

**Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000  
Resource Advisory Council Meeting  
Bureau of Land Management  
Salem District Office Conference Room  
April 12, 2002  
Salem, Oregon**

**Attendees:**

Name	Interest	Name	Interest
Richard Williams	Category 1	Wayne Giesy	Category 1
Dave Schmidt	Category 1	Sara Vickerman	Category 2
David Hanson	Category 2	Don Hopkins	Category 2
Walter Cate	Category 2	Melissa Leoni	Category 2
John Lindsay	Category 3	Annabelle Jaramillo	Category 3
Charles Hurliman	Category 3	Clifford Adams	Category 3
Robert Van Creveld	Category 3	Jose Linares	Designated Federal Official (BLM)
Mark Luedtke	Category 1	Leon Wilbanks	Category 1
Tina Tyler	Recorder (BLM)	Judy Akahoshi	Staff Asst (BLM)

***Category 1:** Representing organized labor, developed and commercial outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, energy and mineral development interests, commercial timber industry or hold federal grazing permits or other land permits within the area for which the committee is organized.*

***Category 2:** Representing national, regional or local environmental organizations, dispersed recreational activities, archeological and historical interests or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups.*

***Category 3:** Hold state, county or local elected office, represent American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized, school officials or teachers or represent the affected public at large.*

**Other Attendees:**

Trish Hogervorst, Public Affairs, BLM  
Randy Gould, Marys Peak Resource Area, BLM  
Jim Irving, Cascade Resource Area, BLM  
Rick Kneeland, Tillamook Resource Area, BLM  
Dana Shuford, Tillamook Resource Area, BLM  
Marguerite Cape, Contracting, BLM  
Teri Simpson, Contracting, BLM  
Jim Hallberg, OSO, BLM  
Claire Hibler, Cascade Resource Area, BLM  
Dennis Wise, Willamette River Initiative

**Guests:** Keli Kuykendall & Melanie Gisler, Native Seed Network

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Dave Schmidt called the meeting order. Introductions were made around the table. All members were present. The March 28 meeting minutes were unanimously approved. There were no changes to the agenda.

**Information Sharing:** Jose Linares shared a copy of the letter written by Dave Schmidt (on behalf of the Salem RAC) to BLM Director Kathleen Clarke on expediting the

delegation of authority. There is no word as yet but Jose was hopeful he would hear something soon.

The call for nominations for applicants to vacant RAC alternate positions will be out soon. The Federal Register notice has not yet been published. Members are asked to encourage applicants.

Solicitations for 2003 projects will go out soon. A press release will be issued that will cover completion of this year's project selection and request proposals for the 2003 process. The 2003 project application deadline is June 1. The RAC must approve projects by September 1.

Jose reviewed the spreadsheet that was sent out to members. The spreadsheet covers the project rankings from the March 28 meeting. One change was to spread the Willamette Basin Invasive Weed Partnership and the Native Seed Network multi-RAC projects over 6 counties rather than the original 2-3 counties. The projects are ranked within each county and show where each county's funds run out.

**Discussion and Ranking of Multi-RAC projects:** There were mixed feelings about using county funds on multi-RAC or multi-county projects, especially when other RACs or counties did not contribute funding. Some people felt there should be more of a regional or basin-wide emphasis. Others noted the sensitive, political side where counties would like to see some benefits in their county with their funding. It is a 'hard sell' to get other counties to contribute Title II monies if they do not see a benefit coming back to them. Some counties even stand to gain a greater benefit than the funds contributed. Multi-year projects are difficult because there is a history of federal or state governments funding for the first year and then leaving local governments to fund the rest of the years to get the project done. 'Phased projects' where each phase can stand-alone are much more viable. Dave Schmidt summarized by saying that it will be important to communicate between the counties when the RAC considers projects that cross jurisdictions.

**Multi-RAC Project Q and A's:** Keli Kuykendall, representing the Native Seed Network proposal, answered questions on the project. There is currently a contract involving the BLM, FS, Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, et. al., that allows agencies to write task orders for native seed. The Native Seed Network (NSN) acts as a link between agencies and groups who need native seed and the farmers that grow them. The focus has been on the Great Basin area because of the number of restoration efforts following wildfires; however, the agencies in western Oregon have been the lead on the prototype. The Network would like to fund a person that would focus on the needs of the Willamette Basin. The NSN also tracks the seed from its collection in the wild, through cultivation and certification all the way to where the seed is finally planted again in the wild. The program is eco-region sensitive, i.e., seed that is collected in the Valley is grown and planted in the valley. There is also a side benefit that the straw produced from the seed is excellent for erosion control. Farmers are harvesting the straw instead of conducting large grass burns.

John Lindsey had some concerns that this may be a duplicate system to one in place through the Extension Service. John has talked to farmers that have not heard of the Network or been approached but have been working with the Extension Service. He was concerned that there is no conversation or link between these two systems. There is

already an individual funded with another agency who develops markets through the Extension Service.

Not funding the NSN would not nullify them. They just would not have someone for western Oregon. Their focus would continue to be the Great Basin.

**Final Ranking of Projects:** There was some confusion on whether the fund requests displayed on the spreadsheet represented the total for the project or just the FY2002 request. The ranking from March 28 helped members get a sense of which projects were favorable for funding. Multi-year projects were not easily identifiable on the spreadsheet.

The 2 multi-county, multi-RAC projects – Willamette Basin Invasive Weed Partnership and the Native Seed Network were divided amongst the 6 counties which had Title II monies. There was some discussion as to whether these met the intent and were appropriate for RAC funding (versus other forms of funding from agencies). There was some general agreement that there were some questions on the Native Seed Network project that still need to be addressed and that invasive weeds are ‘everyone’s problem’ and an immediate concern.

A roll call vote was taken on each of the projects. The RAC voted 14-1 in favor of funding the WBIWP for \$30,000. The hope was that other counties not currently participating would join in to help address the problem on a geographic scale in future years. The Native Seed Network was voted down 2 of the 3 categories (total vote 8-7 against).

Members then reviewed each county’s projects to decide on final funding. Comments are included on the spreadsheet. There were carryover funds in Lincoln, Marion and Polk for a total of \$34,756 out of \$711,840 available.

The RAC members unanimously approved the selected projects. The recommendations will go forward to the Salem District Manager.

**Other Business:** Jose suggested 3 meetings dates be submitted to the Federal Register. Trish will send out a news release on the 2002 projects. Further information on types of projects being sought for 2003 and process changes will be coming out to members

**Calendar:**

- June 1 – 2003 Proposal submittal deadline
- July 11-12 - RAC Meeting to review 2003 projects
- August 15 - RAC Meeting to approve 2003 projects
- September 1 - Proposal Approval deadline