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# CHAPTER 6

# COLLABORATIVE

# PLANNING



*Though assigned the responsibility of managing over 450,000 acres of Federal Lands within the planning area the BLM shares a interest in the management of these lands with other federal, state, and local governmental agencies, Native American Tribes, local residents, visitors, and other individuals and organizations.*

*Public, governmental, and tribal involvement is mandated by CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA. This mandate is reflected in the BLM planning Manual and Handbook. Tribal involvement is mandated by other documents as described below.*

*More important than any law or regulation, it is just good sense to involve the public, other governmental agencies, and tribes in the planning process. Each of these entities has unique interests and knowledge. Sharing interests and knowledge in a collaborative setting contributes to the development of a plan that effectively addresses the significant planning issues and is more likely to meet local, regional, and national needs than a process without meaningful collaboration.*

## COOPERATING AGENCIES

The BLM has convened a group of local, state, and federal agencies and tribal governments to collaborate with the BLM during the development of the John Day Basin Resource Management Plan. Representatives from these agencies and tribes bring vast knowledge and a broad range of interests to the table and will enhance the ability of the BLM to identify important issues and to address them with an appropriate range of alternatives.

This group will meet on regular basis to review and develop content initiated by BLM staff. The Cooperator Group will play a key role in refining issue development, formulating alternatives, identifying key publics, and implementing a public involvement strategy. Cooperators will keep the BLM informed of new concerns for their organizations or community that may be relevant to the RMP process. When needed and to the extent that cooperator staff time is available small subgroups will be designated to work on specific problems during the planning process. This group will also provide prepublication review of key documents.

## TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT

The BLM is guided by national policy and law and is committed to continuing consultation and cooperative management whenever possible. The three plans are silent on this topic except as modified for lands covered by the John Day River Management Plan. Regardless of this silence the BLM recognizes its responsibility to provide to federally recognized tribal governments and individuals sufficient opportunity to contribute to land use decisions and that those concerns or issues are given proper consideration related to cultural/religious and natural resources. This trust relationship is acknowledged by the U.S. Constitution and is based upon negotiated treaties or other agreements that recognize the sovereignty of American Indian Nations to govern themselves as distinct political communities. Treaties such as The Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon (with tribes now on the Warm Springs Reservation, signed June 25, 1855, ratified March 8, 1859 (14 STAT. 751) and the Treaty of 9 June (with tribes now located on the Umatilla Reservation), 1855 (12 Stat. 945) acknowledged the rights of tribes to fish, off-reservation, at usual and accustomed stations and to hunt, gather resources, and pasture animals on public lands in common with other citizens of the United States. Though a

treaty with the Burns Paiute was never ratified, formal recognition on October 13, 1972 established certain rights for that tribe as well.

In April 2003 the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSO), the BLM, the Forest Service, and BIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), "For the Purpose of Providing a Framework for Government-to-Government Consultation and Collaboration On resource Management Plans, Proposals, Actions, and Policies and to Make a Statement of Mutual Benefits and Interests." Similar MOUs exist between the BLM and The Burns Paiute Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. These three MOUs describe the rights and responsibilities of Cooperative Management and Consultation. Consequently each tribe has been offered the opportunity to become involved in the planning process for the John Day Basin RMP.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County and municipal governments as representatives of local constituencies have a vested interest in land use planning involving federal lands. Lands managed by the BLM can provide areas for recreation as well as a source of income for residents of the planning area. BLM managed lands can contain roads of importance to local communities and frequently provide the most desirable routes for utilities. Because of their awareness of the needs of local communities it is important that representative of local government be involved in the planning process. Officials of Grant, Wheeler, and Sherman counties have participated in the early stages of the planning process.

## STATE GOVERNMENT

Several State agencies have jurisdiction over certain activities within the John Day Basin. As a result it is important that these agencies be represented in the planning process. The state has decided to limit participation in the planning process to three agencies: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Transportation. These agencies are expected to represent all state interests in the planning process.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In addition to the BLM several federal agencies have resource management responsibilities within the John Day Basin. Several agencies have chosen to participate in the John Day Basin RMP planning process. The Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have oversight responsibilities for compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The Environmental Protection Agency is required to review and evaluate all Environmental Impact Statements. The Soil Conservation Service plays an important advisory role for private land owners in the John Day Basin and also has an interest in the management of public lands as well. The National Park Service and the U.S.D.A Forest Service each manage lands and resources adjacent to BLM managed lands and have shared interests with the BLM in making management of lands and resources complementary, while recognizing different missions, whenever possible. Each of the above agencies has chosen to participate in the planning process.

# RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC) is an official federal advisory committee, providing advice and recommendations on all aspects of public-land management to the Bureau of Land Management's Prineville, Vale, and Spokane District Offices and the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Ochoco National Forests.

The RAC consists of local residents who represent broad interest categories: commodity interests, non-commodity interests, and community interests. RAC members are selected and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Representation includes:

Five members representing commodity interests such as grazing permittees, commercial timber, energy and mining, developed recreation and/or off-highway vehicle groups, and transportation & rights-of-way.

Five members representing conservation interests such as environmental organizations, historic & culture interests, conservation, and dispersed recreation.

Five members representing community interests such as elected officials, Indian Tribes, State resource agencies, academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public-at-large.

The John Day-Snake RAC meets quarterly at various communities within the RAC's area. The RAC schedules occasional field tours for specific projects or issues on their agenda. All RAC meetings are open to the public with a portion of each meeting reserved for the public to present or comment on issues for RAC consideration.

The BLM will periodically update the RAC on the progress of the planning effort. It has also requested that the RAC provide assistance in developing Alternatives for managing Off Highway Vehicle use on BLM managed lands within the planning area.

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The most critical element of cooperative management is public involvement. Congress has mandated that the BLM manage public lands for public benefit. At the same time the public is not a single cohesive entity. Rather the BLM serves a diverse public with multiple and sometimes conflicting interests and positions about key issues. It is important that the diversity of public interests be represented during the planning process. Both the Coordination Group and the John Day/Snake RAC provide a representation of diverse public interests. However it is the intent of the BLM planning team to provide the public with direct access to the planning process. This will be accomplished in the following manner:

1. Public Scoping-This initial step, requesting the public provide information about public lands and identify problems associated with public lands in the John Day Basin has been completed and is described in Chapter 7.
2. Publication and public review of the Analysis of the Management Situation
3. Public participation in planning meetings held to formulate alternatives that resolve significant planning issues.

4. Public comment on the Draft John Day Basin Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Comments may be submitted via U.S. mail, E-mail, or orally at public review meetings or via telephone.

## INFORMATION SHARING

The BLM will use a number of information sharing techniques to give people the opportunity to share new information and to be kept up-to-date on the planning process. The following is a brief summary of some of those techniques.

### *John Day Basin Resource Management Plan Web Site*

The John Day Basin RMP web site will provide information such as plan updates, meeting dates, plan schedule, and working documents of the Issue Teams.

The address is: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/index.htm>

### *Plan Updates*

Periodically, consolidated “snapshot” portraits of the plan’s status will be prepared, posted to our web site, and mailed to our mailing list. News releases in local newspapers, and feature stories and broadcasts on local television and/or radio stations will be associated with major public meetings.