism, long-term occupancy and to help ensure safety and good recreational opportunities for the public.

Dave Roberts, BLM Fishery Biologist

- The Marmot Road Culvert Replacement project is for replacement of a culvert on a county road leading to BLM lands. Stream restoration is in the works to build structures to step the stream up to allow fish passage through the culvert. This is located 7-8 miles from City of Sandy. There are Brook trout in the stream below and above and there is less than ¼-mile of stream below the culvert but fish can't go upstream at this time. This land was acquired congressionally along the Sandy Corridor for land and water conservation as part of the Lewis and Clark Trail acquisition. BLM received control of the land so we need to fix the problems.

The counties priorities are illegal dumping, the law enforcement contract, 50% of the NYC (not the portion for the roof replacement at the Seed Orchard).

BLM ranking is for the culvert conditions survey, law enforcement, Marmot Road.

Clackamas is committed to do culvert replacement but questioned the cost of Marmot road and that the county may be able to do for less money? BLM said that the estimates used in the proposal came from the County but may be able to do with less money than proposed. If funding is allocated towards Marmot Road we will have a County Engineer review the project for cost estimates. It is a county road.

Motion was made to fund the Illegal Dumping, Law Enforcement Agreement, 50% of the NYC (no roof Seed Orchard) and the remainder or any additional funds to Marmot Road. Motion was seconded, voted on and passed.

John Lindsey was asked as to why a no vote? Marmot Road is in acquired BLM land and not O&C lands.

MARION COUNTY

Belle Smith, BLM Cascades RA Supervisor:

- BLM Law Enforcement agreement is similar to Clackamas one and the areas include the Little North Fork Santiam River, Fishermen's Bend, and BLM lands above Mill City and Gates. The little North Fork area is very busy on the weekends and we need additional law enforcement presence.

Motion was made to fund in the priority order by the RAC which means full funding for the Law Enforcement Agreement, Knotweed project, Native Seed Collection, and the Road Culvert Conditions Survey with remainder and any additional allocation to the Native Seed Increase project. Motion was seconded, vote taken, motion passed.

LINN COUNTY

Belle Smith, BLM Cascades RA Supervisor:

- Linn County Law Enforcement Agreement is to continue the agreement that was started in 2003 and covers the Quartzville Recreation Corridor which has high recreation use.
- Oregon Dept. of Transportation has given the BLM district authority for the Quartzville Back Safety Speed Zone Signing project to conduct the analysis and then ODOT will review before the signs are ordered and installed. This was done previously in the Molalla area and was very successful.

Comments: Green Peter Reservoir is proposed to be drained this year and unless philosophy changes. This is similar to what was done at Detroit lake last year which will limit recreational use and traffic to the area.

Question asked as to what the county proposed?

John questioned where are the projects, there is 10% for road improvement, ODOT projects on a county road, and then left with a bunch of multi-county items and the law enforcement agreement. Why not other BLM road projects, PCT, etc?

Belle said that we have had a number of other funding sources to do the road work in the Cascades RA including ERFO. She also gave some statistics as to what had been completed last year.

John said the commissioners had asked where are the PCT and other projects just not seeing the proposals being submitted in relation to the funding allocation the county is proposing the put into Title II projects. Need a variety of on-the-ground projects.

Larry asked about the process and if we can only consider projects that have been brought to the committee. At this point we can't add new projects. They have to be submitted through the project application process by the deadline for each year.

Motion was made to fund all projects listed and carryover any remainder to next year. Motion seconded, voting occurred, motion failed.

Asked what does Linn County recommend? Would like more projects but do not want to see the signing contract approved.

Motion was made to fund all proposed except the Quartzville Back Safety Speed Zone Signing Project and carryover all remaining and additional allocations to next year. Motion was seconded, voting occurred, motion passed.

CLATSOP COUNTY

- Motion if Clatsop County allocates funding to Title II carryover for to next year. Motion seconded, voted on, and passed.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- Motion to apply funding to the Native Seed Collection Contract up to the \$5,500 request and carryover any other additional funds. Motion was seconded, voted on, and passed.

As a follow-up to previous discussions, Paul Jeske, BLM Designated Federal Official asked the RAC to give comments in regard to FY03 projects in Columbia County.

- No trail proposal may not result in trail.
- Roads provide for commerce, timber haul.
- If no timber sales then don't need to haul timber, most of this is private land.
- County costs associated with recovery of rafters.
- Need to have road for timber sales.
- Need access for public lands.
- County should come forward with trail application.
- Fish Creek? Salem or Eugene?
- Fish counts from restoration.

Dave Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Attachments:

- Spreadsheet with project listings and dollar allocations
- Spreadsheet with voting record.
- BLM Marys Peak Ranking of projects.
- Powerpoint presentation printout of previous projects.