

# Steens Mountain Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

### December 2 and 3, 2002

#### **Members Present:**

Hoyt Wilson, Grazing Permittee, Princeton, Oregon  
Mike Golden, Dispersed Recreation, Redmond, Oregon  
Jerry Sutherland, Vice Chair, Environmental Representative – Statewide,  
Portland, Oregon  
Tom Harris, Chair, Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation, Keno, Oregon  
Alice Elshoff, Environmental Representative – Local, Frenchglen, Oregon  
Wanda Johnson, Burns Paiute Tribe, Burns, Oregon  
Stacy Davies, Grazing Permittee, Frenchglen, Oregon  
Cynthia Witzel, Recreation Permit Holder, Frenchglen, Oregon

#### **Members Absent:**

E. Ron Harding, Wild Horse Management, Burns, Oregon  
Harland Yriarte, Private Landowner, Eugene, Oregon  
Richard Benner, No Financial Interest, Portland, Oregon  
Jason Miner, Fish & Recreational Fishing, Portland, Oregon  
Steve Purchase, State Liaison, Salem, Oregon

#### **Designated Federal Official (DFO):**

Tom Dyer, Burns District Manager, Bureau of Land Management (BLM),  
Hines, Oregon

#### **Designated Federal Official Assistants:**

Rhonda Karges, Management Support Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Liz Appelman, Budget Analyst, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Tara Wilson, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon

#### **Presenters:**

Elaine Marquis-Brong, BLM State Director, Portland, Oregon  
Jon Collins, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Mark Sherbourne, Natural Resource Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Ron Wiley, Acting Andrews Field Manager, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Dan Nichols, Harney County Commissioner

#### **Facilitator:**

Dale White

## **Commenting Public:**

Susan Hammond, Hammond Ranches, Inc.  
Howard Gieger, Oregon State Snowmobilers  
Linda Johnson, Harney County Chamber of Commerce  
Barbara Cannady, Capitol Press  
Fred Otley, Otley Brothers, Inc.  
Dick Jenkins, Rancher  
Josh Warburton, Steens Mountain Resort  
Mike Sirriner, Strategic Staffing

## **Others Present:**

Richard Krikava, Senator Gordon Smith's Office  
Ron Wiley, Acting Andrews Resource Area Manager, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Jim Buchanan, Acting Steens Program Manager, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Rich DeLong, RMP/EIS contractor, Enviroscientists, Reno, NV  
Harold Belisle, BLM State Office, Branch Chief for Social Scientists  
Anita Bilbow, BLM State Office  
Sandy Berain, Associate District Manager, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Mark Armstrong, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Robb Corbett, City of Burns  
Bill Burstow, Harney County Economic Development  
Lynn Sirriner, Strategic Staffing Services, Inc.  
Pam Mather, City of Hines  
Pete Runnels, Private Business  
Dan Jordan, Landowner  
C.M. Otley, Diamond Valley Ranch, Inc.  
Jill Benefield, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Marcia Gieger, Oregon State Snowmobilers  
Colby Marshall, Congressman Greg Walden's Office, Bend, OR

## **Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping and Agenda**

The meeting was called to order, introductions made and the agenda reviewed.

## **Chairman Update:**

Tom Harris raised the question of how to keep the RAC involved and informed. He asked the group to think about it, and make a recommendation later in the meeting.

## **DFO Update:**

Tom Dyer discussed various aspects of the meeting including the visit by the State Director and presentation by Jon Collins with a request from Jon for input on Wilderness Management. Tom emphasized the importance of the group to provide feedback to Jon.

Tom introduced Elaine Marquis-Brong, Oregon State Director, who praised the SMAC for all the work and effort they have expended. She commended the hard work and

progress which has included input from people in most every walk of life. She discussed the challenges ahead as well as encouraged the group to continue their efforts and dedication and believes a common ground can be found to meet the mandated 2004 deadline of having the RMP completed. She perceives SMAC as having a unique opportunity to formulate alternatives and have things input into the RMP where most other groups do not. She stated the State Office is working closely with Tom and the Burns District staff to ensure all necessary resources are available so the work can progress smoothly.

In response to Jerry's question, Ron Wiley provided an update on the EAs. The Running Camp EA is currently in the Solicitor's Office awaiting his comments. The other two Outfitter EAs should be completed in February. The next one to be completed will be the Inholder Access EA. A letter has been issued to the inholders with some response received. Three variations of this letter were sent to the inholders depending on who the landowner was. The inholder access EA should be out after March. The Grazing Permittee Access EA is last in the series.

SMAC was also informed the RMP is still on track as far as schedule. The wilderness, recreation, and transportation portions are a bit slower, but it is critical to obtain SMAC's input up front to produce the best document possible.

### **Recreation:**

Jon Collins, Natural Resource Specialist, Andrews Resource Area, outlined the process for the day to include focusing on wilderness, reviewing what was agreed on at the last meeting, working to draw lines on the map for each zone, and identifying issues/concerns.

Members discussed the various concerns with each Zone description when considering the on-the-ground environment, and how best to modify the text to reflect their requirements.

**Motion made** and seconded to approve the changes Jon identified in Zone 1 and 2, eliminate "un" in front of affected, and in the middle sentence drop "visibility of" and start the sentence with "Recreational". (Jerry moved, Tom H seconded)

Discussion: Stacy objected to the motion. He would rather take the sentence out completely, but is willing to wait until work on the map occurs to see what works out.

**Because of the objection and the need for nine for a recommendation, the motion was denied.**

The following changes were proposed, with ratification at a later date when a quorum is present.

Zone 1: Jon's change in Red. Remove "un" ... Delete sentence "visibility of user impact...."

Zone 2: remove same sentence “visibility of user impact.....”

Change the title to read: Summary of Recreational Components for each Zone in Wilderness

**Motion made** and seconded to accept those changes. (Stacy moved, Tom Harris seconded)

**No objection heard to the motion, with the understanding it will take a quorum to make it official. It was also requested the Zone Summary page be dated.**

Jon then led the group in issue identification.

**Issue:** Cold Springs Road

- Runs between two Wilderness areas would like it to remain open as a road
- The road is not open as a through route – open it
- If it stays open, we may encounter a problem with secondary access roads
- Identify turn around points
- Historical campsite spot on South Side – Before Gate
- Degree of barrier for closed roads is important
- There are resources to be protected - consider a permit system for motorized access through the entire route
- Historic buildings - Nye Place & Cold Springs cabin should be dealt with
- Private property access road – Cold Springs Road and some private inholdings
- Ongoing deliberations regarding year-round use of the road (winter)
- Maintenance level of the road

**Issue:** Conflicts Among Recreation Users

- Dogs, leashes
- Horse piles
- Campsites, solitude, proximity, development, numbers, permanence (length of stay)
- Human waste disposal
- Tolerance education – understand other uses (especially important where mixed uses occur)
- Trail maintenance

**Issue:** Angler Access

- Increased angler use may lead to increased trails and subsequent riparian degradation
- There may not be enough motorized vehicle access points for

- present and future uses
- Increased angler use may disrupt wildlife and/or management of livestock byways

**Issue:** Historical Tribal Activity

- Should be allowed to occur and continue
  - Religious activities
  - Hunting and fishing activities
  - Gatherings
  - Access
- Protect sensitive cultural sites
- Education to the general public about cultural activities.

**Issue:** Helicopter Management/Aviation

- Manage wild horses using helicopters
- Wildlife inventory and capture
- Monitoring range condition, water quality, livestock, water amounts, people management
- Air force flyovers- other aircraft in the area
- Look at Appendix A for livestock (and existing BLM wilderness regulations) Appendix B for wildlife and complete a minimum tool analysis and the Steens Act
- Necessary for wild prescribed fire management
- Search and rescue utilization

**Issue:** Trails

- Trail maintenance, level of, etc.
- Historic use of trails and cross-country travel should be allowed
- Recognition and definition of a trail
- No new trails
- Maintain existing trail only to the extent to maintain ecological function
- Low key signage
- No additional signage from what there already is – nothing larger
- No signing – utilize existing materials
- Sign all trails

**Issue:** Fire Management

- Prescribed fire should be allowed
- Wildfire full suppression in some areas, let burn in others “wildfire zones”
- Campfires should be allowed to be built
- Consider some areas where campfires shouldn’t be allowed at all.

**Issue:** Watershed and Habitat health

- Control/manage juniper
- Control noxious weeds
- Juniper cuts and impact on recreation and big game migratory routes
- Develop criteria to address concerns
- Look at erosion control, rehab of closed roads
- Rehab of site specific soil erosion
- Continue livestock monitoring to ensure proper utilization

**Issue:** Byway Management

- Consider closing the Loop Road at the Rooster Comb (close off the entire non-graveled section)
- Do not EVER improve the Loop Road past existing conditions – paving particular
- Public safety is a concern at the Rooster Combs
- Leave the Byway open (consider this)
- Improve the Rooster Comb Area
- Post advisory signing to address public safety
- Limit types of vehicles on the byway
- Permittee access, winter recreation, private property access, seasonal closures, gate locations.

**Issue:** Horse Viewing

- Impacts of recreation users on horse herds – disruption of typical behavior (South Loop Road & Hwy 205 are viable areas.)
- Safety is an issue on 205
- Hiking through Wilderness to locate herds

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Susan Hammond, Hammond Ranches, Inc., believes one thing not discussed today, but which is timely, is the current request by ODFW for input into their wolf plan. She would like the SMAC to participate in it. She thought the cooperative management of the area was to take in the sustainable ranching and if the wolf is reintroduced or if wolves are on the mountain whether or not in wilderness, it is not compatible with ranching or with the wildlife priorities we have. She believes it would be good, when putting the zones on maps, to have input from the people who are contiguous to those areas since the impacts derived from the zonal concept very much affect the private property directly next to it. If camp sites are designated and then post restrictions, whatever uses are restricted will then go immediately on to private property. She also felt the zonal concept needs to take into consideration climatological changes which can be dramatic from year to year. She believes helicopter use for management as well as search and rescue is important for those who live and visit.

Howard Gieger, political and environmental advisor for Oregon State Snowmobile Association, stated that since the 1970's, he, along with other snowmobilers, worked very closely with the BLM to establish a working program. With the established program, once winter had passed, he said it was acknowledged by all there had been little to no affect on other users as well as after the snow melted no hint of snowmobiles having been used. He related that at numerous meetings prior to the enactment of the Steen CMPA, the snowmobilers were told their use was considered historical, so it would continue. It appears the BLM is now doing everything in its power to restrict that use as well as others such as the Running Camp. He cannot fathom why anyone would try to stop a group of kids from being on the mountain. He also expressed concern about landowners having to give a schedule of when they will go to and from their property. It appears to him that there is an effort to lock up the entire Mountain as well as turn it into wilderness and WSA, which would only allow a few hardy souls that are able to walk and enjoy the Mountain.

Howard related the specifications of the newer snowmobiles noting that excessive noise is not a problem. He did acknowledge that when owners change the exhaust system, it can have an affect. He cited Forest Service research that found under wildland conditions snowmobile use was undetectable at 750 feet. At 400 feet they are barely detectible over a noise of a normal campground. He asked if time permitted, to be allowed to return and address the Council more.

Linda Johnson, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Council about the effort by the Chamber and a local committee to obtain designation of a scenic byway and tour route. She stated it was recognized that if we don't shape and manage tourism, it will shape and manage us and what has been seen to happen elsewhere, is not what is wanted here. She acknowledged that a byway or tour route would probably bring people and impact the economy favorably but also felt if it is done correctly, will help with the tourism industry. She explained the plans to address in a brochure some of the cultural historical ranching industry, the management of it, and the respect for private property in the hopes it would alleviate some of the concerns as well as tell the story for the ranching community. She felt the ranch tour, held in conjunction with the waterfowl festival, helps educate people about why ranching practices happen as they do. Plans are also to include Native American information in the brochure to again help educate the public. The purpose of the effort is to enhance the visitor experience while sensitizing them to rural life and culture. She believed that by getting this designation it would be a good general management strategy and provide pleasurable and education attraction, while influencing and directing tourism to benefit local economies and protect rural high desert way of life. She talked of the economical depression in this area and that tourism is not going to solve all the problems, but it would be a positive impact. People will be coming and it is up to the people in this area as to how we allow the visitation to affect the land as well as the communities.

Mike Serrine, local business person involved with the byway process, stated the local economy has been going south for a long time and prospects are not good. He believes one area that could help the area is tourism, although it may not be the first choice, the

tourists will still be coming. The Byway process gives a unique opportunity to address that issue in a couple of ways. The process itself actually gives an opportunity to control and focus the direction of what is to come. He believes it is in our interest to maintain what we have, which is the lack of development, the remoteness and isolation. He emphasized that part of the purpose is to educate and sensitize the public to our rural lifestyle issues, the economy, agriculture, and multi-use management. Past experience has shown if we begin early to educate the public, we can have a positive impact on how they view things.

Howard Geiger returned to address wildlife and snowmobile citing studies that showed new technology snowmobiles are undetectable from 750 feet and barely detectable at 450 feet. Natural barriers can cause normal drop in sound, therefore, careful trail planning can reduce sound as well as reduce impacts to other users. He cited studies done showed only minor reactions were noted in the deer when they encountered moderate snowmobile activity; studies that showed moose and elk didn't move unless the snowmobiler stopped the machine and got off; studies that showed man walking disturbed wildlife more than snowmobiles; and studies where with adequate snow depth there was little damage. He stated that on the Mountain in the winter during one season, less than 200 snowmobiles will be up there. He stated that one thing that could be done as in the agreement between the snowmobile club and the BLM was to restrict the daily/monthly amount of use.

## **Return to Issue Identification**

### **Issue:** Wild Horses

- Continue management of wild horses –
- How? using aircraft, facilities, motorized vehicles
- How to manage if they escape the existing HMA
- How will we manage if the HMA boundaries change?
- Avoid nonconforming (wilderness) whenever possible (look first at minimum tool)

### **Issue:** Permittee Access within the Wilderness area

- Continue Access for economic sustainability – motorized access for permittee
- Motorized access for SRP holders should be carefully considered and reasonable.

### **Issue:** Inholder Access

- Historic, reasonable and necessary access be allowed
- Per the Act and regulation – show reasonable use.
- Provide specific criteria for inholder access

### **Issue:** Facility Maintenance

- Find ways to continue maintenance of facilities (motorized and nonmotorized)

- Fences
- Waterholes
- Guzzlers
- Recreation Facilities
- Appendix A and B & Reasonableness – BLM Wilderness Regs and Steens Act

**Issue:** Search and Rescue (Motorized use)

**Issue:** Winter Recreation

- Newer/quieter/cleaner machines should be considered for stipulation “environmental friendly”
- Newer/quieter/cleaner stipulation would be better used if phased in
- Develop a designated snowmobile play area as well as a nonmotorized play area, possibly look at South Steens (may develop a CMA with private landowners for this)
- Designated play area would be hard to achieve in wilderness
- Safety concerns – how do we deal with these? Educate visitors about the area, weather, etc.
- Develop a better nonmotorized winter recreation program
- Leave gates where they are
- Nonmotorized winter rec program – Family area.

**Issue:** Cherry Stems

- Bone Creek, Indian Creek, Kiger Rim Road, Newton Cabin
- Turn arounds
- Access to private property
- Basically the same as Cold Springs Road
- Need to have designated camping areas along the road - Allow camping to occur off-road while still avoiding conflicts.

**Issue:** Commercial Outfitters/SRP

- Existing vs. new permit holders on the mountain
- Customers should be included in overall recreation numbers
- General recreating public length of stay vs. commercial length of stay
- Length of stay for commercial users shouldn't interfere with operations of a viable business
- Look into other potential uses and whether or not they are acceptable
- Rafting?
- Filming, photography, etc.
- Historical vs. new three tier

**Issue:** Extreme Sports

- Look at extreme sports, ultra-light use, spring skiing, hang gliders, motorized aviation, rock climbing, rock hounding (possible future commercial uses)

**Issue:** Hunting

Members discussed how best to approach getting the different zones delineated on maps. Also under discussion was how the zones would operate, user expectations, what alternatives there were to zones, the need to acquire more on-the-ground data, and monitoring needs.

**Scenic Byways:**

Dan Nichols, Harney County Commissioner, addressed the Council concerning the scenic byways proposal being promoted by local business and the Chamber of Commerce with various support around the county. He stated currently the southeast section of Oregon has no byway designations and this one could be the starting point. He believes this designation would have a positive affect on the economy of the county. Dan talked of the byway itself, the routes connected to it, the application process, the approval process and how once approved the Tourism Committee will begin including it in their publications. The most immediate benefit would be the inclusion of the route in the tour guide and on a tourism map and website. Any additional advertising or promotion would be at the discretion of business entities. He stated the promotion is not for a multitude of visitors and masses but hopefully a small degree of increase and stabilization or lengthening of the tourism period. This is a low-key method to make people aware of what we have in Harney County. He talked of the fact that a strong business community is important to the locals, and tourism is a vital part of the business. He believes the local people need to do what is in the best interest of the local communities as well as the Mountain. He felt expanding and stabilizing our economy is of paramount concern to all of us. The Statement of Purpose includes the desire to retain characteristics that make this place unique to live and visit. Within the plan will be the need to have signing be minimal and language prohibiting any paving on Steens. There will be an audio tape or CD that would be available as a guided tour to show various aspects of the Mountain as well as rural life. Dan stated that another consideration is that a route being designated would give a potential for future monies for upkeep of the road. Dan requested the support of the Council for this effort.

**Recreation:**

Council members resumed discussion on the Zones and possible changes to them. It was agreed to revisit the Zone definitions in the morning.

December 3, 2002

Same Council members present with one exception, Wanda Johnson was absent this day.

### **Review and Approve October Minutes;**

Council reviewed the minutes with the proposed changes.

**Motion made** and seconded to approve minutes as modified. (Jerry moved, Tom Harris seconded).

**Consensus Decision:** Approve minutes as modified.

Council members felt the two individuals who serve on both the RAC and SMAC would be instrumental in keeping the communication lines open.

Also discussed were the different letters issued to landowners concerning access and the possible confusion this may have created. Mark Sherbourne will follow up on some of the information to ensure that the intent is clear. Tom Dyer outlined the time table for all letters that had been issued and their purpose and associated issues.

### **Recreation:**

Council members returned to the discussion of zones and the maps.

Council worked on maps during this period.

Proposed changes to Zones:

Insert in Zone 3: Trail relocation allowed for resource protection.

Jon Collins will take the maps, zone definitions, and issues to the ID team and begin working from there.

Council members described the boundary lines so they could be transferred from the map into GIS.

Motion made that BLM accept the Summary of Recreation Components for each Zone in Wilderness and the accompanying map as reflecting the Council's discussions. (Stacy moved, Mike seconded)

No objection was heard.

**Consensus Decision** to give the map and amended Summary of Recreation Components to BLM as reflecting the Council's Discussion. (Not a formal recommendation due to lack of a quorum.)

*Action Followup Item:* Jon will prepare a new map and present it to the group for final approval or amendment at next meeting.

## **Transportation Classification & Maintenance Procedures:**

Mark Sherbourne handed out the information gained from a meeting on November 18, and what was reviewed and changed from those discussions. Council members discussed how these changes and the development of this information fits with the Eastern Oregon Transportation Plan, and how some modifications are being made to ensure it fits the Steens Mountain. Also discussed were how the various types of roads, ways and trails fit within this framework and how best to meet the on-the-ground needs, and the maintenance needs of the different types.

## **Public Comment:**

Susan Hammond, Hammond Ranches, Inc., related a concern with the interim maps made available to the sportsmen, because the roads portrayed on there are incorrect. Some of them go across private property with no through access for the public, and has resulted in increased traffic on private roads that are locked.

Barb Cannaday supported what Susan said about the private roads, as it is happening on her property as well. These maps make people think they have access when they don't. She has attended several meetings and it seems this Council has little use for the human species in any kind of group. She also wanted to speak for those who have grown up using the Steens, but now have physical impediments and are concerned for their access. She stressed the importance of making sure the transportation plan considers the American Disabilities Act and the needs of the older generations.

Fred Otley, Otley Brothers, Inc., stated the BLM does not have an option not to prevent resource damage when the water is running down roads or ways and turning them into a ditch. The Federal laws in place require the damage be stopped irrespective of whether or not an EA is completed. He believes the ways must be maintained so they do not degrade. The ways must remain open so that the same amount of historical use can occur. He stated the BLM should have a policy that if a slide comes in and takes out the road and makes it temporarily impassable, everyone will work cooperatively to redo it to stop resource damage and ensure the access and use of way continues as has historically. This should be right up front in the EA and not deferred to individual EAs. He stated the maintenance must be completed for public safety as well as resource damage issues and it is not in BLM's realm to ignore it and not do it.

Dick Jenkins spoke of the concern of the numerous ways and roads that were left out of the wilderness/WSA inventory and because of the changes the designation has made, there has been a major shift in the use on the Mountain. Many more people are coming to the north end where he resides, and problems have begun to increase with gates being left open, cattle drifting early or where they shouldn't be and people demanding access where there is not any available. He can explain to people how to get around the private fields that are locked, but it would be more beneficial to have those and other routes depicted on the maps. He participated in a group with Stacy where they delineated all the

roads, but they have not yet appeared on maps, and hopes that these will soon be available to the public. The use on the north end of the Mountain has increased 10 fold in his estimation. Some of the problems associated with this are because of the boundary line moving back and forth across private land, the need to leave areas open for wild horses and their over abundance, and water issues.

Josh Warburton, Steens Mountain Resort, thanked the Council for their hard work. Josh suggested the Council consider moving the Kiger Gorge Trailhead or make sure the boundary is slightly changed so it is included in the blue area. Josh spoke of the level of maintenance and stated the IMP is clear on what can and cannot be done and it should be used for the criteria for the maintenance of ways in WSAs. He supported Dick Jenkins' comments on the transfer of use to the North end of the Mountain. He felt the SMAC is the proper forum for addressing interim management particularly ways that were overlooked. He stated those areas that were overlooked have received historical use by the public for over 20 years. Because of the access and easement issues, the people are relocating to other areas and are having a much bigger impact on those parts of the Steens than has occurred in the past.

### **Transportation Continued:**

**Motion made** and seconded to add an additional maintenance level as Level 2 to cover maintenance of ways. The rest would fall down a number, the new Maintenance Level 2 duplicates what number 1 says except for the two sentences referring to closure of roads (“these roads are no longer needed and are closed to .....transportation system”), and the rest of that definition is carried on to Level 2. (Cindy moved, Hoyt seconded)

Discussion: Members discussed various aspects of resource damage, the levels of maintenance needed to keep any damage from continuing, and how best to approach this issue. Jerry insisted ways are not maintained and not considered roads per BLM guidance. Alice pointed out if the condition of a way is causing resource damage, one of the options that would be considered in an EA would be to decommission it. Jerry and Alice agreed to the draft maintenance categories presented because they addressed “roads” not “routes” (which would include “ways”). Cindy asked that the rules demonstrating that maintenance on ways is by law not possible to be put together and presented to SMAC.

Cindy withdraws motion and Hoyt seconded.

The Council continued discussing the definitions of roads, ways, routes and trails; the previous inventory and the exclusion of some roads and inclusion of others; and the impacts of maintenance on these as well as how they were originally built. They discussed whether or not each road would have to be reviewed for any definition or description and how to avoid reinventing what has already been completed.

**Motion made** and seconded to accept both the definitions and the road maintenance levels with the addition of the period after 3-year. (Hoyt moved, Stacy seconded).

Discussion: This motion will have to be brought back to the main group for a quorum for consensus.

No objection heard.

**Consensus decision** of the group present with the knowledge it must be approved by a quorum to be official.

Council members discussed how the definitions would be applied to maps of the area, what is a route/road/way so as not to change any known.

*Action followup item: Mark Sherbourne will be researching the definitions.*

Mark Sherbourne asked for the Council to review the proposed format which is fairly standard.

**Motion made** and seconded to use the Cascade-Siskiyou Plan as a format for the Steens Plan (Alice moved, Mike seconded).

Discussion: Members thought some of the Plan was applicable but were also concerned that the Steens is special and it is important to make sure it also applies for the Steens.

An objection was heard to the motion (Stacy)

Roll Call Vote: Hoyt – No; Stacy – No; Tom Harris – No; Cindy – No; Alice – Yes; Jerry – Yes, Mike – Yes.

**Motion made** and seconded that Mark go forward with the format he feels fit and is consistent with the definitions and maintenance levels and discussions SMAC has had regarding transportation issues. (Stacy moved, Tom Harris seconded)

**Consensus Decision:** Mark go forward with the format he feels fit and is consistent with the definitions and maintenance levels and discussions SMAC has had regarding transportation issues. (Not a formal recommendation due to lack of a quorum.)

Council members discussed the routes that need to be added to maps, as well as those people would wish to remove, those missed during inventories, and how to best address those issues. The landowners have gone through the maps and noted all the roads of which they are aware. It was suggested to possibly put the roads on a map and identify them as unverified and also to delineate those roads that no longer exist and note them in the same way.

Council discussed that definitions placed on maps could be changed once the maps are available from ONDA, and all roads (those missed in inventory and those not needed)

will have to be ground truthed before any actions are taken. It is possible the SMAC will be dealing with specific roads once the ground truthing has been accomplished.

SMAC members colored in road maintenance categories on the maps to be used by Mark. Ways in WSAs were left for the next meeting to allow Mark time to clarify this issue. Since Brent Fenty was not available to give his input on road closures, Jerry and Alice reserved the right to recommend such at the next meeting.

Jerry moved the landowners (with any interested public participation) draw a tentative map regarding road definition categories along with Mark Sherbourne of the BLM. Then the BLM would bring it to full SMAC complement at the next meeting. Stacy amended the motion by stating Mark should gather a group of locals and take the first step. No official second was heard.

Discussion was whether or not the landowners should take the first step or if Mark would gather a group of local people to identify the roads first. Through this discussion, it was determined BLM would provide copies of maps. Stacy and Cindy would present these maps at the next landowner's meeting for delineation of known roads.

*Action Item: Three USGS maps will be provided for landowners to delineate known roads.*

## **Facilitator Review Discussion:**

Tom Dyer, with Council members' concurrence, took the lead on the facilitator discussion. Council members discussed the need for a facilitator, where to recruit the position, what knowledge the person should have, the hope that Dale would apply again, and whether or not the facilitator should come from within a Federal agency, and the role BLM, the facilitator and the Chair would play.

Members of the Council thought the BLM and facilitator had done an excellent job of giving the group time to develop, but now feel it is desirable for both the BLM and facilitator to take a more active role in helping push the Council harder.

Although the opinions varied, it was decided there was a need for a facilitator, the position should be recruited locally, it should not be an agency person, and did not necessarily require knowledge of the Mountain.

Council members discussed the role of the facilitator and the chairman and how best both could be utilized. It was also deemed necessary for the BLM and facilitator to play a stronger role and to push the Council a bit more and for BLM to have things laid out with more of a focus.

After reviewing the details in the original chair and facilitator duties, it was decided the first three listed jobs should be moved from the chair to the facilitator (Keeps meeting on track, gives the public a chance to speak and assist in keeping all SMAC members involved and an opportunity to speak.). The other duties will remain with the chair.

Prior to a meeting, Rhonda was asked to remind people of the commitments they made in the previous session. Rhonda will develop any letters the group requests, sending them via email to members for review prior to mailing, with a 3-5 day turnaround response required.

SMAC members complimented Jon Collins on his presentation and his facilitation of Zone, Recreation and Wilderness discussions.

Agenda items were developed for the January meeting. The Action Item List was reviewed and updated.

Tom Dyer thanked Rhonda, Tara and Liz for all the hard work they do to make these meetings run smoothly and the quality of the minutes produced. SMAC members agreed and applauded their efforts.

Submitted by Liz Appelman

The SMAC approved the meeting minutes as amended on January 24, 2003.

Certified by:

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Tom Harris, Chair

Date