

**Coast PAC Meeting  
October 19, 2006**

**Attendees:** George Buckingham, Jose Linares, Alan Henning, Dick Powell, Sheila Arena, Betty Jean Keele, Mike Wilson, Bill Hall, Ron Phillips, Bill Hatton, Rennie Ferris, Joni Quarnstrom, Trish Hogervorst, Bob Progulski, Trish Wilson

**BLM's Western Oregon Planning Effort** - Dick Prather  
[www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr](http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr)

Alternative One:

Take management lines off the map.

Keep great partnerships intact and continue to work with folks. We are committed to those relationships. For example: Applegate

Continue active timber management

Questions: Do you pay as much attention to the socio economic values as you do vegetation management? How about the jobs created?

Would alternative two be applied across all BLM Districts? Yes, but the age-class may be different.

Alternative Three –

This alternative does not draw lines on the map, i.e., LSR areas growing big, old trees. Use long rotation to grow large timber and cut trees. This might not work: transition plan - we want half (by district and then province) and have 50% of this for suitable habitat. Cannot change congressionally designated areas. LMA – Land Management Area.

Q.) How similar is Alternative Three to the State management plan? It's a little bit the same however we want a longer rotation. It will move around the landscape, similar to the state.

Q.) Valley of the Giants now reaches more than 50% old trees. Does that mean you would cut in it? If not now, what stops someone from coming back in 15 years and logs it?

Comment: make Valley of the Giants a special place in your plan for differing management – no cut.

Comment: With this alternative, there will be large trees in 50% of the forest, much more than we have now. We will have to look for clear, open areas; these will be the anomaly. Rennie likes it.

Q.) Why change to 100 years, versus 80? We look at 80 year trees and ask if it is suitable habitat; no, it isn't. 100 years is when we see multi-storied habitat.

Q.) Are you making decisions for Forest Service? No. Q.) Okay, but if you are neighbors, then management plans will influence one another. That is true and we will work together.

Comment: agree that over time the trees will grow but there will have to be a lot of trust before people will invest in a mill.

Dick Powell's comments:

Public comment period: Must design a collaborative process on the WOPR. This will be time intensive, working with a contractor. Coast, Willamette, SW PAC groups set up already and we would like to use these groups.

When will this happen? Need to have document printed (5-6 weeks). Can start talking then, and may be able to post it on the web site. Official public comment period will start with Federal Registration notice. End of public comment period could be the end of July 2007. Would do this work between February and July 2007.

\*\*\*By January meeting, have process in place so you can roll when information becomes available.

Proposed Strategy: hold open houses, have DM's go to at least three other meetings that are other people's meeting (rotary, sierra club, watershed council). PAC's will definitely have a specific process for them and other similar groups.

Suggest extending comment period longer than 90 days to meet all groups. Dick can extend that but must balance that between court appointed deadline and comment period.

Goal of public involvement: We are looking for a broader understanding and dialog with people. This may entail visiting with individual groups.

### **Round Robin**

Rennie Ferris:

Has a real concern with direction of Eugene/Siuslaw RAC which seems to have a very negative attitude of watershed councils. This is causing a real impact on the amount of money being spent on invasive species such as knotweed. We are losing our fight against knotweed. A few years ago there were dollars, but the job is not done. Organizations with knotweed grants need to be aware of when their project is coming up in meeting, so that they can be there when the discussion comes up.

Bill Hatton:

Will get knotweed control issues to Rennie regarding Siuslaw RAC and Eugene BLM noxious weed control.

New DM in Eugene: Ginny Grilley, expertise in engineering, native Oregonian.

We are expecting to see about 50% of employees retiring in the next five years. We have a technology transfer plan to bring in younger employees to train.  
Biomass – wood straw a product that is chipped up into 3 inch strings, like wood mulch.  
Spread by hand and used in areas where we used regular straw for erosion areas.

Ron Phillips:

Public view of BLM and Forest Service is diametrically opposed between rural and urban citizens. Everyone has a job to get out the word about forest management they speak with. Rural people need to reach out and show how national public lands are being managed.

Bill Hall:

I'm happy to have the opportunity to be here and listen and share what I learn with others.

Mike Kennedy:

I am involved in the Alsea Stewardship group and it seems to be going along well. This stewardship group may have future additional funding to attack this issue.

Betty Jean Keele:

I am on the Willamette/Mt. Hood RAC and am not aware of any noxious weed grants.  
Back Country Horseman – spent 1,233 hours in volunteer hours. US Fish and Wildlife, PCT cleaning, packing in and out NW Youth Corp and Americorp, spent 7,700 vehicle miles doing this, 231 hours of livestock. Keeping roads open is imperative because some roads can't accommodate vehicles but can get horses in.

Sheila Arena:

Coquille Tribe is very interested in the WOPR since land acquired is from BLM and have requirement to manage the same as federal agencies. Tribe has a document to share with BLM.

Trish Wilson:

Elaine Brong, BLM State Director is retiring. Ed Shepard will step in. Denis is retiring in January and hoping for overlap. His retirement party is January 20 in Salem.

Frank Davis:

Marys Peak Stewardship kickoff meeting occurs tonight. City of Corvallis is recently going through a stewardship planning meeting and will take their plan to City Council soon.

Dick Powell:

BLM WOPR will remain as close to status quo as possible. People will have a hard time understanding Alternative 3.

Over 2,000 people involved in Kid's Day for Conversation held in Corvallis in September.

Alan Henning:

EPA has recently appointed Ellen Miller as director of R10 EPA. Her past experience includes years of private industry.

\$200,000 expected cut in EPA budget the next few years. First target is libraries, second target is research lab. This does cause some head scratching for an agency whose origin was science.

Bob Progulski:

Publish proposed critical habitat for marbled murrelet. What changed since original designation in 1996 was a policy change. If no benefit to lie on top of LSR, then exclude it. This includes private land in Oregon. Went from 4 million acres to 200,000. New ruling out for spotted owl. Draft for spotted owl due December 15.

George Buckingham:

EA on special forest products is complete.

EA on several study areas used to demonstrate different silviculture areas. Researchers feel the stands are ready to thin and take to another level.

“Meeting the Challenge” – a document that shows what exists on our land and the opportunities we have. The back two pages show the large watershed areas we prioritized and what stage of work we are at.

Central Coast Ranger District and Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area - formally consolidated now with an official name. Area managed by a district ranger and deputy district ranger with main administrative office planned for a location in Waldport.

Recreation Facility Master Agreement – Opportunity to identify facilities and determining what can stay open and what needs to be closed.

The Forest finished our third student public involvement process at Salmon River Estuary this summer. Graduate students spent eight weeks identifying issues and working with local community.

**View “The Greatest Good”**, a two-hour documentary celebrating the Forest Service Centennial. The documentary can be purchased through the Forest History Society, 701 Wm. Vickers Ave., Durham, NC, 27701, 919-682-9319, [www.foresthistory.org](http://www.foresthistory.org)