

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22-23, 2001**  
**Shilo Inn, Klamath Falls, Oregon**

**FINAL MINUTES (as of July 9, 2001)**

**Members Present:**

Chad Boyd, Group 3, Academician, Hines, Oregon  
Mike Golden, Group 2, Dispersed Recreation and SEORAC Chairperson, Redmond, Oregon  
Tom Harris, Group 1, Commercial Recreation and SEORAC Vice Chairperson, Keno, Oregon  
Dick Leever, Group 1, Transportation or Right-of-Way, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
John Monfore, Group 1, Commercial Timber, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Jane O'Keeffe, Group 3, Elected Official, Adel, Oregon  
Marilyn Miller, Group 3, Public at Large, Bend, Oregon  
Ken Bentz, Group 1, Grazing, Drewsey, Oregon  
Jill Workman, Group 2, National/Regional Environmental, Portland, Oregon  
Cecil Dick, Group 3, Tribal, Burns, Oregon  
Lee Belknap, Group 2, Archaeologist/Historian, Mitchell, Oregon  
Walt Van Dyke, Group 3, State Employee, Ontario, Oregon

**Members Absent:**

Howard Brooks, Group 1, Minerals, Baker City, Oregon  
Vic Pritchard, Group 2, Wild Horse and Burro, Hines, Oregon  
Bob Kindschy, Group 2, National/Regional Environmental, Vale, Oregon

**Designated Federal Officials (DFOs):**

Thomas Dyer, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District Office, Hines, Oregon  
Chuck Graham, Forest Supervisor, Forest Service (FS), Fremont and Winema National Forests (NFs), Lakeview, Oregon

**DFO Assistants:**

Sharon Sweeney, Facilitator/Public Affairs Specialist, FS, Malheur NF, John Day, Oregon  
Mark Armstrong, Coordinator/Public Affairs Specialist, BLM, Burns District Office, Hines, Oregon  
Holly LaChapelle, Administrator/Resource Assistant, BLM, Burns District Office, Hines, Oregon

**Presenters:**

Steve Ellis, District Manager, BLM, Lakeview Interagency Office, Lakeview, Oregon  
Scott Florence, Lakeview Resource Area Field Manager, BLM, Lakeview Interagency Office, Lakeview, Oregon  
Dwayne Sykes, Resource Management Team Leader, BLM, Lakeview Interagency Office, Lakeview, Oregon  
David Blackstun, Supervisory National Resource Specialist, BLM, Burns District Office, Hines, Oregon  
Roy Masinton, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager, BLM, Vale District Office, Vale, Oregon  
Cody Hansen, Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager, BLM, Burns District Office, Hines, Oregon  
Jim Keniston, Snow Mountain/Burns District Ranger, Malheur NF, Hines, Oregon  
Terri Raml, Klamath Falls Resource Area Field Manager, BLM, Lakeview District Office, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Kent Russell, Forest Staff Officer, Winema NF, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Mike Montgomery, Hydrologist/Watershed Program Manager, Fremont NF, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Jim Carpenter, Co-Chair of the Upper Klamath Basin Working Group (Hatfield Group), Klamath Falls, Oregon

Karl Wirkus, Bureau of Reclamation, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Steve Lewis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Klamath Falls, Oregon

**Others Present: (sign-in book)**

Barbara Ditman, Forestry Staff, BLM, Klamath Falls Resource Area, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Steve West, Klamath County Commissioner, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Duane Daley  
Carl Clayton  
Chuck Jaynes  
Theresa Cartwright  
Rick Meline  
Roberta Unger

**Monday, January 22, 2001**

08:00-08:30      Welcome, introductions, housekeeping, and agenda review      Mike Golden and Sharon Sweeney

Mike Golden brought meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. There was a quorum present to conduct the meeting.

Self Introduction of SEORAC members and the public.

Sharon Sweeney discussed housekeeping items.

Tom Dyer reminded the council we had a new administration; stay tuned for further information on how this may affect the SEORAC and the BLM/FS management.

08:30-08:45      Nominations and election of new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson      Mike Golden

Open for nominations, quorum present in each group to conduct the election.

Mike Golden felt it was important to rotate the role of Chairperson.

Marilyn Miller made a motion to elect Jill Workman for SEORAC Chairperson.  
Jane O'Keeffe seconded the motion to elect Jill Workman to be SEORAC Chairperson.  
No other nominations were received.  
Jane O'Keeffe made a motion to close nominations.  
Lee Belknap seconded the motion to close nominations.  
Cecil Dick was the only opposition to the nomination of Jill Workman. Quorum in favor. Motion passed.  
Jill Workman agreed to serve as SEORAC Chairperson.

John Monfore made a motion to reelect Tom Harris for SEORAC Vice Chairperson.  
Lee Belknap seconded the motion to reelect Tom Harris to be SEORAC Vice Chairperson.  
No other nominations were received.  
Ken Bentz made a motion to close nominations.  
Mike Golden seconded the motion to close nominations.  
All in favor. Motion passed.  
Tom Harris agreed to serve as SEORAC Vice Chairperson.

To date BLM has progressed as planned and nearly all field data required to develop this plan has been collected - putting data on computer now. Unfortunately, there will be a setback in timeline, and the anticipated draft by February 2001, will not occur. The BLM requirement to complete NEPA compliance for renewal of grazing permits originally renewed under the congressional rider in 1999 and 2000 will push back completion of the North Fork Malheur Landscape Area Management Plan (LAMP) by 1-year at least. Permit renewal will require Environmental Assessments/Determination of NEPA Adequacy (EAs/DNA) to be completed on 23 permits before we can proceed on the plan. The 2001 permits can be renewed on the rider and wait for the geographic assessment process.

Ten of the 13 permits included within the Bully Creek Geographic Area are covered by the Bully Creek LAMP. The 23 remaining are spread throughout the remaining Malheur Resource Area including three within the North Fork Malheur Geographic Area which will require EAs. The remaining 17-18 will have DNAs completed.

Jordan Resource Area will have similar requirements but is dealing with significantly fewer permits.

Completion of final SEORMP covering Jordan and Malheur Resource Areas in Vale District is expected within a month and separate decisions for each Resource Area by September 30.

Ken Bentz asked about the universal opposition to Bully Creek LAMP by the ranching community.

Bully Creek LAMP appealed by the Bully Creek Coalition and one individual rancher (both requesting stays), no appeal was received by the environmental community. BLM is waiting to hear about the status of the stay. If stayed, the LAMP will have to sit on the shelf for several years until the case can be heard. BLM has been working hard to understand the ranching community issues. No reduction of AUMs - BLM does not believe there will be any, the Coalition believes that there will be as much as 50 percent reduction in AUMs. BLM continues to work with several ranchers to find a better grazing system that will meet all the needs of the rancher and resource objectives. Hot season use in riparian areas is a significant issue that both BLM and Coalition are concerned about. Bully Creek Coalition (Grazing Permittees - Livestock Operators) meeting last week went rather well.

Jane O'Keeffe heard that the National Riparian Team is looking at this area and Roy said that they have been brought in and discussed stream issues and conclusions with the council. The conclusions were the same as the Vale District staff and that included that some streams may have limited potential for restoration during the life of this plan, but BLM must manage the existing and restored riparian areas wherever they occur.

John Monfore wondered how the BLM and the operators were so far apart on the AUM reductions. Roy explained that the plan does include the possibility of reductions but only after other management options prove ineffective. The BLM sees few if any reductions if the ranchers pay closer attention to detail and management of their livestock. Another issue from the ranchers is that they believe they had little opportunity to participate in the process. The BLM worked very hard to schedule meetings but had little involvement from ranchers earlier in the process. So BLM went to the Rancher's homes and met with them face to face to identify their concerns and needed rangeland improvements, and work up grazing systems. Rancher involvement still remained low even with the opportunity to attend PFC course; only one rancher showed up and completed the class.

Ken Bentz - The fear of the plan is that "suits" may take the plan over and make it impossible to continue with the plan and implement the harder restrictions. Historically, more and more lawsuits have narrowed the parameters of management and Roy expects that to continue. However, the LAMP and the SEORMP have included an adaptive management process that will make it easier to make necessary changes. BLM sees that grazing will continue but much tighter control of livestock will be required to prevent impacts to other resources.

Ken Bentz reminded us that ranchers do not like to attend meetings but they are willing partners in managing the

land.

A private watershed coordinator was hired to work on private land riparian issues and will be invited to observe monitoring and future resources assessment conducted by the BLM. This coordinator will be hired with grant money from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Chad Boyd was wondering if language in the plan may be rewritten to help resolve the issues of the plan. Roy explained the plan does specifically state there would be no reduction in AUMs if the plan is followed and resources objectives are met as stated in the plan.

Ken Bentz asked about the sage grouse in the area. Walt explained there is a good population, with a lot of sagebrush/habitat, a good base. Juniper encroachment and wildfire are big issues. Roy explained the plan is to maintain the quality habitat that currently exists.

Jill Workman said the LAMP is also a concern with the environmental community as well. Please give some examples of successes where practices addressed in the LAMP have been used. Roy explained the Trout Creek area is an example of an improving area with similar management. Roy explained that unlike the Trout Creeks no initial required rest or reduction in AUMs are identified in the LAMP. He believes if we stay in compliance with the plan - limiting grazing during hot season and continue to monitor - no reduction will be required.

Jill Workman asked if mediation would work with this issue before IBLA could handle the issue. Roy said finding an impartial interest to meditate the issue is hard. Roy believes over time with continued meetings most of the concerns will be settled. Some may just want their day in court.

Ken Bentz stated that working directly with individual operators is good, but remember some smaller operators can not take a 3-year rest period and stay in business. Roy explained that given time the BLM will work with all the operators that are willing and that he sees no need for extended periods of rest in Bully Creek.

Mike Golden was wondering if the continued work with the landowners may end up getting the BLM into issues with other interested communities and if the SEORAC could assist in some way. Roy will think about how the SEORAC could work or assist in this plan and will get back with the RAC on potential involvement.

Roy said that Sandy Guches had conflicting work priorities and was sorry she was unable to attend the SEORAC meeting in Klamath Falls.

09:30-09:45 BREAK

09:45-10:30 Lakeview RMP Subcommittee Report and discussion

Chad Boyd and  
Dwayne Sykes

Chad gave an overview of the subcommittee meeting and the handout that was mailed to the SEORAC prior to the meeting. A copy of the handout was also given out to SEORAC members in their meeting folders.

Tom Harris discussed his concerns about management of the sand dunes in the Lost Forest Area, including loss of recreation area, moving sand - will the recreation area move with it? and the designation of open to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) activity.

Mike Golden asked for a copy of the summary that Chad Boyd was reading. Chad explained the summary was of the handout which lists the subcommittee recommendations. Chad will make this summary available to all SEORAC members with the revised subcommittee recommendations.



Dwayne Sykes thanked the committee for their work. Lakeview BLM is already starting to work on several issues and will continue to work on the SEORAC comments. Alternative E is an alternative with no commodity production, natural processes take their course. The plan will address several SEORAC issues in the impact analyses portion of the document.

Scott Florence followed up explaining the draft will be a better document due to this process and the SEORAC feedback was a very important part of the planning process. Please consider the difference between the term "restoration" which focuses on the native plant community and the term "rehabilitation" which focuses on stabilizing a specific site following wildfires and other events.

John Monfore asked about the cultural resources portion of the handout.

Values of the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) may or may not be affected by which alternative is chosen.

Tom Harris explained the movement of the Dunes and the need to maintain a recreation area.

Cecil Dick asked about using a native seed mixture versus using Kochia, a nonnative plant in the area.

Dwayne Sykes explained that BLM will be using native plants for long-term restoration, but in some rehabilitation sites the BLM may introduce nonnative plants.

Cecil Dick talked about the collection of biscuitroot (a cultural food used by American Indians) and that a combination of seasonal conditions and specific dates be used in determining use in an area, i.e., a long winter season may affect the time of year when gathering of these plants is best. Dwayne stated that BLM would also consider things such as grazing seasons in reference to the ACECs set specifically for cultural food use.

Discussion was made on how the SEORAC will address concerns or questions on the handout to the subcommittee. A determination was made to go through the document and provide comments directly to Chad Boyd, who would incorporate the comments/corrections into the document. Discussion continued until 10:30 on the subcommittee handout and was continued and concluded in the afternoon.

John Monfore made a motion to incorporate the changes, have the Chairperson sign the comments, then forward the comments to the BLM. Lee Belknap seconded the motion. Scott Florence requested the subcommittee meet again prior to the next meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

10:30-11:15 FS Road Analyses Process

Kent Russell and  
Mike Montgomery

Kent and Mike introduced themselves and then showed a 20-minute video on the FS road analyses process.

A follow-up discussion concerning definitions, wildlife migration pattern considerations, use of data on the watershed analyses process instead of or in conjunction with the road analyses process (companion process or not), and funding issues related to obtaining the data required. A document will be coming out for public review and comment in the future. Other issues discussed are unknown or user built roads are very hard to identify, public outreach to recreationists was not done in the Winema but will be considered in the future, and decommissioning of paved (asphalt) roads.

Kent Russell discussed the Winema NF road analyses process and distributed a handout. Kent said that recreational outreach and wildlife migration patterns will be worked on.

Mike Montgomery discussed the Fremont road analyses process and gave a handout and map. A team is still being formed to start this process.

Jim Keniston said the Malheur NF was currently in the process of forming a team to review the road analyses process/issue.

For those interested in obtaining the USDA Roads Analyses book, copies can be ordered for individual SEORAC members upon request to Holly LaChapelle. A copy was left for Official SEORAC file.

11:15-11:45 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Sharon Sweeney

**Roberta Unger** - Asked about a past FS roadless issue meeting on the Pelican Butte Area (no scientific data was used in this determination), would this area be revisited with this new road analyses scientific review?

Chuck Graham addressed the question and said the Pelican Butte roadless issue would be revisited during the road analyses process and that public comments would be taken during this road analyses process.

**Duane Daley** - Winema NF currently has no hydrologist. Will Mike Montgomery be working for the Fremont NF and the Winema NF? Duane also gave information to the council on the Sno-Max issue and thanked Chad Boyd for bringing the issue to light to the Federal agencies in the Lakeview RMP review.

Chuck Graham said yes, Mike Montgomery would be working on hydrology issues for the Winema NF in addition to the Fremont NF.

11:45-01:00 LUNCH

01:00-02:15 Update: Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area  
Status of Steens Mountain Advisory Council Establishment

David Blackstun

A PowerPoint slide show of the Steens Mountain Area was given.

David Blackstun reviewed the legislation, the maps and boundaries from the legislation, specific projects planned in the area - specifically identified in the Act (presented a map with the projects identified), the Redband Trout Reserve, differences/similarities between National Monuments/NCAs and the Steens designation.

Jill Workman recognized the BLM staff and the hard work of the BLM by sending multiple copies of Sierra Club developed posters to the BLM, Burns District Office and the State Office in appreciation of their work.

David Blackstun discussed current interim BLM management (policy statement - not a plan - maintain status quo and follow through on legislative actions/adjustments required in the Act - the wilderness act policy/requirements) until a long-term management plan can be developed for the area.

The interim policy statement should be available for the public by mid-February to March. It will be placed on the website < <http://www.or.blm.gov/steens> > < <http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns> > and mailed to the SEORAC.

He made available copies of the legislation and maps (these were given to the full council at the last meeting in Lakeview also).

David Blackstun gave an update on the establishment of the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC).

Cecil Dick stated that there is a training coming up on identifying the wilderness boundaries on the Steens on

January 27, 2001, by the Steens Mountain Packers (private). Burns BLM staff present did not know about this training.

David Blackstun explained that emergency search and rescue efforts are permitted in wilderness areas. He stressed that search and rescue personnel will have to work closely with the BLM.

Road closure efforts and inventories in the wilderness area will be started this spring. David Blackstun reviewed the cherry stemmed roads that are not part of the wilderness area.

He reviewed specific projects planned in the area (specifically identified in the Act) and presented a map with the projects identified. He noted BLM will go through a NEPA (public) process to implement those projects. The timeline is mid-February to March to have EAs for the projects completed and out for public review and comment.

Entrance portal signing for the north and south roads will be developed to identify the cautions and warnings. The BLM will be preparing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Harney County Chamber of Commerce to design the portal signs, a logo, and interpretative information. This will be a low key area, not a large interpretative area, perhaps a drive by panel, possibly of juniper construction.

The timelines, budget/funding process, and other pre-plan work, all require the SMAC be established as soon as possible.

Jill Workman stated that no one in the environmental community expected the no grazing would happen immediately. They understand that nothing can change overnight and expect a phase in period.

Jill Workman stated that the SEORAC would be willing to have a subcommittee developed to handle some of the issues until a SMAC could take over. David Blackstun liked this idea.

The BLM will be organizing a dedication ceremony sometime in July.

Jill Workman suggested moving April 23-24 meeting to Ontario and move July 9-10 meeting to Burns, and leave the dates the same. Ask BLM to plan dedication around July 7-8, 2001.

02:15-02:30 Update: BLM OHV Strategy

Scott Florence

Scott Florence handed out a copy of the recent press release concerning OHVs. The OHV Strategy is final and signed by Sylvia Baca last Friday. The 30-day comment period for the Draft ended in December (14,000 comments versus 5,000 comments received all of last summer). Ninety percent of the comments were form letters and the strategy deals only with motorized vehicles; nonmotorized vehicles will be dealt with at a later date. It strengthens requirements in Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) for interim management policy/guidelines. Hopefully, this will help BLM obtain funding for OHV management at the District level. This document is a link to planning documents/planning process at the District level.

Roy Masinton indicated the SEORMP is too far along in the planning process to include the OHV strategy. It may need to be included later in an amendment to the SEORMP.

02:30-02:45 BREAK

02:45-02:50 Approve Minutes from October SEORAC Meeting

Jill Workman

Add Walt Van Dyke in attendance for the meeting.

Tom Harris made a motion to accept minutes as corrected

Mike Golden seconded the motion to accepted minutes as corrected  
All approved. Motion passed.

02:50-03:45 Klamath Falls Water Issues: Water Issues in Klamath Basin and  
Upper Klamath Basin Working Group (33 members strong)

Teri Raml

Teri addressed the complex water environment locally, most of the water issues continue to develop. Teri brought in several individuals to update the SEORAC on the current water issues. These individuals were Karl Wirkus, Bureau of Reclamation; Steve Lewis, USFWS; and Jim Carpenter, Co-Chair of the Upper Klamath Basin Working Group (Hatfield Group). Issues discussed were Water Enhancement Act, pilot acquisition program, continuing the ground water acquisition program, water storage issues, raising water lake levels feasibility studies (NEPA analyses required), current water shortages/outlook for this year, endangered species (handout was given out by Steve Lewis), higher lake levels for habitat as a management tool (the Upper Klamath is an important recovery tool for endangered species). Other issues discussed were competition for water - especially this year, use of a hatchery for reproductions, lower river water levels/affecting flows, drought relief, economic stabilization efforts, ecosystem restoration projects, funding for projects, private 50/50 match program developed (handout passed out), and county watershed councils. An Executive Director will be hired for the Upper Klamath Basin Working Group and Foundation this year. Additional items discussed were facilitation of a basinwide watershed restoration plan, Klamath Basin Fish and Water Management Symposium (handout passed out), ground water mapping projects, and the Unified Federal Policy.

03:45-04:45 Federal Officials' Updates

Jill Workman

Cody Hansen for Tom Dyer, BLM, Burns District - Collocation effort with the FS update, land sales scheduled for January 31, 2001, mediation on the OHV lawsuit, preparation of a case versus straight litigation, Fire Program - 118 new positions in Oregon BLM (26 fire positions and 4 support positions in Burns), moisture levels - possible drought conditions in the area and associated issues.

Jim Keniston for Bonnie Wood, FS, Malheur NF - Fire restoration work included with the new fire positions, three major Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on range issues recently, county payments funding returned, training and employment opportunities, new unit has been established now called the Emigrant Creek Ranger District under the Malheur NF, recreation (Cycle Oregon 1500 riders, Oregon Scenic Tour Route, roadless area issues and access).

Chuck Graham, FS, Winema and Fremont NFs - Reviewed the Act which is bringing Federal funds back to the counties for specific NEPA projects and local Resource Advisory Committees, reauthorization of the sustainable yield unit, continued work on the combination of the Winema and Fremont NFs, Warner Canyon Ski Hill land exchange about to be completed, roadless policy in the Pelican Butte Area.

Steve Ellis, BLM, Lakeview District - Followed up with additional information on the Federal funds coming back to the counties and the formation of the Resource Advisory Committees, SEORAC members can be members of the new Resource Advisory Committees, April 2001 - Resource Advisory Committees must be formed, September 2001 - the counties must select payment options, Wilderness Therapy School update, prescribed fire funding, scoping meetings for Klamath Wild and Scenic River (W&SR), Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) decision expected but not signed yet, supplemental biological opinion on Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) last Friday by USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Scott Florence gave an update on the Beatys Butte Fire Rehabilitation Project.

Roy Masinton for Sandy Guches, BLM, Vale District - All the Resource Areas are involved in T&E Species consolidations, W&SR issues (Owyhee Canyon lawsuit is most notable), permit renewals as described this morning are a large workload, geographic management area process has been adopted and assessment work is underway for the Louse Canyon Geographic Area in the Jordan Resource Area, assembled land exchange with Clear Water Realty may be completed this fiscal year and it will clean up numerous agricultural trespass problems, fire funding and staffing (approximately 35 new fire and support positions), fire rehabilitation efforts have been proceeding as planned and are continuing.

Mike Golden made a motion to develop an SEORAC subcommittee (6 person) to work with the BLM on an as needed

basis until the SMAC is developed for the Steens. Tom Harris seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Six Volunteers (Two from each group):

- Mike Golden (2)
- Marilyn Miller (3)
- Dick Leever (1)
- Tom Harris (1)
- Lee Belknap (2)
- Walt Van Dyke (3)

Tom Harris made a motion to write a letter to the new Secretary of the Interior to continue the SEORAC. Dick Leever seconded the motion. Since not all SEORAC members are present, we must submit the letter through Elaine. Tom Harris will draft the letter. All in favor. Motion passed.

04:45-05:00 Agenda Items for April 23-24, 2001 SEORAC Meeting

Sharon Sweeney

Changed meeting location to Ontario, Oregon, for the April 23-24 SEORAC meeting, Holly will schedule the Holiday Inn in Ontario, Oregon, for the April Meeting. BLM, Burns District Conference Room, Hines, Oregon, will be for the site for the July 9-10 meeting.

Draft Agenda Items:

- Minerals report from Howard Brooks
- Review Meeting Guidelines and Operating Procedures of the SEORAC Status of the SMAC
- SEORAC - Lakeview RMP Subcommittee Update
- Bully Creek Update - Is an SEORAC subcommittee needed?
- Back Country Discovery Route Update - Lawsuit
- Sage Grouse Update - Population census, Eric Campbell give conservation strategy past the interim guidance
- Tour of Sage Grouse area again for new SEORAC members
- Fire Program (projects/prescribed fires/positions/prevention/urban interface/communities at risk) - where are we going in the SEORAC area?
- TMDL - Modeling process

Jane O'Keeffe would like to get out of the update mode and into the advisory role. Jill Workman followed up with an explanation of the issue.

Cecil Dick stated that the Federal Officials should be looking at long-term funding for fire program to maintain staffing levels rather than layoffs in just a few years.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

### **Tuesday, January 23, 2001**

05:45 Meet in Shilo Inn lobby area

06:00 Leave promptly for Bald Eagle flyout at Bear Valley Roost site

06:45-07:30 Arrive at Bald Eagle flyout viewpoint and discuss habitat management strategies

07:30-12:00 Drive to Klamath River to learn about the management plan being developed and discuss Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing issues

12:00 noon Return to Klamath Falls Shilo Inn lobby area

January 27, 2001

#### KLAMATH FALLS RAC TOUR

A total of 17 people joined Ralph Opp before sunrise at a viewing site just west of Keno to watch the bald eagles fly out. Ralph, a retired ODFW employee, gave an excellent talk on the background of bald eagle management in the Klamath Basin and a detailed description of the efforts to monitor eagle roost sites, especially the one just west of Keno. Ralph was an excellent source of information about eagle behavior and answered numerous questions from the group. After shivering in the dark for a short time, the group was able to view approximately 40 plus eagles and a fair number of other raptors as they flew out for their daily foraging routine.

From the eagle fly-out site, the group traveled to the Topsy recreation site along the Klamath River at J.C. Boyle Reservoir. There, Larry Frazier and other staff from BLM's Klamath Falls Field Office discussed recreation management at the reservoir and gave an overview of the development of the Topsy recreation site. Discussion centered on the cooperative efforts between various landowners to manage recreation as well as to utilize the river for hydro power generation.

The group proceeded down river to the powerhouse below J.C. Boyle Dam and at two other stops where they learned more about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process, status of the Klamath River Management Plan, and the complexity of developing such a management plan on the Klamath River which is a designated W&SR, an Oregon State Scenic Waterway, and is also managed by the BLM as an ACEC. Considerable discussion focused on the public outreach efforts being conducted during the development of the management plan as well as ongoing public involvement associated with the FERC relicensing process. The group returned to the Shilo Inn at about 11:45 a.m. and the conclusion of the tour.