

**Coast PAC Informal Meeting Notes**  
**Meeting Held at the Siuslaw National Forest**  
**April 21, 2011**

**Attending:**

Rennie Ferris, Alan Henning, Miles Brown, Annabelle Jaramillo, Frank DeWeese, Michael Pond, Randy Rasmussen, Jerry Ingersoll, Joni Quarnstrom, Recorder: Trish Hogervorst

**Miles:**

Lots of things going on: workforce planning, congressionals and the state want more timber harvested....more of an issue in the southern part of the state. Salem BLM can continue thinning for another 11 years. The price of timber is rising. It is almost double from a few years ago. Three to five ships carrying private raw logs leave Coos Bay daily for China. Raw logs do not add many jobs. Federal timber has to be processed. Most of BLM timber buyers are mill owners.

BLM pilot projects in Medford, Roseburg and Coos Bay are generating lots of interest. We are strategically looking at thinning timber before it passes 80 years old. We are doing variable density thinning with patch cuts. A US District Court judge in Washington recently ruled that we are back under the Western Oregon Plan. Our timber harvest plans are mostly tiered to the NW Forest Plan and now we are under the WOPR as well. We are trying to be consistent with both plans.

Our ARRA projects are nearly finished except for the Salem District office. Water lines in our major recreation sites have been replaced. Yaquina Head ARRA projects are completed. We are presently installing new windows and solar panels at the District Office.

We are working with OWEB and Tillamook Estuary Partnerships in doing riparian plantings and restoration.

A Salmon River rain on snow event, near Welches, washed out most of the stream structures built last summer. Salem BLM and Sandy River Basin Partners developed stream structures that were suppose to withstand 100 year event. There is a lot of interest from partners to continue.

An Alsea Recreation Site Management Plan is in progress, as well as plans for the Nestucca OHV area and the Molalla River Corridor. We've done a lot of work in the Sandy Basin including working with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) to build mountain biking trails. We are developing an overall recreation plan for the Salem District recreation program.

**Jerry Ingersoll:**

Our forest leadership team is wrestling with the direction of the Siuslaw recreation program. We are looking at which OHV trails to leave and which ones will be closed. The Dunes are managed under a 1994 Dunes Management Plan designating which trails are open riding. 10C –some areas are open, some closed, some areas are on trail only. This is our #1 recreation planning priority.  
#2 Priority: Manage our infrastructure and staffing in such a way to keep ourselves going. The high use campgrounds pay for themselves.  
#3 Increase the amount of grants and external funding. Partnerships.—if a group wants a trail, they maintain them. The partner would carry the insurance. (This generated a lot of discussion)

Salmon River Estuary – We restored the former Pixie Land last summer. Fish habitat has improved dramatically. ODOT is putting in a new bridge on Hwy 101 this summer. The estuary is coming back.

Frank DeWeese: Primary Permanent Use - ODF has been asked to redefine their mission to focus solely on trees. How would that affect federal lands?

We have a new stewardship group covering the Hebo Ranger District. This will give us new opportunities to invest Stewardship dollars in new areas. The Siuslaw now has 4 stewardship groups.

Long term challenges for Siuslaw: We are restoring late successional reserve habitat and we have lots of thinning left, but it is not sustainable. Where do we go after we have finished thinning? We need to figure out our role/niche in the future. We are closely watching the BLM pilots.

Also looking at the future of the Dunes. European Beach Grass is really changing the Dunes. Long term we will lose the Dunes if we let them continue as they are.

Office consolidation-The current building belongs to the county. Siuslaw is moving January 2012 to OSU Campus--integrating with Forest Research Center. At the Oregon Dunes, we still have legacy offices—Mapleton office compound—we hope to reduce to two offices on the Coast and sell the excess offices in the Mapleton area. We would use the money from the sales to supplement the remaining offices.

The Devil Staircase Wilderness legislation in the southern Siuslaw has been reintroduced. It would double Siuslaw's wilderness lands.

Frank DeWeese- OET partners work with Willamette and Deschutes National Forests a lot. Why is Siuslaw not involved with OET as much? Jerry—OET helps clean Baker Beach. We would be glad to partner more but don't have that many long trails.

Mike Harvey: There are 20 miles of equestrian trails on the Coast at Cape Mountain. Most of the use involves people riding their horses on the beach. No horse group has approached us about working on the trails. Most of the rest of the trails are not closed to equestrian. Siuslaw has 170 trails total.

Building trails under Special Use Permit—a group building trail would be liable for gross negligence. if the trail is not properly maintained. Oregon Recreation Use Statute protects most of the time, unless gross negligence can be shown. If we charge a fee, we are no longer protected by the Oregon Recreation Use Statute. The higher fee you charge, the more liability you have. The Nature Conservancy Trail on Cascade Head is an example of a Special Use Permit where Nature Conservancy maintains a trail under Special Use Permit. Debbie Pickering, with Nature Conservancy is a good contact on Special Use Permit info.

Round Robin:

Randy Rassmussen: The Lack of funding for non-motorized recreation is out of proportion with motorized recreation. A lot of dispersed recreation dollars are for OHV. Gas tax funds recreational activities. Nonmotorized quiet recreation is losing funding.

Randy is on the board of Trail Keepers of Oregon and on the County Natural Areas Board.

Michael Pond:

We have had some sales come through the office (Coquille, Siletz) Writing burn plans, including cultural burns. Working on facility expansion for the tribe at Siletz. Completing NEPA on a cell tower in Siletz.

BIA generally has oversight, planning and NEPA coordination with the tribes. Work with Cow Creek, Coos, Siletz, and Grand Ronde tribes. BIA is very interested in barred owl issue.

Frank DeWeese:

2010 OET Volunteering: 260,000 dollars of volunteer time. USFS Winston Raul has been spearheading safety certification for chainsaws for volunteer groups such as OET. People are paying to volunteer in the forests. OET continues to take on more trail adoptions in Central Oregon—Metolius area. We also open up campgrounds in the area. OET receives more requests than they can accommodate.

Annabelle Jaramillo:

The Benton County habitat conservation plan is complete. We are in the process of getting baseline data for Fender's blue butterfly. The County now has a habitat enhancement plan. It took 5 years to complete.

The Secure Rural Schools Legislation is in the President's budget. PILT receipts are tied up in Secure Rural Schools Legislation. Not sure whether language is Title 2 or 3. It is anybody's guess where Secure Schools Legislation is going.

Bezell is going well. Was originally donated by the Bezell Family. We invested in preserving the barn on location. It is called the Bezell Education Center. It is very popular for weddings which brings in fees. We would be happy to host the Coast PAC meeting there again. We are doing a lot of riparian work. Our comprehensive plan for parks is underway.

Benton County is undergoing a budget process right now. Have been putting away reserves the last 3 years. Will be downsizing a little bit to keep budget in line.

Alan Henning:

EPA's budget has been cut recently. Not sure where the cuts are going to take place. Gave ODF \$80,000 to analyze riparian stream data. Preliminary conclusion on 33 sites where data was collected: Saw increase in temperature in 40% of sites. Study will wrap up in the next 6-9 months. In the MidCoast working on an implementation TMDL.

Rennie Ferris:

TMDLs are coming to central coast. We have a great staff making it work.

Lead pesticide is not at the level of concern that it should be. Look at people throwing lead weights in the water ...there just isn't much input compared to farmland in the Willamette Valley.

I am the Special Forest Projects rep on the PAC. We have almost never talked about Special Forest Products on the PAC. Permits are issued on length of time to harvest. No one is assigned a specific area.

I admire Annabelle's holistic approach to planning. Rennie participating in Marine Reserve planning.

Went through 2 year process, came up with recommendation at 3 sites. State came up with two sites.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2011 –Field Trip to Salmon River on the Coast @ Otis. Hold at Cascade Head Ranch?