

**Salem District Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2004**

Attendees:

RAC Members: Mark Luedtke, Richard Williams, Wayne Giesy, David Hanson, Walter Cate, Rod Klawitter, John Lindsey, Annabelle Jaramillo, Charles Hurliman, Clifford Adams.

Alternate RAC Members: Mickey Bellman. Ronald Adams.

Bureau of Land Management Salem District: Paul Jeske, Judy Akahoshi, Fran Philipek, Rick Kneeland, Ron Exeter, Trish Hogervorst, Randy Gould, Belle Smith, Marilyn Lowrey, Dan Nevin, Steve Cyrus, Barbara Raible.

Bureau of Land Management Oregon State Office: Jim Hallberg.

Other attendees: Ginny Van Loo, Clackamas County; Patrick Smith, CPRC&D; Chuck Knoll, Benton County; Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU; Ethan Wilson, Northwest Youth Corp.; Jonathan Sall, Nature Conservancy; Mandy Summer, N. Santiam Watershed Council; Tom Ortman and Clackamas County Dumpstompers.

Call to Order

Annabelle Jaramillo, RAC Co-chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. (Election of RAC chair was done at the Aug. 7, 2003 meeting with Dave Schmidt being reelected as Chair and Annabelle as Co-Chair.)

Opening comments

The meeting began with introductions of attendees. Paul Jeske, Designated Federal for the Salem BLM RAC facilitated the meeting and did an overview of agenda. Projects that covered several counties would go first, followed by counties in the Marys Peak resource Area (RA), followed by counties in Tillamook RA and the counties in Cascade RA. Paul listed some questions for the RAC members to keep in mind as we go thorough the projects:

What you liked or disliked about the project?

What additional information would be helpful?

What suggestions do you have to improve the utility and effectiveness of the project?

Today we are reviewing the pre-proposals and not the full project proposals. The deadline for submission of final full project proposals is due by April 15.

The information mailed out to RAC members included a copy of new charter. It is good for three more years.

Selection of a new RAC member

Paul distributed a listing of the RAC members including alternates. As per the Charter, selection of a first and second alternate is made by the RAC and the first alternate would be the one selected to move into any vacancies that occur on the RAC. We have one RAC member vacancy at this time in Category 3. The alternates in this category are Kurt Schrader and Larry Sowa. Annabelle asked the committee how they would like to proceed with selection of the new RAC

member. Do you want to vote or do you need more background information on the two candidates? The members asked for background information since they did not all know the candidates.

Larry Sowa is a former State Representative and is currently a Clackamas County Commissioner and a veterinarian. Kurt Schrader is a State Senator from Canby and also a veterinarian. Mark Luedtke said he knows both Kurt and Larry. He said that since Larry is a retired veterinarian he would probably have more time to devote to the RAC. He is in his second term as a Clackamas County Commissioner and does a commendable job, doesn't make snap decisions and wants first hand knowledge before making decisions. He believes he would be a real asset to the group. Ron Adams mentioned that he also has an educational background. John Lindsey said he was always a silent person but knows what's going on and is involved.

Annabelle asked that with selecting Larry it would mean we'd have three county commissioners on the RAC. If they selected Larry, would that be an issue? Wayne Giesy said since the counties are involved in listing priorities of projects, he believed it would be good to have another county commissioner on the group.

Mark Luedtke nominated Larry Sowa to be designated the first RAC alternate and fill the vacant Category 3 position; Walter Cate seconded the motion. Annabelle called for "discussion". There was no additional discussion. By verbal voting, all RAC members were in favor and none opposed. Larry Sowa was selected as Alternate 1 in Category 3 and moved into the vacant RAC position.

Charles Hurliman asked if they wanted to go ahead and make first and second alternate selections for the other categories. The group agreed that they would like to have the other candidates at a future meeting. Since not all members in attendance today, they would defer future RAC alternate priority designation until a later meeting.

RAC schedule

Final proposals are due by April 15, 2004. Notebooks with the full project proposals will be sent out in April and also the information to the counties. The voting meeting on recommendations for this year's projects is scheduled for June 17th with a follow-up meeting scheduled for June 24th if needed. Annabelle asked about discussing the dates since she has a potential conflict with June 17. Since everyone else had responded that they should be available on June 17 it was decided to leave the date there.

Review of the legislation

Since we had some new alternate members in attendance, Paul did a presentation of some of the history and major features of the Secure Rural Schools Community & Community Self Determination Act. (See Attachment 1, Slide presentation). He also distributed copies of statistics by counties, a Summary of RAC projects from 2001 to date; a table showing the legal Criteria Review, and a breakdown of Title I, II, and III distribution for the last 3 years (see Attachment 2).

Annabelle mentioned that some of the projects submitted from outside BLM did not seem to show a benefit to Federal lands and that we'd need more specific information related to the benefits to federal resources. Walt asked if the project must benefit resources on federal lands

since the interpretation is pretty wide open. Paul said that it's up to the RAC to make recommendations and that the ultimate decision is up to the District Manager. In the past, fish restoration projects not on federal lands have been determined to benefit Federal resources if the streams and fish can also cross onto BLM lands. Annabelle mentioned also that with BLM's checker boarded land base, it makes it a benefit even with private and other land owners involved. Paul said that if Federal lands within 1-2 miles of the project site would benefit Federal lands but if it was 10 miles or more away it would probably not.

Ron Adams asked if there had been any attempt to coordinate BLM/USFS between RACs and agencies. Yes it has been done and several RAC members are members on more than one RAC.

RAC project progress review

Paul presented an overview of projects that have been completed by Salem BLM or that are in progress (see Attachment 3). Mark asked about the Beck Road Oak Release project that was a timber sale. Randy Gould said that the timber sale did not sell at the first offer. It was reoffered and Hampton Timber bought the sale. By having to re-advertise, the start was delayed but the sale will be logged this year or next.

Walter asked about completed projects such as Honeygrove, Green Creek and Upper Nestucca Watershed and stabilization projects, Rick Kneeland said Green Creek was finished and the others are in progress.

County participation

Multnomah County has not submitted any projects but they did contribute \$5,000 last year that went towards the Northwest Youth Corp. Patrick Smith said that they were a participant in the weed control. We started with 8 participating counties and now have 11 counties contributing to Title II projects. Annabelle asked which counties contain O&C lands. In the Salem District, they are: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, a small portion of Lane County, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill.

Paul said that we had also sent letters went to counties and we received some initial feedback from some of them as to their priority listing of the pre-proposal projects.

Multiple County Projects

Culvert Condition Survey & Maintenance Replacement: Dan Nevin, BLM Cascades RA Engineering Tech stated that there are 1,100 miles of BLM of roads in the Cascades system. The majority of the culverts were built in the 60's, 70's and 80's and are aging. We have been working on culvert replacement and we need to have an inventory of the culverts. We have identified approximately 3,000 and know there are around 7,000. This number includes those culverts on private lands where BLM controls the roads. Chuck asked: When he worked for BLM 15 years ago they did culvert inventories to be input into GIS under our road inventory. Dan said they are not in our system for Cascades RA, they may be for Tillamook RA or Marys Peak. Watershed Councils have also been doing inventories and this data was supposed to be transferred and incorporated. Some of the data collection by other groups does not meet agency standards. This year the RA is asking for \$27,000 from 3 counties which would survey approximately 600-700 miles of roads.

Annabelle suggested that we go through the projects quickly and asked the members to make notes as to the ones they wanted to see move forward for full proposal packages.

Horning Seed Orchard Green House Roof Replacement and Northwest Youth Corp Projects: Ethan Nelson distributed the NW Youth Corp Annual Report for FY2003. These proposals are to increase services on BLM lands and trail maintenance in the Molalla River Corridor, Table Rock Wilderness Area, other trail maintenance and roof replacement on the green house at the Horning Seed Orchard in Colton. There is deferred maintenance on 80 miles of trails including cleanup of campsites and illegal dumpsites in the Mollalla Corridor. The other project relates to the infrastructure repairs at the Seed Orchard. The projects would be done by the youth group. Last year the program had 7-10 kids that spent 4-6 weeks each in a residential program doing service projects. Question asked about the safety of having kids doing roofing projects. They did roofs before at Silver Creek Falls State Park and the follow OSHA standards and have the proper safety equipment. The RAC funded this program in past years. This program offers youths job training, they earn high school credit and learn teamwork. Chuck asked how many were local kids: Tillamook, 10; Clackamas 12, Benton 30, Linn 35 for Western OR and 100 kids nationwide; 100 from Washington, 50 Idaho and the remainder from all over Oregon. They are also working with RAC's in other states and other agencies. Annabelle asked them to provide more information in the final proposal related to local kids and how the project and program benefits local areas. Overhead cost is around 15%.

You can contact the NW Youth Corp by calling Ethan Nelson, Program Director, at 541-349-5055, ext. 216 or by e-mail at work@nwyouthcorps.org. The NYC crews will be working at Walter Horning Seed Orchard completing projects funded by the Salem RAC. RAC members were invited to come out and see the work being done. There will be 2 crews the week of April 11, 1 crew the week of April 25, 2 crews the week of June 6, 1 crew the week of June 13 and 1 crew the week of July 25. Contact Ethan if you are interested in participating in a field visit.

Knotweed Control project: Patrick Smith, Cascade Pacific RC&C shared information on the project. The invasive weed partnership is a non-profit group that works with soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils. In past years the RAC supported development of this multi-county partnership group to stimulate weed control and manage projects. The outcome is that the project submitted this year is to start on-the-ground weed control. They are working across counties and watersheds and doing treatments from the top of the watershed down. They have received support and land owner permissions to start treatment. Approval has been made for use of an injection herbicide by EPA and the Dept. of Agriculture which is the best available method for treatment of knotweed but does not harm other vegetation or drain into waterways. Mark asked where in Clackamas County has Knotweed been located? It's on the lower, middle and tributaries of Deep Creek and at the mouth of the Molalla River. John asked what had been done with the funds the RAC allocated in past years? It was to set up the process and develop the partnerships and now asking to get started with the on-the-ground work. Administrative fees are 15%. Question raised as to BLM lands and the whole watershed needs to be treated and it benefits all the landowners in the watershed area. Walter asked since they are working with the Soil and Water Conservation group why not give them the money to do the treatment and reduce the overhead? Patrick said they were trying to make it easier with the partnership combing land owners rather than the specific Soil and Water Conservation Districts or Watershed Councils.

Native Seed Increase and Native Seed Collection Contracts: (Marilyn Lowery, BLM Botanist) These projects were funded last year by the RAC. Integrated collections were done last year throughout the Salem District and the work started mainly in Cascades and then expanded into

Marys Peak and Tillamook. The request for this year would continue the work started. We have a new contractor grower this year. They hire approximately 12 full time employees in the rural counties and approximately 30 students who receive training. The seed is collected, grown, and then planted in riparian projects.

Sandy River Watershed Weed Partnership: (Jonathan Saul, Nature Conservancy) This project would help fund and support formation and operation of a weed management partnership on a Watershed-wide weed project focus for Japanese Knotweed and Scotch broom in riparian areas on all lands regardless of ownership. Ownership of the lands around the Sandy are fragmented and there is significant BLM lands along the river. This is also a wild & scenic river. This coordination will enable us to get projects done in a meaningful way using effective methods around the state in reducing and eradicating noxious weeds.

Upper Nehalem Reforestation Project sponsored by the Nehalem Watershed Council. No representative at the meeting to discuss this project.

The RAC members discussed where to head at this point. They decided to do a numerical ranking of the Multi-County projects to reflect their preferences. (A '4' ranking would be high, a '1' ranking would be low.) A ranking sheet was distributed and members were asked to rank these while we continue discussions on other specific county proposals. The results of the RAC members collective ranking is shown on Attachment ___.

Benton County

Ron Exeter and Steve Cyrus then went over for the projects sponsored by BLM for 2005 in the counties in the Marys Peak Resource Area. Information from the handout they provided applicable to Benton County is shown below. Paul Jeske distributed maps of each county that showed the location of the projects on the maps. Annabelle said was really helpful to have. Numbers from the legislative review sheet are shown on the maps at the approximate location of the project.

Illegal Dump Cleanup: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$5,000.00 to be available to clean-up illegal dumpsites on BLM managed lands within Benton County. Sponsor-Randy Gould, NRS.

BLM Noxious Weed Project: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting 13,200.00 for initiating an "on the ground" noxious weed treatment program. Treatment would be accomplished through either federal workforce, private contract or by working with County or State of Oregon Department of Corrections. Sponsor-Ron Exeter, Botanist.

South Fork Access Road Chip Seal: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$233,105.00 to apply a base coat of chip seal and fog seal to the recently paved South Fork Alsea Access Road, a "Back County Byway". Chip and fog seals are a proven method of extending the life of pavement structures. Sponsor-Steve Cyrus, Engineer

South Fork Access Culvert Lining: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$82,807.00 for installing culvert linings in existing failing culverts. Rather than closing the road during excavation, backfilling, and repaving activities, culvert lining permits restoration without the high cost of and inconvenience associated with conventional pipe replacement. Sponsor-Steve Cyrus, Engineer.

Winnie Road Culvert Project: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting “flexible funding” \$40,000 to \$98,000.00 for culvert replacement (approx. 30 pipes) on the Winnie Road system. Sponsor-Steve Cyrus, Engineer.

Other than BLM Sponsored Benton County Projects:

South Fork Road Improvement Project: (Chuck Knoll, Benton County Public Works) This project was funded in previous years and work is in progress. The proposal this year is for Phase III to finish the project (see Attachment 4). Question was asked if the road is open to the public? Yes and it provides access to BLM lands. Portion of the road is BLM and part county. Also issue was raised as to whether Federal Highway funding had been requested? They have asked but the county is rich in ideas but low on funding. Also, why couldn't this road repair be done under a timber sale. Randy Gould said we cannot do improvements to county roads with a timber sale on O&C lands.

Grazing to control False Brome: This is OSU submitted proposal and no representative for the project at the meeting. Ron said that something similar had been done in Descutes County with goats which was extremely successful.

Public forum: At this point (approximately 11:30 AM) Annabelle asked if there were any members in the audience that wanted to participate in the Public Forum. Jonathan Saul wanted to clarify that on the Sandy River Weed Partnership the funding would go to support the field crew, a crew leader for on-the-ground work. It does not go to coordination and will be using Americorp crews.

At this point the group ranked the projects for Benton County.

Lincoln County

Illegal Dump Cleanup: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$5,000.00 to be available to clean-up illegal dumpsites on BLM managed lands within Benton County. Sponsor-Randy Gould, NRS.

North Fork Access Road Drainage Project: Marys Peak is requesting “flexible funding” \$40,000.00 to \$98,000.00 for culvert replacement (approx. 30 pipes) on the North Fork Road system. Sponsor-Steve Cyrus, Engineer

BLM Noxious Weed Project: Marys Peak is requesting \$35,200.00 for initiating an “on the ground” noxious weed treatment program. Treatment would include physical and mechanical treatments. Target species would be County listed noxious weed species. Sponsor-Ron Exeter, Botanist.

Racks Creek Road Decommissioning Project: This project has been funded through the Jobs-in-the-Woods program and this County Payments proposal has been dropped.

Polk County

Illegal Dump Cleanup: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$11,000.00 to be available to clean-up illegal dumpsites on BLM managed lands within Benton County. Sponsor-Jerry Jackson, Polk Dept of Corrections & Ron Exeter, Marys Peak Botanist.

Gooseneck/Neuman Roads Project: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$39,500.00 for culvert replacement (approx. 20 pipes) on the Gooseneck/Neuman Road systems. Sponsor-Steve Cyrus, Engineer

BLM Noxious Weed Project: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$35,200.00 for the continuation of the 2004 County Payments project of funding the Polk County Department of Corrections, Community Service Crew for the removal and control of non-native and noxious weed listed species on BLM lands within Polk County. Sponsor-Ron Exeter, Botanist.

Joe Gates Project: Marys Peak Resource Area is requesting \$11,000.00 for the installation of two gates to limit access to areas with re-occurring dumpsites, “keg” party trash, shooting range trash, theft of natural resources and spread of noxious weeds. Sponsor-Ron Exeter, Botanist.

Polk County other than BLM projects:

Savanna Oak Woodland Conservation and Restoration Educational Development: (Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Extension Forester for Polk, Marion and Yamhill Counties) Brad did a presentation on the project proposal at Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Activities here are happening on Federal lands to promote educational values, and public awareness relative to Federal lands. John said that it was questionable that the proposal meets the legality of the legislation since it's not on O&C lands. The law says Federal land and this is a US Fish & Wildlife Natural Refuge. We will do some checking to clarify if the project meets the guidelines of a Title II project.

The RAC then ranked the projects for Lincoln and Polk County (see ranking spreadsheet for results on all counties and projects). Since the Joe Gates project is new, it was added to the list.

Tillamook County

Rick Kneeland, BLM gave an overview of the Tillamook County proposals. BLM is proposing a variety of projects based on the response from the RAC in previous rounds.

Tillamook Native Plant Cooperative Nursery: This was a previous project funded by the RAC and sponsored by BLM. This year the project is being turned over to the Tillamook County Soil & Water Conservation District. The work will be done by the Oregon Youth Authority.

Pacific City Scotch Broom Eradication project is for manually cutting Scotch Broom on BLM land.

Netucca Jane Creek: The RAC supported Southern Flame in the past. This is a high school. Yesterday the Nestucca Connections students gave a presentation to the Tillamook County Commissioners. These students are kids at risk and with this program they have been able to progress at least one grade level. They are kids that would normally take an F in a classroom rather than get in front of the class for a presentation. This program was well received. Chuck said that they submitted the presentation to Washington DC as a success story of a Title II project.

Nestucca Fish Habitat project is a follow-up to last year's project. The Nestucca Connections students would like to do a presentation to the RAC at the June meeting.

Little North Fork Wilson noxious weed control knotweed project is on a piece of BLM land acquired after the NW Forest Plan was implemented. It is important for fish habitat and is a key watershed (see Item 63 on the map).

The RAC ranked the projects for Tillamook County.

Marion County

Little North Fork Santiam River Watershed Protection and Restoration: (Mandy Summer, N. Santiam Watershed Council) Mandy gave an overview of this project. They are asking for \$30,000 to identify sources of turbidity in the streams feeding into the Little North Fork of the Santiam River and to reduce sediment levels. The question was asked about other land owners? Some parts are private owned and also by Frank and Freres timber companies. If this project goes forward would like to see a land movement stability map as part of the full project proposal. There is timber clear cuts along the river but with discussion there hasn't been logging in the area recently so can't blame the turbidity on logging activities. Ron suggested that the Mill City High School students could also be a partner since they have a strong crew that has been working on these types of projects. Also want to see a breakdown of the \$30,000 and where it is going. Some RAC members believe that logging is not the culprit in causing the turbidity. Also, the applicant should look at partnerships with Marion County and City of Salem since this area supplies their municipal water.

The RAC ranked the projects for Marion County.

Columbia County

Rick Kneeland, BLM gave an overview of the Columbia County projects.

Bacona Road Drainage Improvement: This road is at the headwaters of Nehalem County roads and is in severe disrepair. This project is adjacent to RAC projects funded in previous years and the road provides access to BLM lands. The funding would be for an assistance agreement with the county for this work. Is the county also putting in funding on this road? The county did contribute to last year's project on Pisqua Road. We expect them to also do some funding this year. An industrial timber company is providing the rock so there are multiple players involved. It is in the matrix and we are actively doing timber sales but we can't use O&C timber funds on county roads.

CZ Mainline culvert repair/design was a proposal carried over from last year. This is a BLM proposal to replace small culverts on the road that are under large fills. Dave asked about liners and Rick said that there were not any riparian nor fish concerns in this area and liners would not be a good option.

CZ Trail Bridges is a project for pedestrian bridge construction on a recreational trail and streambed preservation. This was also a carry-over project from last year. This trail and these bridges are not on BLM land. BLM does not have a formal proposal from the county showing how this trail would connect to BLM lands and resources. This trail connects with the Banks/Vernonia trail at Vernonia. BLM does have some safety concerns with this project since there is a historic tunnel nearby that is a potential safety hazard. If the trail attracts public use in the area this would be a concern. It would take a lot of funding to make this area safe. The RAC would like to see a breakout of the funding in the full proposal. There was also a question raised about whether this project provides benefit to federal resources as required by the legislation.

John Lindsey said in Linn County they were putting beams across streams for trails when logging was done.

E. Fork Nehalem Watershed Restoration: (#24 on the map) This project is also a repeat from last year. It is an instream restoration and stabilization restoration project. Plans include removing noxious weeds at the same time. Since this proposal was developed we have had blown down timber in the area from the recent storms that would either be an opportunity for firewood, saw logs, or fish logs and could provide an opportunity for youth to do some of the work. There are also adjacent private landowners (for example, Hancock) that we have agreements with and gated access to the area.

Scapoose/Vernonia Road Overlay: (#27 on the map) Last year the RAC partially funded this project. BLM is now in the process of developing an assistance agreement with the county to do the work.

Washington County Forest Work Crew is a proposed pilot project submitted by the Washington County Jail Commander to develop a field going prison crew to do Natural Resources kinds of projects. They want to develop a year-round crew and use mostly Title III funds to support but asking for Title II funds for the equipment. If the RAC likes this concept, Rick will give the feedback to the county and they will flush out the project more for the full project submission. This would be a 10-person crew for 3-4 days a week. Question was raised as to whether it was appropriate to use Title II funds for vehicles and tools for the crew. They also mentioned salary for deputy or supervisor but Title II funds can not be used to pay salary for county employees. Jim Hallberg will clarify the issue on buying vehicles and tools. Mickey asked if it would require a BLM coordinator? Rick said that they like the concept but our struggle is we can't provide anyone on-site on a day-to-day basis but can line up generic projects and train their deputy to be the crew leader. We don't have the resources to provide a person. Annabelle asked if projects had been identified? Rick said they have a short list at this point. Another concern was that county prison crews have a larger turnover than the State ones and if there would be a training curve issue.

The Pottratz Road/McKay Creek Watershed Road Drainage Improvement project is a culvert failure that needs replacement. We need to get the right organizations together to get the culvert replaced and fix the road. It's a county road across private land providing access to BLM lands.

The RAC ranked the projects for Washington County.

Yamhill County

Bald Mtn. Peak Stabilization and Meadow Restoration: (#75 on the map) This project is a repeat from last year. It's a high elevation meadow impacted by OHV use. We are trying to restore conditions and limit further damage. David questioned the 1,000 cu yards as being a large amount for just filling in ruts. Rick will verify the amount of fill.

Yamhill Instream/Riparian Habitat Restoration is in two components, A is for \$8,000 for on-the-ground work in Coast Creek that is BLM ownership. The NEPA and ESA work has already been completed. Component B is for \$12,000 for the planning efforts for additional restoration work along with neighboring landowners. We already have a contract with the Grand Ronde Tribe for the data collection phase but we need to synthesize the data.

Turner Creek Oak Woodland Enhancement: This project is an area overgrown by oak and other species including some noxious weeds. This project is for restoration work on BLM lands and is another repeat from last year.

The Yamhill Watershed Fish Passage Barrier Assessment project (#78 on the map) is to augment ongoing efforts by BLM for comprehensive surveys of fish passage culverts located on federal, tribal, and private industrial timber lands. This data will be used to prioritize culverts for replacement and/or upgrade by BLM, other owners and/or the Watershed Council. BLM funds associated with culvert replacement on BLM lands and BLM controlled roads are in progress. This proposal would fund working with the watershed council to survey the remaining portions of the watershed and to select the priority sub-watersheds for restoration. This watershed has scattered BLM, USFS and tribal lands. Success in watershed restoration depends on building partners for the project. Rick will clarify this more in the full submission. We have a trained BLM who will work with the schools.

The RAC ranked the projects for Clackamas County.

Clackamas County

The illegal dumping project is sponsored by Dumpstompers. They plan to be here later this afternoon for a presentation.

Clackamas County (& other county) Law Enforcement Agreements: Belle Smith, Cascades BLM gave an overview of all the proposal regarding law enforcement for Marion, Linn and Clackamas counties. As last year, this funding would be used to pay for a law enforcement agreement to provide County Sheriff's office increased presence in high use areas. In Clackamas County they patrol the Molalla River corridor, in Linn County it is the Quartzville Creek area, in Marion County, it is Fishermen's Bend and the Little North Fork of the Santiam River area. This increased law enforcement presence reduces the potential for visitor safety problems. They deal with firearm problems, dumping, vandalism, drug production and use, under age and excessive drinking, speeding, reckless driving, and abandoned vehicles. Last year alone we averaged at least 1 abandoned vehicle per week. This is a repeat proposal from last year. A question was asked as to what role BLM and USFS Law Enforcement played in this area. Salem BLM now has three rangers for the entire district (the third only recently returned from active military duty). Dave asked how much presence does this buy for the year. It would be for 2-4 more deputies from mid-June through Labor day and with heavier coverage on the weekends.

Sandy River Land Restoration Project: Barbara Raible gave an overview of the project. BLM has acquired land in the Sandy River Basin and is trying to restore the land. This proposal is to use students at the college to do noxious weed eradication, install raptor posts, native seed collections, planting native species on land that had previously been used for grazing. This is an opportunity to get the students involved in wildlife issues and land restoration. The funding would be for a crew supervisor and a crew of 8-10 students, equipment would be supplied by BLM from the Wildwood Recreation Site. Mark said does it need coordination with NYC and the Nature Conservancy since it looks like duplication and is listed as a 6 year project. The cost of this crew is less than the NYC since the students live at home and commute so would get more "bang for the buck". Andy Kerr is the crew leader from Mt. Hood and one of the best teachers in the State on the environment. Barbara did not believe that we could successfully

collaborate with NYC in the Sandy area. She mentioned that there is a savings and benefit from using the local students. John said that this is an educational project and was a better fit for Title III. The project needs clarification.

The RAC ranked the projects for Clackamas County.

Linn County

Linn County Law Enforcement Agreement (see above)

Quartzville Backcountry Byway Safety Speed Zone Signing Project: There is a concern about speeding in the high use areas in the Quartzville Creek corridor. This area is designated as a Back Country Byway and a Wild & Scenic River. Now there are no signs and the basic rule applies, with signing for speed limits it would give law enforcement a way to enforce the traffic laws. The funding would be for a speed zone analysis. John asked who owns the road? It is a County road leading to BLM and then USFS. Has anyone discussed this with the County Sheriff's Department? Belle will follow-up on county involvement. John said they had been working on this with the Corp of Engineers and you can't just sign the road. Need more information on collaboration efforts.

Linn County General: John said he was disappointed that there are no road or culvert projects proposed by BLM for Linn County. It appears that the projects were pre-selected for the allocation and only multi-county projects listed that are not really a part of Linn County. He would like to see more projects specific to Linn County. Especially since he had been hearing about significant amounts of backlog in maintenance, variable thinning, etc., and there were projects submitted for the previous year.

The RAC ranked the projects for Linn County.

Summary: Annabelle asked if there were any questions on anything covered in the meeting to this point.

Rod said as a general item most of the road issues are coming from BLM projects. He would like more specifics as to whether the road is public access. A breakdown on costs would be appreciated along with access issues.

Annabelle asked what other information do we need to supply with new people on the RAC, what else do you need?

Ron said that if we don't have a good screening process with this first process we not doing anyone any favors and the screening process needs to be effective. Generally, we give the proponents that we screened their choice as to going forward on a full proposal.

Wayne said that any reflection on the cost benefit ratio would be very beneficial.

Mickey was surprised that we did not have any public in attendance today is that normal? What kind of public notice is given? It is published in the Federal Register as to meeting dates, we do

some news releases, we send mailing to watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and the counties and the information is posted on our webpage.

Mark said he liked the overview of projects and would like to see more pictures and proof of the work progressing. He suggested videos.

Rod was surprised that with all the data collection done by the Clackamas River Watershed Council that we don't have the analysis and assessment of the locations of culverts. John said some inventories have been done but not necessarily to the standards the agency requires

RAC Review of Project Ranking (see attached spreadsheet):

Benton County: Okay to proceed with full project proposals.

Clackamas County: Representatives from Dumpstompers are here now but the project ranked high in terms of wanting to see the full proposal without a presentation. The Sandy River Land Restoration Project is confusing and need more coordination and clarification in the full project proposal.

Multi-county: Go ahead and give feedback to the groups for them to proceed with full project proposals.

Lincoln County: Eliminated Racks Creek.

Linn County: Where is the backlog of maintenance projects? Speed signing rated low. Find out more about collaboration lots of questions on this project. John said that if it's a county road the county pays for the signs.

Marion County: Okay to proceed.

Polk County: There are enforcement questions on the illegal dumpsites. Need more information on the Joe Gates project, otherwise okay to go forward with full project proposals. BLM will look into questions regarding benefits to public lands.

Tillamook County: The Nestucca Fish, Jane Creek and the Native Plant COOP Nursery rated high. John said there may be Federal funding from EPA for the asphalt project. Mark noted that only a few projects were rated in the 40's. It was felt that it was due to the good track record and the youth project involvement. Chuck mentioned that on the next round need to make sure proposals are not more suitable for Title III.

Washington County: Okay to proceed, probably want to see all of these projects carried forward.

Closeout/Future meetings

Annabelle mentioned that the dates are set for the next meetings for June 17 and June 24. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration starting at 8:15 a.m. The RAC members would like to see some accomplishment reports of completed or in progress projects. They want to see more about what we have paid for so far. We need to set time in agenda for accomplishment reports to bring everyone up to date on projects.

Want more detailed proposals, how much time on each proposal? We will have to work out the schedule for the next meeting. Paul suggested that we use the current priority ranking to organize our discussion of full proposals. If specific projects require more detail, we may be able to save some time by focusing on the new information only. Annabelle said that if we have a full RAC attendance, those not here today may want more details.

The objective of the next meeting is to vote on which projects to recommend for funding. In order to formally vote on projects there must be at least 3 members of each category in favor.

We expect to have Title II funding levels from the counties by the next meeting so we can recommend funding for projects up to the funding levels.

Annabelle mentioned that we had discussed field visits in the past. Do we want to have any? Paul said that in the past the group suggested progress reports with pictures will take less time than going to the field. If there were specific projects that you wanted to see, we could take RAC members on a field trip.

Wayne said we should pay attention to the county priorities. Each county has been willing to pay for priority projects within their county. This is an incentive for the counties to have money in the pot.

Meeting critique/feedback

Ron said thanks for letting him participate. We were glad some of the alternates were able to attend.

Annabelle thanked everyone for being patient.

Thanks to Annabelle for chairing the meeting today.

Paul suggested that RAC members share opinions with the counties.

Adjourn

Annabelle adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

