

**SOUTHEAST OREGON RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Lakeview, Oregon  
September 29, 1998

Attendees, RAC

Tom Bedell  
Mike Golden  
Tom Harris  
Bob Kindschy  
Lillian Maynard  
John Monfore  
Jane O'Keeffe  
Vic Pritchard  
Linda Reed-Jerofke  
Leonard Shrewsbury  
Bob Skinner  
Walt Van Dyke  
Jill Workman

Absent, RAC

Kelly Edwards  
Andy Visocan

Others Present

Steve Ellis, Designated Federal Official, Southeast Oregon RAC  
Chuck Graham, Designated Forest Service Representative, Southeast Oregon RAC  
Jonne Hower, Vale District BLM, Facilitator  
Kathy Helm, Lakeview District, Acting PAO  
Sonya Hickman, Lakeview District BLM, Recorder  
Gary Cooper, Vale District BLM  
Mark Armstrong, Burns District BLM PAO  
Erin McConnell, Lakeview District BLM  
Roy Masinton, Vale District BLM  
Miles Brown, Burns District BLM  
Sandra Freeman  
Sam Parriott, Vya, NV  
John O'Keeffe, Adel, OR  
Scott Florence, Lakeview District BLM  
Glenn Patterson  
Lee Fledderjohann  
Lance Masterson  
Larry Conn, ODFW, Lakeview  
Orlando Gonzales, Fremont National Forest  
Craig Steedman, Fremont National Forest  
Paul Whitman, Lakeview District BLM  
Jeremiah O'Leary, Paisley, OR

Richard W. Mayberry, Lakeview District BLM  
Les Boothe, Lakeview District BLM  
Marni Porath, OSU/Lake County Extension Office  
Judi Steward, Beaty Butte Grazing Association  
Clay Speas, Fremont National Forest

Mike Golden was elected to moderate the session as Acting Chair by the RAC members. Tom Bedell moved and Tom Harris seconded that the minutes from both the April and the July meetings be approved as presented. Motion carried. The agenda was reviewed for any changes or time adjustments. Additional topics that the RAC wanted to address included the establishment of meeting dates for calendar year 1999, the issue of some type of recognition plaque for departing RAC members, brush spraying, and opening the floor up for public comment today as well as keeping the already scheduled comment period for tomorrow.

For the benefit of new RAC members, Acting Chair Mike Golden reviewed the flip charts from the Strategic Planning workshop held on September 15 and 16, 1997. A typed version was distributed to all members.

### **Beaty Butte Record Of Decision (ROD) and Pronghorn ACEC Proposal**

Scott Florence handed out a copy of the recently completed Record of Decision (ROD) for the Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and EIS. This document covers grazing management for most of the Oregon portion of the proposed Pronghorn Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Beaty Butte allotment covers approximately 500,000 acres of public land between Hart Mount and Sheldon National Antelope Refuges. Scott also presented an overview of the Pronghorn ACEC proposal submitted by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA). ONDA, Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Lake County, and several individuals, are recognized interested parties in the allotment. The ROD/AMP was completed about the time BLM received the ACEC proposal.

The Lakeview District Office BLM received the Pronghorn ACEC nomination in June from ONDA. The proposal takes in over one million acres of land, involving four different field offices and three different BLM State offices. The field offices agreed to coordinate the evaluation strategy (HANDOUT). When asked how many livestock permittees operated in the Oregon portion of the ACEC proposal, the RAC members were told that there were perhaps six permits involved but that one of these was a single permit (for the Beaty Butte allotment) that involves ten operators. There are approximately 26,000 AUMs in the Beaty Butte allotment, while there are approximately 50,000 AUMs total in the Oregon portion of the proposed ACEC. The portion of the ACEC that involves lands which are covered by the Southeast Oregon RAC amounts to about half the entire proposed acreage. The BLM specialists who are initially involved are the wildlife biologists, botanists, and cultural resource specialists. Copies of the proposal were distributed to RAC members. Scott established that the findings of the BLM pertaining to the

Pronghorn ACEC proposal would be shared with the public as the valuation is completed. He mentioned that he would consider public input as it pertained to the biological facts. The contact person for this issue is Paul Whitman. The RAC meeting was suspended for a brief public comment period. Public comment was taken on the Pronghorn ACEC proposal. Public comment was closed.

Jane O'Keeffe disclosed her interest as a ranch partner who holds grazing permits within the boundaries of the proposed ACEC. She requested direction of the other RAC members and of the Designated Federal Official on how to legally proceed. The general consensus of the group and the federal officials was that Jane's input on the issue would be accepted in discussions but that she should abstain from formal voting in a final decision.

The RAC formed a subcommittee to address the proposed Pronghorn ACEC. Chaired by Tom Bedell, the other members are Len Shrewsbury, Linda Reed-Jerofke, Bob Kindschy, Jane O'Keeffe, John Monfore, and Bob Skinner.

### **Lauserica Fence**

Miles Brown, Andrews Resource Area Manager from the Burns District BLM Office, presented background on the Lauserica Fence issue. The goal is to manage the land on a landscape basis, regardless of ownership. The attendant EA decision document for this should be out by the end of the month for public review. Four alternatives are being addressed in the EA.

There could be some impacts to WSAs, wild horses, and the viewshed. The fence is proposed to be a four-strand wire fence with a smooth bottom wire. Parts of it will be a three-wire fence. Linda stated that she believed there were archaeological resources in the vicinity of the fence. She asked whether it was really a good idea for the archaeological surveys to be waived. Miles stated that his cultural resource person's opinion was that it was OK, but that he would check with him again to be sure. Vic Pritchard asked what provisions existed for monitoring the opening and closing of gates as needed for the wild horses as well as what the impacts of such a policy might be over time. Miles said they are currently seeking prudent gate numbers and placement. While gates are currently proposed for placement at one per mile, Miles believes that there will eventually be more than one per mile. He said it would be surveyed, flagged, and entered into GPS this fall.

Mike Golden reported that the South Steens Subcommittee's tour was very beneficial for both the subcommittee members and the private landholders. He wrote a thank you note to the Roaring Springs Ranch on behalf of the RAC. He passed out copies of the Subcommittee's recommendation to the RAC. After discussion, John Monfore moved, Walt Van Dyke seconded, and the RAC voted to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation, with two changes: A. Drop the last sentence. B. Add "Cultural Resources" into the considerations portion of the wording. This recommendation will be prepared in a memo to Steve which the RAC Chair will sign.

**Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan (RMP)**

Gary Cooper, Planning Chief for the Vale District BLM Office, offered an overview of Alternative C, the Agency-preferred alternative which will come out in the draft. It utilizes an adaptive management process. There will be a series of public meetings, probably during the first two weeks of December. The locations still need to be firmed up.

Gary then fielded questions from the group. The wording on water quality standards was discussed. It was reiterated that as long as an Agency is making progress on restoring them or is attempting to restore them, there should be no adverse consequences. It was also noted that the Eastside needs to work with the State to see about changing certain water standards if they are virtually unattainable.

**Hydrologic Tour Orientation**

Clay Speas, Fremont National Forest hydrologist, and Alan Munhall, Lakeview District Fish Biologist, briefed the group on the afternoon's tour. Participants would find areas such as soil compaction, upland vegetation, and riparian vegetation addressed.

The meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened for the afternoon tour.

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Lakeview, Oregon  
September 30, 1998

Attendees, RAC

Tom Bedell  
Mike Golden  
Tom Harris  
Bob Kindschy  
Lillian Maynard  
John Monfore  
Jane O'Keeffe  
Vic Pritchard  
Linda Reed-Jerofke  
Leonard Shrewsbury  
Bob Skinner  
Walt Van Dyke  
Jill Workman

Absent, RAC

Kelly Edwards  
Andy Visocan

Others Present**Public Comment**

The meeting opened with a public comment period. Mike Gravelle, Beaty Butte Grazing Organization member, read his statement. Jeff McKenzie, BLM/FS permittee, entered his objections to the Pronghorn ACEC proposal. Bob Skinner urged Mr. McKenzie to figure out how to respond to the ACEC proposal in a manner that would be more meaningful. Paul Whitman clarified that this action is NOT a lawsuit. The recourse that is available to the proponents is an administrative appeal.

**Meeting Representatives**

State Director Elaine Zielinski requested two or three representatives from each RAC participate in upcoming ICBEMP/SD and Regional Forester meeting. Bob Skinner and Linda Reed-Jerofke volunteered. It was also suggested that the newly elected chair for 1999 should attend.

**Subcommittee Changes**

Due to resignations and term endings, Subcommittee assignments were reviewed and established as follows. Additionally, the Rangeland Standards and Guides Subcommittee was disbanded:

**Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan**

Mike Golden, Facilitator  
 Kelly Edwards  
 Tom Harris  
 Vic Pritchard  
 Linda Reed-Jerofke  
 Andy Visocan  
 Jane O'Keeffe  
 Walt Van Dyke

**Fuels/Prescribed Fire/Forest Health**

Tom Harris, Chair  
 Bob Kindschy  
 Mike Golden  
 Lillian Maynard  
 Walt Van Dyke  
 Andy Visocan

**Pronghorn ACEC**

Tom Bedell (Chair)  
 Bob Kindschy  
 John Monfore  
 Jane O'Keeffe  
 Linda Reed-Jerofke  
 Len Shrewsbury  
 Bob Skinner

**Noxious Weeds**

Jill Workman (Chair)  
 Tom Bedell  
 Kelly Edwards  
 Vic Pritchard  
 Len Shrewsbury  
 Bob Skinner

**South Steens Allotment**

Mike Golden (Chair)  
 Tom Bedell  
 Tom Harris  
 Vic Pritchard  
 Len Shrewsbury  
 Bob Skinner  
 Walt Van Dyke  
 Jill Workman

**Sustained Yield Unit**

Brett KenCairn of Sustainable Northwest and Jane O'Keeffe, Lake County Commissioner, gave a historical perspective on the Sustained Yield Unit (SYU), the certification program, and the July 1998 environmental conference held in Lakeview.

Historically, the timber industry was subject to roller coaster activity levels, so the sustained yield concept was thought to be more stable. Buyers of timber inside the SYU could not buy timber outside the SYU. This concept worked well until the late 1980s and early 90s, when allowable

harvest levels were changed. When Fremont Sawmills closed the sawmill in Paisley, Lake County felt it necessary to become involved again and reinitiated their SYU committee. Ways to restore forest health were reviewed. Paul Harmon, with Fremont Sawmill suggested certification to get an independent assessment of forest's current health. A local Regional Strategies board was approached for a grant. At that point, it was discovered that forest certification on public lands was controversial. Lake County had three options. They could 1) Drop the suggestion, 2) Proceed with the study, or 3) Recognize the issue as being hot and address it. They opted for number three. The County talked with various environmental groups and other people to get input. An SYU meeting was held July 7-10, 1998, in Lakeview and was well attended, with representative from numerous environmental groups and agencies. During the meeting, input was gathered from scientists, tours took place, and future options were discussed. The County refined the certification option. They prepared a scientific assessment. The conference revealed a need for deeper understanding of public needs and also translated to the public the county's desire to improve the forest.

Assessment brought up the question, "What kind of management should be practiced versus should any kind of management be practiced?" The need for monitoring was recognized as a valid need, as was using a standard monitoring protocol. A team will be coming around the end of October to look at the Lake County SYU. They'll be looking at the SYU boundaries and the need to develop stewardships in its future management. They will also consider community economics. Lake County is creating a community liaison group to coordinate with scientists doing the SYU study.

### **Joint FS/BLM Planning Effort**

Orlando Gonzales, Natural Resource Specialist for the Fremont National Forest, and Scott Florence, Area Manager for the Lakeview Resource Area, reported that The Fremont National Forest, the Lakeview District BLM Office, and the Winema National Forest are partners in a joint planning effort. Final FY99 funding levels will determine whether or not a joint planning effort actually occurs. Common boundaries and watersheds propelled the logical decision to proceed with a combined planning effort. Five steps have been established.

1. Boundaries were decided for the analysis area and a map was generated.
2. Decisions for the bounded lands in California and Nevada will not be prepared. However, information from them will be used as applicable to characterize and analyze landscape conditions.
3. More than seven million acres are involved.
4. First step is the analysis of the management situation (AMS). It precedes the actual preparation of the RMP. AMS is a data gathering informational process.
5. Certain issues tend to fall within watershed boundaries; others do not. A landscape process will try to be applied as much as possible.

The partners will coordinate their efforts with those of USF&WS. The Beaty Butte Plan was accomplished with USF&W as a cooperating agency. Pending receipt of funding, a tribal liaison

needs to be designated. This is a good opportunity for Federal agencies to approach tribes as a cooperator and to share knowledge. There is cooperation among the resource specialists of the various agencies.

### **Standards & Guides Report**

**Lakeview Resource Area:** The methods used by the Lakeview Resource Area to prioritize rangeland health were summarized. These priorities are mostly issue-driven and follow W.O. guidance that directs the Resource Area to prioritize. The Beaty Butte Management Plan looked at combining the S&G assessment with other ongoing processes to cover the landscape and integrate processes.

**Vale District:** Roy Masinton addressed the processes of the Malheur and Jordan Resource Areas. These resource areas were divided mostly to sub-basin boundaries, but tried to be inclusive of allotments. In all their work, there was a recognition that priorities could change according to outside influences (T&E listing, etc.).

**Burns District:** Cody Hanson relayed a prioritization for the Burns District that was a common sense, on-the-ground approach to S&Gs. They integrate issues (T&E, listed steams, etc.) And us a workload prioritization protocol as a tool rather than a hard and fast item. Watersheds are ranked numerically by the specialists, each of whom is given the opportunity to rank the watersheds.

Tom Bedell moved and Bob Skinner seconded that the RAC accept the BLM Districts' procedures and protocols for implementing the S&Gs as they were presented here this morning. Motion passed.

### **Federal Update:**

Chuck Graham reviewed the recent Crown Pacific Land Exchange on the Fremont National Forest. The EIS was appealed, the Regional Forester upheld the appeal, and the Chief upheld the Regional Forester's Decision. The deed will be exchanged approximately mid-October and will involve about 30,000 acres of Forest Service land and 35,000 acres of Crown Pacific lands. The new office, while unavailable for touring, is progressing at a rapid pace and will later be a site for a RAC meeting. Even though not meeting their target (a few fibre sales did not sell), the Fremont finished the year second in the Region for timber sale accomplishments. The budget remains a topic of some concern, with ecosystem management funding reduced by 45% from last year's levels. This will significantly affect planning efforts, ecosystem riparian studies, etc. This riparian data is key for recovery and watershed plans. The budget looks to be adequate in range and stable in both Soil & Water and Fish & Wildlife. The Timber budget is down a lot. Chuck did not have the figures but estimated that it may be down by as much as \$1.0 million. The Forest Service is now operating under a continuing resolution, pending the settlement of House and Senate markup differences. Region 6 Forests have a lot of surplus employees. All of the Fremont's salvage sales are now done. The program is being converted into a green one. Next year will be a growing year for timber and we will need those employees. The sales will involve smaller

diameter logs and the Fremont Sawmill is not set up to mill that size. The Interagency Weed program did have a budget. The GIS database is almost complete for weed species. Interagency weed control contract planning will begin soon. The Fremont is waiting for the Klamath Tribe to commit to the Memorandum of Agreement. Prescribed burning is active in several places today. There are three helicopters actively igniting fuels. The Gerber block is finishing up today. Hart Mountain is also burning today, along with the partnership council in the Upper Chewaucan.

Cody Hanson of the Burns BLM District reported that the vacant District Manager Position is now being advertised. The timber sales are out, consist of Forest health sales, and reflect a transition between juniper and pine. Horse gathers are coming this fall to such locations as Beaty Butte, South Steens, and Palomino Butte. A great weed program is functioning and has added another employee to their efforts. The bat inventories are completed on closed mines.

Roy Masinton of the Vale District BLM reports that the Malheur and Jordan Resource Areas are proceeding with the SEORMP. There is a District-wide emphasis on Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) this year. More than half of the riparian habitat is in PFC or an upward trend. The Weeds program is doing well. This is the first year of state and local cooperation in weed control contracts. In the Jordan RA, Trout Creek is still of major significance. Recent tours indicate good progress, so much so that it is no longer the first priority in S&Gs. The Owyhee corridor has seen some contention as to riparian and recreational values. Grazing activity has been questioned as to whether or not it's viable. There is very little grazing being done now. There is an appeal on the adequacy of the River Management Plan and the subsequent EIS. The court date has not yet been set. A large, open pit mining effort was proposed on the Malheur RA by the Atlas Mining Corp. This did not happen and the applicant's proposal was revised to be a shaft operation. Atlas Mining Corporation had contracted with Tombstone Mining on this project. Tombstone Mining has gone elsewhere. Atlas is looking for another entity to pursue mining claims. Atlas has filed Chapter 11. The State still holds a bond, so it may be used for some restoration activities.

The SEORMP is a mid-level planning effort. The Malheur RMP is a close-to-the-ground operation. A number of plans need to be developed and folded into one. There will be more information on this at a later meeting. The ultimate goal is to tie into the SEORMP and the ICBEMP.

Steve Ellis, Lakeview District BLM Manager, informed the RAC that replacements are being sought for the vacant positions of KF Resource Area Manager and Lakeview District hydrologist. Larry Frazier will be the KFRA Acting Area Manager for 60 days. Funding is being sought for the Lakeview RMP. The interest in the WH&B issues prompted Steve to offer to invite Dean Bolstad and Tom Pogacnik to the January RAC meeting. They can provide a more complete picture of the issues as they affect the quality of the herds and the rangelands. Tom Bedell is serving as the coordinator the Beaty Butte Subcommittee. There will be a tour of Beaty Butte on October 28 and 29. Lillian Maynard requested a transfer from the noxious weed subcommittee to the Forest Health and Prescribed Fire Subcommittee. Bob Kindschy was also

added to the Forest Health and Prescribed Fire Subcommittee. Jane O’Keeffe and Walt Van Dyke were added to the SEORMP Subcommittee to balance category membership requirements. The chair of the Noxious Weeds Subcommittee is now Jill Workman. The SEORMP self-directed workgroup facilitator is Mike Golden. Tom Harris was added as a member of the SEORMP Subcommittee and also assumed the chair of the Forest Health and Prescribed Fire Subcommittee.

The SEORMP Subcommittee will meet December 9, 11 am through the afternoon at the Burns District BLM Office. Cody Hanson will reserve the conference room. The Subcommittee will identify issues and draft a recommendation to bring back to the group.

Bob Skinner brought up the subject of brush spraying. He stated his belief that the RACs could have an impact on policies and regulations. When he attended the National Public Lands Council in St. George, Utah, aerial spraying was one of three methods (chaining and burning were the others) being used in that area. Bob wants the RAC to support attacking weeds on a large scale and using an aerial spraying program. He relayed that Spike and 2-4D are being used in Arizona and that there were other good choices, too. It was recommended that the Noxious Weeds Subcommittee take this project on. Additional sources of funding that he suggested included grazing advisory boards, other agencies, and on-the-ground folks. Bob Bolton clarified the difference between undesirable vegetation and noxious weeds. Bolton indicated that we should prioritize areas for attack and not spray everything. Bolton said that the first step in this proposal would be to get the injunction lifted. The RAC could have a significant part in accomplishing this with their input.

### **Officer Election**

The office of RAC Chair for calendar year 1999 was up for nominations. Mike Golden declared that nominations were open. Len Shrewsbury moved and Tom Bedell seconded that Mike Golden be nominated for the position. There was a call for further nominations; there were none. Bob Skinner moved and Jill Workman seconded that nominations close. Mike Golden was unanimously elected.

Tom Harris conveyed his concern about land use designations, and about open designations in particular. It was his understanding that another RAC was moving to limit classifications to two - limited and closed. This was still in the formative stages, but might come to the forefront in the future. Tom will bring back more information on this for the next meeting.

### **Calendar Coordination**

The RAC agreed to continue meeting on a quarterly basis, hopefully keeping the date to the last week of the first month of each quarter. It also appeared that the RAC desired to continue to meet for the full day of the first meeting day and until noon on the second day. The following dates were established for Calendar Year 1999:

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: January 26 & 27, 1999 - meeting in Boise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: April 28 & 29, 1999 - Burns District BLM Office.

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: July 27 & 28, 1999 - Klamath Falls Resource Area BLM Office (Lakeview District).

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: October 21 & 22, 1999 - Lakeview District BLM/Fremont National Forest Headquarters Office.

**Suggested Agenda Items for January 1999 Meeting:**

- C Herbicides for undesirable species
- C OHV designations/other RAC actions
- C Wild Horse and Burro
- C Subcommittee reports
- C LAMPs - Malheur RA
- C Plaques for outgoing members
- C Protocol for issues (how issues get subcommittee attention in a timely fashion)

**Meeting Feedback**

The RAC's active participation on issues is a positive attribute. A substitute mechanism for the required meeting notice publication in the Federal Register would be nice, since so much lead time is necessary. There was some discussion on how to proceed on issues which arise between RAC meetings. It was decided that the Subcommittee chair could alert the RAC chair that an issue was pending and ask for permission for the Subcommittee to meet. The Subcommittee could then come forth at the next full RAC meeting with a recommendation for the RAC to consider.

The proposed decision for the Lauserica Fence was good. Staying on task has been great. Sometimes the agenda appears to not allow for adequate discussion time. Maybe Federal updates could be submitted in written form with questions allowed during the meeting. If Subcommittee reports could also be submitted in written form, this might also be a way to reserve more time for discussion. In the interest of saving time, Tom Harris volunteered to distribute copies of the Forest Health and Prescribed Fire Subcommittee reports.

Jill Workman, while making it clear that this was not a personal vendetta against Mr. Kindschy, relayed that the Sierra Club will send a letter to Secretary Babbitt regarding Bob Kindschy's selection and the nomination process. Jill indicated that she believed Bob's understanding at the time he filed his application was that it was for the academician position. Tom Harris stated that he did not believe this to necessarily be a valid complaint, since the makeup of RACs varies across the nation. Len Shrewsbury was bothered by the Sierra Club's stand because it would be the first time that the makeup of the RAC was questioned by an outside organization. Bob Skinner took the position that individuals who lived in close physical proximity to the Federal lands involving the RACs better understood the ramifications of their decisions than did RAC members who were physically distant from them.

The meeting was adjourned.

/S/ Mike Golden, Acting Chair for the Southeast Oregon Resource Council