

## Coast PAC Meeting Notes

Meeting held at Eugene BLM/Willamette NF offices

October 21, 2010

*Attending: Bob Progulske, FWS, Alan Henning, EPA, Miles Brown, Salem BLM, Jerry Ingersoll, Siuslaw NF, Ginny Grilley, Eugene BLM, Trish Wilson, Salem BLM, Randy Rasmussen, American Hiking Society, Michael Pond, BIA, Betty Jean Keele, Public at Large, Frank Deweese, Recreation/Tourism, Mike Wilson, Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, Mike Kennedy, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz.*

*Meeting Management: Joni Quarnstrom, Siuslaw PAO/ Trish Hogervorst, Salem BLM PAO*

### Welcome and Introductions:

New Salem District Manager, Miles Brown introduced himself and provided a career background.

### Manager Updates:

#### Ginny Grilley:

Eugene BLM is focusing heavily on successional planning. We sold 48 million board feet of timber, which met our 2010 timber targets. Four no bid timber sales were later sold. The Eugene Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) distributed 1.4 million dollars in RAC dollars in 2010. We have lots of partners doing good work. We funded several RAC projects involving youth. Several fish passage projects were funded. Due to several retirements, we have a number of people acting in leadership positions. We are looking at budget reductions and how we will spread them.

#### Jerry Ingersoll:

Pixieland restoration Phase 1 is done. Phase 2-Frazier Creek, including a new bridge on Highway 101, is up next. A public tour is scheduled for Saturday. Everyone is welcome. The tour starts at the Lincoln City Cultural Center. We received huge support from OWEB, USFWS and the Salmon River Watershed Council. The Siuslaw Secure Rural Schools RAC distributed 1.5 million dollars in 2010. We are working on completing route designations under the Oregon Dunes Travel Management Plan. We are working on which trails should be designated for motor vehicle use.

We sold about 41 million board feet of timber in thinnings for the purpose of developing Late Successional Reserves. We are focusing on developing a multi story canopy through thinning, girdling, etc. Much of the work is being done through stewardship contracting. All our timber sales sold and several went over bid. We recently sold our former district office in Gardener. In the future, we may convey our Mapleton compound.

#### Miles Brown:

We too are working on workforce management, and we have a number of upcoming retirements. We sold about 50 million board feet of timber in 2010. We have been implementing the Sandy Basin Recreation Plan. We are partnered with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). Video clips of the Sandy Ridge Trail are on UTube. Shimano, which makes bike parts, is partnering with Salem BLM to buy a machine to build the bike trails. A draft of our Molalla River Plan is out for review. We hope to finalize the plan this winter. The focus of the plan is on changing behaviors. We are also writing a management plan at Yaquina Head. A large stream restoration project took place on the Salmon River last summer. Young salmon were spotted in the pools within days of constructing the pools. The work was featured on KGW TV. Stream restoration also took place in the Nestucca Watershed. Our Tillamook office and the Tillamook Restoration Project Partners are receiving the National Public Land Foundation Stewardship Award from the Public Lands Foundation. One of our employees received the BLM Director's National Stewardship Award for his involvement in the Riparian Restoration Project.

\*Frank DeWeese asked what is being done on the Nestucca River below the old Meadow Lake Dam.

#### Recovery Act Update:

Miles: We finished the Yaquina Head chip seal project. We are replacing most of the Yaquina Interpretive Center windows and all of the doors which are heavily rusted. The design work for the security at Yaquina is done. Work on the water systems at our recreation sites are being updated. Several projects improving the Salem District Office buildings will begin this winter.

Jerry: Handed out a flyer about the 8.7 million dollars in Siuslaw NF ARRA projects in progress. A substantial amount of money is being spent on stream restoration. We are restoring plover habitat by spreading oyster shells and removing beach grass. We are working on recreation infrastructure upgrades. Most contracts have been completed. We employed a variety of contractors ranging from local folks to larger contractors. Many say this work is keeping them employed in a poor economy.

Ginny: The Eugene BLM ARRA program received 1.5 million dollars. We did a lot of culvert replacement. We worked with Federal Highways and in partnership with the Forest Service on several projects. We replaced the water pipes at Shotgun Recreation Site.

#### Management Plans:

Alea Falls Recreation Management Plan-Trish Wilson, Marys Peak Field Manager

Background: Alsea Recreation Site is 26 acres in size. Missouri Day Use Area is 5 acres in size and the S. Fork Alsea Back Country Byway covers 11 miles. We have held two public meetings so far. Most of the public input was on the existing trails and trail opportunities. We will begin writing a plan in January. There will be another opportunity for public comment when we develop a draft management plan.

Forest Service Planning Rule –Jerry Ingersoll, Siuslaw Forest Supervisor.

At the national level, the Forest Service is developing another set of regulations to guide land management planning.

Betty Jean: Recreation is not mentioned in the last version of the rule.

Jerry: The original (1976) planning rule was heavily focused on timber planning. Updates to the rule are incorporating a broader vision of management. Locally we are not expected to begin revision of the Siuslaw Forest Plan until at least 2014.

Corvallis to the Coast (C2C)–Jerry Ingersoll,

“C2C”--The vision is for a trail from Corvallis to the Seal Rock Area on the Coast. The group hopes to connect existing roads and trails. We’ve encouraged C2C to break the proposal into segments and work on it segment by segment. The group is visionary. We envision C2C constructing and managing the trail system under a special use permit. This coming year we look to C2C to come up with a concrete plan on a segment of the trail.

Spotted Owl Recovery Plan-Bob Progulske

*Bob has accepted a position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Florida Everglades. This is Bob's last Coast PAC meeting. Thank you Bob for your many contributions to the Coast PAC over the years!*

The 2008 Plan and Critical Habitat Rule were litigated on. The Court remanded both back to USFWS for revision. FWS is looking at new modeling, and the role of nonfederal lands. We have published a notice of availability. The two month public comment period ends Nov 15. We plan to publish a final plan in early 2011. The Court has given us until June of 2011. We have to report back to the Court every 90 days. We will revise the Spotted Owl Critical Habitat Rule. We have four top modeling people working full time on the modeling project. It is very sophisticated modeling. Recovery plans are a guidance process, not a set rule.

Post WOPR study results-Ginny Grilley

Secure Rural Schools expires next year. BLM timber sales take three years to prepare. Counties are very concerned about the Secure Rural Schools legislation ending and what timber receipts will come their way. The Task Force Report did not make concrete recommendations. They did recommend a MOU between the Secretary of Interior, Commerce (NIMMS) and Agriculture. This was signed a few weeks ago. They want to look at the streamlined agreements and look at

consulting on a site-specific scale. They are looking at whether to consult on a broad scale or a small scale. They are also looking at how to handle issues of competing science. The MOU also focused on collaboration. In Eugene we will stay focused on thinning for now. We will be running out of thinning by 2014.

Bob Progulski: In November 2011, when we have a proposed rule, we will conference with the other agencies.

Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) – Jackie Nichols

Cascade Pacific RC & D was founded in the 1960's. It was set up through Natural Resource Conservation Service. It is a nonprofit with a government coordinator. Our mission is to partner with local folks to develop natural resource conservation. We serve six counties...Benton, Lincoln Polk, Marion, Linn and Lane Counties. In the 1990's we helped develop watershed councils. In 2006, the Alsea Stewardship Group formed, in 2007 the Marys River Stewardship Group formed.

Cascade PRC&D: Ten thousand trees are planted each year through 30 landowners. Funds come from timber sales receipts which pass through RC&D to the projects. The funds are matched with other partners. Stewardship groups are not nonprofit. They are stakeholders and concerned citizens. Watershed councils are legal entities with bylaws. Stewardship groups provide advice to agencies on who should receive the grants. The watershed councils often carry out the projects. There are six RC&Ds in the state of Oregon.

Oregon Dunes OHV Working Group —Pam Gardner, District Ranger, Central Coast Ranger District and Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

Oregon Dunes was established as a National Recreation Area in 1972, the Dunes is roughly 30,000 acres. The Recreation Area runs south of Florence to N. Bend. Pam provided an update of the progress of the working group. The group took four field trips and held eight meetings to gather information. This was about gathering and sharing information rather than consensus decision making. Meetings included a public comment session so members of the public could provide input. The public was invited to join the field trips. The final group meeting happened last Saturday. The group drafted a final report. The District will take the information gathered by the working group, along with other public input and field surveys, and craft a proposal for trail designation. We hope to have the scoping document out in February. The public comment period will occur in late summer. We hope to have a final decision out by September 2011. The group was remarkable in how well they worked together. The use of a neutral contract facilitator was very helpful. Some groups elected not to participate from the start.

The motor vehicle use maps were completed last spring.

#### Round Robin:

Frank Deweese: Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) has agreements with four different chapters. OET adopted some of the horse camps that the Forest Service was going to close. OET has adopted part of the PCT. OET has multiple volunteer agreements with Oregon State Parks. We are on a trend to beat last year's volunteering hours. Travel Management affects horse camping in that the dispersed camping on the small spurs is no longer available.

Betty Jean Keele: I am most active in Backcountry Horseman. We have 34 members. We volunteered 900 hours during the past year. Most of the clearing was in the wilderness. We pack in equipment and supplies for people clearing wilderness trails. The volunteer activities along the PCT have been amazing.

People pay to participate and come from all over the US to clear trails.

#### Michael Pond:

BIA at Siletz works with five tribes. Mike is the forester. Mike does timber sale contracts and realty transactions. We receive different projects from the tribes that we work through. Greg Norton is the federal decision maker for BIA. We are going through various consultations with NIMMS. Three timber sales were issued. BIA is back on the internet (since late 2008). The Cobel settlement details are still in limbo.

#### Randy Rasmussen:

American Hiking Society volunteer vacations going well. People pay to volunteer working on the trails. Trail Keepers of Oregon just got their 503 1C status. They are based in Portland. Keep these groups in mind to do work on your trails. National Trails Day is one of our flagship events.

Last year Randy worked in the Molalla Corridor. Randy attended the Public Lands Foundation meeting in Reno last month. He talked to Bob Abby and Silvia Baca about WOPR not moving forward. Randy wants to know what tools the agencies need to implement Travel Management. This is Randy's last meeting as a representative for the American Hiking Society. He is still involved in many other organizations locally.

#### Mike Kennedy

The Siletz Tribe garnered 1 million plus in stimulus money. Some of it was used to build a sidewalk in the town of Siletz. The funds were also used to build an apartment on the north side of Lincoln City. The Siletz just finished final closing on 400 acres near Reedsport. The Restoration Pow Wow is coming up at Chinook Winds. There is a new book out called "People are Dancing Again" written by Wilkenson.

Mike Wilson

The Grande Ronde just finished tribal elections. Two people stayed on, a third left and was replaced by a long time previous member. The fish weir is in operation. Last year 900 coho swam up to Grand Ronde. We are still tagging lampreys throughout the Willamette. We are working on elk habitat. We continue to use youth to work on trails on the reservation. The Grand Ronde also received ARRA money. Quite a bit was used for road projects.

Alan Henning:

EPA is on a continuing resolution. A settlement was reached on the Cizaro lawsuit against EPA and NOAA. Most of the TMDLs in Oregon focus on non point source. EPA is having a forest team retreat the week of Nov 15 at Skamania Lodge. We will be dealing with ecosystem services. I was involved in a tour with the Pitchfork Rebellion in the Siuslaw Basin. They are very concerned about spray from the air on private commercial timber lands. The labeling provisions were developed for flat Midwest terrain. That is very different from coast lands in Oregon. They argue that exposure is an issue. They asked EPA to look at the human health effects from exposure on the Coast.

Bob Progulski:

A year and a half ago, the FWS received a request to list the dusky red tree vole. The listing decision will be made by December. The foot print is the area of the Coast PAC. Eric Forsman is the expert. This subspecies is very uncommon.

Next Meeting:

January 20 meeting:

Discuss number of meetings per year.

Discussion of value of meetings. How could we be more effective?

Frank: The updates are extremely helpful.

Only two other PACs are still in existence: Deschutes and eastern Washington

In the future...PAC could possibly make comments on the Spotted Owl Plan-Nov 2011.

Next year's meeting dates (if needed):

January 20, 2011

April 21, 2011

July 21, 2011

Oct 20, 2011.