

Coast PAC Meeting Notes

April 20, 2006

Lincoln City, OR

Attendees: Laura Todd, USFWS–Newport, Dick Powell, Starker Forests, Ron Phillips, Public at Large, Annabelle Jaramillo, Benton Co. Comm. Noel Bacheller, Oregon Parks & Rec., Bob Progulske, USFWS-Portland, Betty Jean Keele, Public at Large, Jose Linares, Siuslaw FS, Denis Williamson, Salem BLM, Trish Hogervorst, Salem BLM, Brad Keller, Tillamook BLM, Joni Quarnstrom, Siuslaw FS, Mike Harvey, Siuslaw FS, George Buckingham, FS Hebo RD, Alan Henning, EPA, Sheila Arena, BIA-Siletz Agency, Mike Kennedy, Siletz Tribe, Mark Buckbee, Eugene BLM,

Notetaker: Joni Quarnstrom, Siuslaw NF
Facilitator: Trish Hogervorst, Salem BLM PAO

Stewardship Update: *Dan Segotta, Siuslaw FS, South Zone District, Operations Staff*
Stewardship is a way to trade goods for services (bartering, of sorts).

Alsea Stewardship

- Last December the initial stewardship letter was completed giving location, types of projects and general guidelines. Not a requirement, but with a diverse group it was good to get this documented.
- There are 480,000 acres within the boundary of Alsea stewardship area. The south half of the boundary is adjacent to the current Siuslaw stewardship area.
- Field trip to review projects: looked at thinning units with snag creation, meadow maintenance and other similar projects. About a dozen people attended and took their recommendation back to the larger group. Members all agreed to work on Cascade Creek Thin and Buck Thin as first stewardship projects. Not approved, but once layout work is complete, information will be sent to the Regional Office for approval.

The carrot is retained receipts. The group plans to see retained receipts in Sept/Oct of 2007. This amount should be around \$500,000 when compared to other similar sales. It could go to \$800,000 to \$1 million.

BLM's Yamaha Thin, (160 acres), is within boundary and is coming up. Scoping letter is out now. Young stand thinning, log placement, fish enhancement are suggested projects. Scoping letter also asks for public's suggestions. Plans in process for a field trip with the Alsea stewardship group. This is Salem BLM's first attempt at stewardship.

Eugene District has two approved stewardship projects. Siuslaw Stu is very modest, about 30 acres. The project is covered by a watershed level NEPA document, this is a 30 year old over-stocked stand in need of commercial thinning. There is a minor road decommissioning planned, also. A public meeting was held that was well attended. There is expectation that the sale will go to bid before October 2006.

Siuslaw Basin Stewardship

Two large timber sale projects were completed. Receipts were retained. Many projects on national forest and private lands are completed. The Siuslaw stewardship is in the fourth cycle of funding projects.

Are there concerns from county commissioners? Yes, however being able to put the money back into the counties should relieve some concerns. Commissioners are concerned that money that traditionally went to the 25% fund from timber sales would no longer go through that route.

Siuslaw would not have a problem funding the 25% fund, if we looked at the whole program, not sale by sale.

What can you do and what can't you do with the stewardship program in the future? The Siuslaw Basin was part of the pilot authority and could stretch the limits due to limited rules. The national authority has put some restrictions on the program. The group has regrouped and is accomplishing a lot of work along the Alsea.

What kind of projects can be done? Trail maintenance; improve roads with erosion problems, anything for stream and fisheries enhancement, noxious weeds, elk meadow and enhancement maintenance--resource restoration. We could build new roads if it enhanced the timber sale. No new campgrounds, however if we improve water quality, we can use stewardship money to replace a toilet. Example: To move toilet sites away from the water.

External funds are leveraged to help replace county road culverts that help fisheries on national forest. Even though the rules have become a little more restrictive:

- Increases capacity to get work done on the ground
- Designation by prescription saves us a huge amount of time and money and the on-the-ground results are better. This is another benefit of stewardship.
- Some purchasers are concerned due to more up-front work on their part. It requires an investment on a sale that they may or may not get.

Marys River Watershed Stewardship

Initially, we have an agreement with Ecotrust and want to coordinate with the City of Corvallis. It is in the City of Corvallis watershed so we expect good interest in this project.

Travel Management Planning: *Mike Harvey, Siuslaw National Forest Recreation Staff*
Direction from Forest Service Washington Office to address unmanaged OHV use.

Changes: roads will no longer be open to OHV use unless posted closed. Now roads are closed unless shown open on an annually updated travel plan map.

2006: Work internally to gather data.

2007: Going to the public to ask their help on areas to ride.

Example: where are dispersed hunting camps that people ride to.

2008: Preparing alternatives and doing an NEPA assessment.

This will be the decision making process.

2009: Begin implementing and public information sharing with on-site signing, brochures.

Issues:

- Oregon Dunes has open and designated route riding areas. We haven't identified where people can ride on the upland areas. Where will the routes be? There are user routes now. Do we keep as is, or modify?
- In non ODRNA or Sand Lake, where do we allow mixed street use of OHV's? Very young people can operate non-street legal vehicles. This is safer at the Dunes or Sand Lake, but what about mixed use roads?
- Dispersed camps that people are currently accustomed to driving to. People may be able to ride within a 300 foot buffer. Our hopes are that dispersed camps are clustered, since direction does not allow for every road to have a 300-foot buffer.

Do you see that all roads will remain open? Right now, most Forest Service roads are open to non-street legal vehicles. Most roads open to vehicles will remain open. As we go through this process, we will need to simplify since the official map has to be identified on the map.

Ron Phillips: if you don't approach this right, you will have horrendous enforcement problems. The best thing to do is attract people to where you want them to be. You've done that well at the Dunes. We've done that well at Mount Taber riding area that includes private land. Street legal – putting motorcycle lights on the front and back of an ATV makes it street legal. Or depending on what hand signals you give, lets you be street legal. You have to have major attractions for enforcement.

Jose agreed with Ron that the Siuslaw needs a thoughtful approach that is well managed and works in the end. Jose said, "We will work with your groups for input."

Will this analysis consider mountain bike and horse back riding? No, strictly motorized.

Western Oregon Plan Revision:

Denis Williamson, Salem District Manager

How does the PAC want to be involved in the RMP? The PAC agreed that the entire PAC be involved, with a small subcommittee drafting a letter.

Recognize that there might be a different perspective from local communities. Be aware that there may be different voices around the table and not to expect consensus.

Denis: We are aware of that and we hope for common ground. If there is common ground, then we absolutely want to hear about that. There is a three-month public involvement window.

This will be a big piece of work for the next year, but not to the exclusion of other topics.

Alan Henning: Is there value in asking the PIEC for advice or leadership from them?

This will be a big work load. It will be hard for the PAC without key items to focus on – whether or not it comes from the PIEC or from Denis.

Dick Prather may be able to give us some focus areas.

It might help to get some of the public comments from other public meetings on the RMP. The RMP web site has captured at least a summary of these public comments.

Struggle: specificity in our standards – how much, how little, what is the balance and the right level at the EIS level.

BLM 2010 Planning:

Denis Williamson, Salem District Manager, Mark Buckbee, Eugene District Manager, acting.
Planning is slow, but still on the horizon. Hopefully this summer Denis can give more decisions on items. We will maintain ten districts. With this decision we can begin filling some vacancies. The advertisement for Eugene and Coos Bay District managers are closed. Expect new people in place by the end of summer.

Forest Service Business Management Update:

George Buckingham, Hebo District Ranger
FS centralized business administration in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The centralized functions include human resources, budget and finance, and acquisition. In the long term, it will be an efficient way of working. In the short term, it is challenging for employees losing the close support they are accustomed to having.

Competitive Sourcing is also occurring in a number of federal agencies including the Forest Service and EPA. Grow with it, work with it and figure out the new relationships.

Forest Service and BLM have signed an MOU with counties to enhance collaboration. There is a concern that centralization may take away from this effort.

Spotted Owl Recovery/Marbled Murrelet:

Bob Progalske, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Marbled Murrelet -

USFWS conducted a five year murrelet review in 2004 (hadn't done one since 1992).

Outcomes: The NW murrelets did not meet the definition of a distinct population segment.

What should we do?

The murrelet is not listed as an endangered species in Alaska, but is it in the Northwest?

We are in the decision making process right now.

Bottom line: Nothing has changed for the Marbled Murrelet.

How does agency determine if Northwest population is a significant part of the range?

Under distinct population policy there are two basic criteria:

- One: is it discrete? Does it have unique characteristics?
- Two: is it significant – ecological, biological factors. Northwest murrelets nest in large trees; Alaska murrelets nest on rocks.

In terms of timing of two reviews, how long will they take?

Range wide status review takes a year. Critical habitat dates are a settlement date, so we will adhere to those.

Litigation: Coos County vs. Gail Norton. Asking to be dismissed because the county did not ask for a petition – did not follow the legal process.

Spotted Owl –

Continues to be listed as threatened. Populations continue to decline; Rapid rate of decline in Washington is a concern. Litigation in WA upcoming: Audubon vs. Weyerhaeuser.

The barred owl is pushing the spotted owl out of areas, not cooperating with them. This is conjecture and anecdotal right now.

USFWS is undertaking a recovery plan process for the northern spotted owl to be complete in 18 months. Overseen by BLM and Forest Service along with other groups. Recovery Team in May There will be avenues for public input this year.

Deputy Regional Director is team lead for recovery team (BLM, Forest Service, NGOs, timber industry, governors of WA,OR and CA, BIA, USFWS) Will cost about \$1 million to contract. Decided to do this in-house. The team will give governance. Another team will write the documents. Draft Plan out early this fall, 2006. Final will be out in approximately one year.

Feedback: There is a lot of ridicule over the spotted owl. Some people think T&E Act works for yesterday, not tomorrow. Several species go out of existence every year. Species need to work with us and we need to work with them.

In the last 200 years there has been an acceleration of extinction due to human technology. To ask species to adapt within 100 years and live with us is not realistic. Endangered Species Act is focused on habitat recovery.

Western Snowy Plover: *Laura Todd, USFWS, Newport*

Final Rule: will remain listed. Published in the Federal Register 4/21/06 with a sixty day public comment period. 4-D rule will provide incidental take rule to non federal parties. May have relief of take, if counties meet recovery and, if they have management plans in place.

Plover is getting closer to recovery.

Delisting petition from a party in California. Distinct population said it was a genetically distinct population. Scientific papers have come out in disagreement with this. They are biologically distinct between inland and coastal species.

RAC:

Salem BLM RAC-- Denis Williamson

The 2006 RAC project proposals are still in the preproposal stage with Salem's eleven counties.

The RAC proposals will be reviewed and voted on, on June 22, 2006 and continued on June 29 if an additional meeting date is needed.

How many noxious weed proposals? Two or three proposals for \$100,000.

Mostly on private? Knotweed on multiple ownerships.

Siuslaw Forest Service RAC--Jose Linares

Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act update:

The President's budget had a reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act at a reduced level and it is giving the Forest Service opportunity to sell Forest Service land to help fund FS and BLM RAC projects.

The Siuslaw NF parcel on the list is 139 acres near Adair Village, north of Corvallis. It was once used by the Department of Defense for a missile base, then traded to Corps of Engineers, then to Forest Service. PNW research used it in the 80's. The land is being checked now for unexploded munitions. Are they doing ground water testing?

Annabelle Jaramillo: 97 House members and 27 Senate members are looking for a different strategy for the issue after five years. Congress is looking for full funding, which differs from the Administration. Hope is that it becomes resolved by September 2006. It is a lot of political positioning and an uphill battle.

The Siuslaw RAC project deadline is passed, projects total \$2.5 million. \$1.5 million in funding has been allocated. The types of projects are similar to past projects.

Eugene BLM RAC-- Mark Buckbee

Eugene RAC is in round six with full membership on the Eugene RAC. The proposal review/decision meeting is scheduled for July 13-14, 2006. Completed submissions are due this month. Eugene RAC has 21 project submissions this year at about \$4 million. There is \$1.8 million to allocate this year; a little more than the past because of carry over dollars. We have a good selection of projects to choose from this year. Highly unlikely to bring forward noxious weed projects due to hand pulling option only. We have no NEPA analysis for herbicide application.

2006 Coast Pac Topics

- BLM RMP Input – Dick Prather provide RMP status report for 2006 at the October 19 meeting (2 hours agenda item).
- Travel Management planning – Oct 19 mtg
- Summer field trip (July 27) – look at:
 - Rehab. projects
 - Travel management issues
 - County payments and projects
 - RMP – density management study
 - Stewardship projects
- Show FS “The Greatest Good” during a long lunch.

Upcoming PAC Meeting Dates:

July 27, 2006 – Field Trip

October 19, 2006 – Coast PAC Mtg

Jan 18, 2007 Coast PAC mtg.

Round Robin

Several vacancies on the PAC. Will do public outreach on environmental, industry, recreation/tourism, county commission positions. Trish will send out information and asks PAC members for help with recruiting.

Siuslaw NF – Jose Linares

Proposing over the next three years to sell Gardner property, some sites at Marpleton, homes in Waldport. We have a three-year authority that allows us to retain the revenues. Use revenues to remodel office at Waldport which will be main south zone office. In some cases it may be put towards new building.

President’s budget gives significant increase in funding for NWFP. For Siuslaw, that’s good news. We are way ahead in our planning so if we get increase in funding this allows us to get

more LSR thinning sales out. We would like to get about 40-50 MMBF per year. This gets us closer to the number of acres we want to get to.

Implementing Recreation Enhancement Act -- Mike Harvey

In 1996, Congress granted BLM, Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service the legislation to launch a pilot program to charge day use fees for recreation site/facilities. In 2006, Congress passed the Recreation Fee Enhancement Act, a new 10-year authority to continue to collect fees.

New provisions in the regulations create a recreation resource advisory committee known as R-RACS. This 15-member R-RAC will review issues relating to the Oregon/Washington rec fee program and recreation facilities. An announcement is currently in the Federal Register. We are looking for people who would like to be on this committee.

If the Forest Service or BLM would propose new fee areas, the proposal would go through the R-RAC for approval/recommendation. Nominees come from a variety of backgrounds.

Mike Kennedy, Siletz Tribe

Mike is a member of the Alsea Stewardship group. The Siletz now have a special use permit for a sweat lodge and to gather wood for teepee poles. Does anyone have an idea how to get 35' poles with 5" diameter from Five Rivers to Siletz?

Allen Henning, EPA

The EPA Director of Water and Watersheds will be on the Siuslaw Forest reviewing projects under the targeted initiative grant with Ecotrust. Habitat monitoring projects and biomass. Also working with Willamette Partnership with roots in Willamette Basin and alternative futurism. Addressing implementation needs in TMDL in the Willamette basin. Trade pollutant sources and non-point source fixes. Finding a way to bring ground water back into the water flow.

American Heritage River Keeper – almost finished a run through the EPA grant process.

Betty Jean, Recreation, Equestrian

Betty has been involved with trail modification on Horton Ponds in January only to discover that now logging will take place. The focus has changed to more developed roads.

She has been involved for four year on SOLV beach clean up at plover nesting area. This year a snow storm caused a cancellation however local people still participated. We are finding less and less garbage over the years. As a user of beaches where plover and people interact, it feels a lot more amiable than it did before. Betty Jean feels a lot less conflict; closing beaches where there are sightings and keep open where there are no sightings. Also notice better predator control. Thank you.

Noel Bachellor, OPRD

Recently formalize a process for internal grants that help on-the-ground projects. Salmon license plates and land management parcel fund provide the revenue.

Annabelle Jarramillo, Benton County Commissioner

Develop a county-wide habitat assessment plan. Willing land owners are coming out of the woodwork. Looking at several plant species and others. Helps us in land use planning with urban/rural interface. Trying to avoid takings.

Cardwell Hill restoration complex is teaming up with Marys River Watershed. A large group of interagency entities are coming together for support. Effort is driven by private land owners

wanting to do work on their land. Giving it Oregon Solutions designation helps people get through government entities. Annabelle is convener of project. Hope to pull it together by the end of May and get work started.

Signed MOU with BLM on RMP.

Bob Progulske, US Fish and Wildlife

Involved in a lot of litigation lately. Sued for biological opinion with strategy changes.

Survey and Manage – private contractor doing survey and manage.

Forest Service in R6 proposes to combine water conservation strategy so we are in discussion with them.

Laura Todd, US Fish and Wildlife

4-D ruling

Habitat conservation plan – identifies area that is currently occupied by plovers. Other areas identified as emphasis areas – mostly in the northern areas of the coast. Interface with state parks/counties. Request for proposal for EIS draft due in January 2007.

Oregon Dunes NRA is under consultation for plover critical habitat, including several other projects.

Predator control – USFWS is coordinator and federal lands have responsibility for activity.

Good activity with positive results.

National directors will meet in Newport this year -- week of July 10. Will be inviting BLM as a sister agency.

Mark Buckbee-- Eugene BLM

Eugene BLM, Willamette National Forest and Military Department are working diligently to collocate in Springfield. Move in date: 2008. This will provide lots of opportunities for Service First with BLM and Forest Service and the military.

Ron Phillips-- Public at Large

OHV riders like pit riding, so keep an eye on the Adair Village parcel.

Rennie is at Manzanita planting beach grass today.

This probably the first PAC meeting he has missed and he is a charter member.

There is potential in planting in the forest other than big trees.

Dick Powell-- Starker Forests

Last week we had a forest expo in Corvallis with a couple hundred kids attending. As an urban society, many people don't understand how connected we are to natural resources every day.

Dick received the Society of American Forester – National Communicator Award in 2005.

George Buckingham—Hebo Ranger District Ranger

Show “The Greatest Good” film for the PAC in connection with a meeting. Lunch, before or after may work.

Meeting adjourned.