

**STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16 & 17, 2006
HINES, OREGON**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hoyt Wilson, Grazing Permittee, Princeton, Oregon
Paul Bradley, Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation, Hines, Oregon
Cynthia Witzel, Recreation Permit Holder, Frenchglen, Oregon
Jerry Sutherland, Environmental Representative – Statewide, Portland, Oregon
Pam Hardy, Vice–Chair, Dispersed Recreation, Eugene, Oregon
William Renwick, Environmental Representative, Burns, Oregon
Stacy Davies, Grazing Permittee, Frenchglen Oregon
Steve Purchase, State Liaison, Salem, Oregon
Brenda Sam, Burns Paiute Tribe, Burns, Oregon
Harland Yriarte, Private Landowner, Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Richard Angstrom, No Financial Interest, Salem, Oregon

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL (DFO):

Dana Shuford, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management
(BLM), Hines, Oregon

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL ASSISTANTS:

Tara Wilson, Public Affairs Officer, BLM, Hines, Oregon
Amy Freitag, Clerical Assistant, BLM, Hines, Oregon

FACILITATORS:

Dale White, Burns, Oregon

COMMENTING PUBLIC:

Susie Hammond, Hammond Ranches, Inc., Frenchglen, OR
Jack Rinn, Land Use Consultant
Ron VanDomelen, Oregon Hunters Association
Charlie Otley, Diamond Valley Ranches, Diamond, OR
Steve Hammond, Hammond Ranches, Frenchglen, OR
John O'Connor, Back Country Horseman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Pam McAlpin, BLM, Hines, OR	Beth Coahran, BLM, Hines, OR
Fred McDonald, BLM, Hines OR	Jim Buchanan, BLM, Hines, OR
Doug Linn, BLM, Hines, OR	Mike McGee, BLM, Hines, OR
Bill Andersen, BLM, Hines, OR	Don Rotell, BLM, Hines, OR

Kelly Hazen, BLM, Hines, OR
Lisa Norfolk, BLM, Hines, OR
Lindsay Davies, BLM, Hines, OR
Joan Suther, BLM, Hines, OR

Josh Zjonic, BLM, Hines, OR
Matt Obradovich, BLM, Hines, OR
Darren Brumback, BLM, Hines, OR
Larry Bartee, Senator Smith's Rep.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, HOUSEKEEPING AND AGENDA:

The meeting was called to order and self introductions made.

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

- Stacy stated Dan Jordan's potential cooperative agreement comes up often and he has met with Dan. They will hold off until tomorrow on the creative solutions for funding projects discussion. Dan was invited to attend tomorrow and participate.
- Stacy commented the reason for the Purposes of the Act being on the agenda was he thinks there are many times when they get into discussions about certain things and he wonders if people have read the Act. He feels it is important they spend time at each meeting reviewing parts of the Act.
- The reason for the Creative Solutions for Funding Projects being on the agenda is everyone has their pet projects. They will do a 15-minute brainstorming session, list them and then spend time trying to figure out how to make them happen.
- Stacy informed everyone ONDA did file a lawsuit in the District Court over the RMP. He stated there are some things that will impact SMAC because of that.

Follow-up: Tara will hand out a printed copy of the ONDA lawsuit to the SMAC members.

DFO UPDATE

- Dana discussed the ONDA lawsuit and what the lawsuit contains.
- This is Pam McAlpin's last week as acting Andrews Field Manager for Karla.
- Carolyn Freeborn who has been acting District Ranger for the Forest Service has accepted a position in Vale as the Jordan Resource Area Manager. She will be leaving in May. Fred McDonald will be acting in her position for the next few months and then there will be a decision made on what to do with that position.
- Karla will be back from her detail on March 27.
- Dana stated in a previous SMAC meeting he had committed to getting something done concerning the WJMA this year. He feels they are proceeding well. They have completed the NEPA necessary for the demonstration project. They have also made some initial site selections for different treatments and will start to lay those out as soon as weather permits. There are seven plots scheduled for implementation this year. They are in the process of seeking some OWEB funding. There has been a cooperative agreement signed with ONDA, and they will be participating in a plot or more. The Nature Conservancy is also interested in participating and they will be working with Art Tassie. A vehicle pull-out will also be constructed to allow people to pull off of the Loop Road.
- In regard to the land acquisition efforts, they have completed a small purchase of 5 acres with Lucille Marshall. They are in the negotiating faze with Gary Miller for the Rock Creek Ranch exchange. The Gary Campbell exchange (about 30 acres in wilderness) feasibility is at the state office for review. It is on hold due to

concerns over the administrative process and the value. The draft feasibility for the Clemens exchange for 240 acres in wilderness, adjacent to the Alvord Desert WSA, is being written and should be forwarded to the state office in April. They are currently negotiating with Bordy, Breeze and Arian for a total of 80 acres and hope to acquire that sometime next year.

- SMAC nominations - there are a total of 5 vacancies; the opportunity for nominations to be received closed February 28. Dana met with the County Court and the Governor's Office and discussed the applications. Each one formulated their recommendations to send back to Washington, D.C. The package is being developed and will go to the State Office within a couple of weeks.
- Implementation plan for the CMPA RMP - initially Karla had said they had four months to complete the plan. They actually had four months to complete the first two steps. SMAC's input will still be needed for the last steps.
- The Blitzen River wilderness protection fence was postponed in order to find another way to keep cows out of the No Livestock Grazing Area. The EA decision was revised and Roaring Springs Ranch appealed the decision. BLM will be working with Stacy and discussing the possibility of a cooperative agreement.
- Other projects in progress include:
 - North Steens EIS, public comment period ends March 27;
 - Moon Hill Road realignment EA decision record was signed;
 - Stonehouse Allotment waterholes - completed the determination of depth adequacy and are now working on the water rights application;
 - Working on grazing evaluations and permit renewal EAs;
 - NEPA complete on South Steens waterhole cleanup and Gap Reservoir reconstruction;
 - The Willow Creek/Hunter's Cabin road reroute will have a separate EA completed this summer.
 - NEPA will be completed on the Frenchglen shooting closure to make the closure permanent.
 - Guano Basin water quality restoration plan is in draft and at the State Office for review.
 - NEPA completed and will be taking care of the Bone Breaker, Little Bridge Creek, and the Fir Creek rehab efforts.

SMAC PROTOCOLS

Rich and Pam had worked on this and sent it back to Stacy. Pam noted there were a few changes to be made. The group went through the list of changes they had discussed from the last meeting. Bill recommended the change of the word "affect" to "effect" on page 4 (last line) and page 5. There was a discussion on the language in the Affects of Abstentions part of the protocols and how they are being interpreted. Jerry stated it was confusing, and he doesn't think they need anything past the first two sentences. The group decided to strike #5 from the protocols. Time was up on this topic and it will be decided later when to finish the discussion.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dana stated about a month and a half ago he had sent a letter to the SMAC members concerning his decision to put the Travel Management Plan on hold. BLM was just about ready to enter scoping, but every map they pinned up on the wall raised questions, some questions regarding the integrity of their efforts. Steve Grasty and Dan Nichols offered to take a map to all landowners and have them put any roads they believed were left out. Dana believes the Court's efforts combined with the BLM could get a map reflecting all the roads any landowner believes should be put on there. They are now working on the inventory. The Court will meet with the Steens Mountain Landowner's Group around the 24th of March. BLM and Harney County Court will jointly conduct meetings to make sure everyone else has the chance to add roads to the maps. This will be followed up with a field season and there will probably be some issues with that. Then possibly have a follow-up meeting with the stakeholders. From there they will have to try and break down the roads into categories and classify everything that shows up on the inventory. The next step would be to identify the different management options for each of the categories and roads; it would then go into NEPA. The group went into a discussion on what the SMAC's involvement should be. The group discussed how to categorize and put in expectations and how many categories they want to have. Stacy went back to the RMP to see if it all fits the RMP definitions. Stacy believes they should spend most of their time on the off-road travel issue. He also feels they should focus on creating the exception language for off-road travel. Bill suggested waiting to see what the County comes back with and review their report. This topic will be continued tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND Q&A

Jack Rinn, Land Use Consultant/private citizen, has read word for word ONDA's lawsuit and there is nothing in it he agrees with. He begs this group and BLM to ignore it for now. He assumes most people know about measure 37. He can't tell them how many meetings like this one he was in during that period of time, when there was a big lawsuit on measure 37 that finally made it to the Oregon Supreme Court. The Supreme Court threw out all 14. It may be what they do to ONDA, but we don't know what they will do. What we can do as citizens, managers, and committees is the best we can do with a clear conscious, but don't pay any attention to the lawsuit, that would be his council. He begged the BLM to slow down the TMP, the road process, and he spoke only for himself and as a hunter. Awareness moves slowly and only now are some of the public becoming aware of road closures on the BLM. Take the time and go slowly, some roads have existed for 150 years. When he hears the word road, it's two tracks and it is a bit of an oxymoron to have a vision of a set of tracks when you use the noun road and then in the next bit talk about the road is never used. He would just beg that it slow down. Some of the SMAC members asked if he had anything to do with the OHA. He didn't at the time but he does now and Ron VanDamalan who is here today. He asked Charlie Otley how many roads were in Oregon and he said somewhere around 5,000. He asked Ron how many hunters there were in Oregon and he said there are over 200,000. He ventured to say it is a greater number than ranchers or hikers. He wants to get the Oregon hunters more involved because he is a dues paying member and a hunter and he is getting worried about the whole road thing. He asks the committee not to be timid on taking a vote on anything even if they know it won't carry the simple majority. He said Dana under the

Act must pay some attention to the super majority in order for it to be a recommendation, but a Congressman and the public press can use anything they want. They have a representative from Senators Smith's office here today and he might like to see how different the votes are. He knows for a fact that Congressmen on occasion do look at the votes, so don't confuse what the BLM has to do with what Congress and the public can do with votes.

Susie Hammond, Hammond Ranches Inc., encouraged the SMAC to go into category definitions. She understands where Jerry and the landowners are coming from. The next landowner meeting on the 24th, only a week away to put the lines on the map. If the SMAC committee has either committed to or has the foresight to go forward and create a definition of a road or create a definition of an off-road use, there is a lot of those lines that you don't want to see on the map and that won't go on the map. If the landowners know that they don't have to go to jail to salt their cows or whatever the criteria is for enforcement for the lines on the map, they don't need the lines on the map except for the protection for the interest of the future. If they have a category and/or exclusion from the law enforcement that will occur according to legislation, some of those roads won't have to go on a map, but without that exclusion every road at this point will go on a map and it will look like spaghetti. As far as the landowners are concerned, they have done a lot of homework in the last little bit and they feel they do not have a place at this time. Dana has been very cooperative, working with them to make some kind of an end of that. They don't have a place for cooperative management that is instigated by the landowners to come to the table, whether it be to the BLM or to the SMAC committee. Right now they anticipated the landowners would come to this committee and be heard and that would go back to the BLM in some form of an advisory capacity. That hasn't happened and she doesn't know why. Maybe they are looking at it backwards and they need to take it as landowners to the BLM and the BLM then take it to the SMAC committee and run it around the other way. They would request that in some form, if somebody has some ideas, how they can get to the table without having to make a decision and the SMAC committee shrug their shoulders yes or no. Then the only alternative they have is to go to the court and file a lawsuit or to protest a plan they are supposed to be cooperatively managing land in the same area, which doesn't make good relationships between them and the BLM or between them and the SMAC committee. An example of that is the example they had earlier in the meeting of the fence on the far side of the wilderness and Roaring Springs having to file a protest against that. They have talked over the travel management plan a hundred times in the last four or five years. The landowners were finally down to the point they didn't know how they could get around going the legal route, which they didn't want to do. Finally they went to the County to see if they had any suggestions, and they did. The travel management plan has come around to where they could probably all live with it if they all work with it. She wished there was another way they could do business without having to be at conflict all the time. The category definitions she thinks would create something that would make the travel management plan easier to work with. She hears Jerry talking about ONDA's inventory and them wanting to close roads. Then she hears them saying they want to keep the roads open. She stated for the record a considerable amount of ONDA's inventory was done on their property or concerning their permit as Hammond Ranches, Inc.. The inventory was not

credible in that a lot of the inventory was made by trespassing on private property in order to take photographs of things that they presented and the BLM took forth.

Ron VanDomelen, Oregon Hunters Association, said the OHA has almost 11,000 members representing better than 200,000 hunters in the state. OHA's mission is wildlife habitat, wildlife management and hunter's rights. There are approximately 24 chapters of Oregon hunters in the state. He is on a state board representing Bend, Redmond and Prineville. He stated all hunters are interested in the Steens. Sometimes it takes 10 years for a hunter to draw a tag for certain species. There are hunters in the Steens every year but not hunting big game necessarily. The Steens is a valuable resource to the hunting community.

Charlie Otley, Diamond, OR, said he read through the 20 pages of garbage, and in his vocabulary garbage is nice. He is truly opposed to this because of what he reads in the undertone of the suit. He said it is really not the condition of Steens Mountain ONDA is going into this suit; it is to get cattle off of Steens Mountain, to get the roads closed and add many more thousands of acres of wilderness study area. He is opposed to road closures, not all together but most of them. He said before that every time you close a road on Steens Mountain, it puts more pressure on private lands and what they have. He thinks there should be a little bit of reliability with hunters, that they ask to go on there, but it is a lot better then it used to be. He thinks hunters need to be involved and goes along with Jack on that. The folks that go out on public lands are people that work in town and they need to get out, get a little fresh air, get a little exercise and they need a place to go. When the roads are closed, hunters don't have a place they can get to when they want to, so they come onto private land without permission or with permission if they are the sensible kind of people that ask. Shutting off the public land, a lot of people don't understand the meaning of public land, he thinks his interpretation of that is it's for the public. When you start closing the areas off, then it closes it to these people and he is really opposed to that. He also wanted to talk about how they talk about in the suit how the BLM has not done things to protect the land and so on and they have tried. A number of years ago he organized a show me trip on Steens Mountain. They had a lot of press there and a lot of dignitaries there, but they did not have any environmentalists there. They asked the environmentalists by registered letter and their response came back that their slate was so full they had to have a year before they could account for their time enough to come to some of these meetings. Last summer Stacy had told him there was a little movement to get some environmentalists out there to show them the range, the condition on Steens Mountain. The environmentalists wouldn't come. They don't want to see this ground when it's in good shape; they will not come and see this. He is disappointed they have to take all of the garbage in the lawsuit they don't really mean. They just want to get a few things done on the mountain and get a little more power.

Steve Hammond, Hammond Ranches Inc., thanked Dale for the few comments he has made about being reactive and proactive. He went to the Steens Mountain dedication and he wishes they had a video of that and could watch it today. The body language that went on with those people. It didn't matter what they said, but the language in what they were saying is what really counts. The Congressman and everybody walked up there,

everybody that took a role in developing the legislation and was somewhat drawing a closure to what everybody had went through to create this legislation. The environmental industry went up there and said this was a small step; they weren't done. The lawsuit should serve as a reminder they are not done. The BLM staff associated with administering the BLM in direct relationship with this legislation, he would like to know what the SMAC is going to do about that. He thinks the person that handled the road plan for the most part was fairly successful in developing a lot of mistrust through the way it was handled on every side. A way he thinks could maybe serve as some avenue to be constructive in drawing awareness to the uniqueness of this legislation is to have a questionnaire that went out to BLM employees that are directly associated with it, whether you are filling a position or there is an interim, and they develop the language for that. Steve gave out some ideas on the questions that could be included concerning the Act. He said to give Dana some tools here to put people in positions that are guiding them and that they have to work with, that may make some difference. Some of the mistrust developed through the travel plan he believes could have been avoided. A lot of it had the history that went with the personnel picked for that position. You need to pick new people; at least people you believe are compatible with the Act to fill the positions. He thanked them for the time they spend on this and he wished sometimes it was a little more progressive and forward moving.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Harland asked Susie about the comment she had made regarding the committee talking about category definitions of roads today or tomorrow. She said she didn't think it needed to be a definition of a road rather the definition of the exemption and that is what everyone is hung up on.

Jerry asked Susie if they are willing to do some trading of some roads, and close some roads that aren't being used that they were not willing to trade before. She feels they have already created those areas, and she doesn't think they are willing to do any kind of trading anyplace except what has already been done in the legislation.

Jack asked Jerry to describe in physical terms what a road that is not used looks like. Jerry said it is one that is hard to see by the BLM staff and ONDA photographers. They say they can't find it. Also a route in a different area and no one can find it, that would be a clue it does not need to stay open. Jack asked, if his image of a road that is not used, is one that is hard to see. Jerry said that is one criteria. Susie said this category definition could include no lines anyplace but the need for someone to go from point A to point B. They decide what the definition needs to be but she thinks if you come up with a real creative definition, it would take all of the adversity out of the conversation and everybody would start working together. The group continued to further discuss the maps.

SMAC PROTOCOLS (continued)

During the lunch break Pam and Jerry worked on rewording the SMAC protocols. They went into a discussion on how things should be worded. Suggestions were made and everyone agreed on the changes (unanimous agreement).

Unanimous Agreement: Accept protocols as amended.

NORTH STEENS EIS

Doug Linn gave a power point presentation concerning the North Steens EIS and reviewed what the Steens Act states regarding this proposal. Public comments will be open until March 27. Doug then reviewed the proposed treatments he would like SMAC to consider. Doug stated he has already begun to revise the document. The group went into a discussion on the proposed treatments.

Motion made: Stacy made the motion to use the full treatment except wilderness. Treatments in wilderness areas would be following an EA and natural fire would be allowed to burn in wilderness (Bill seconded).

The group discussed the possibility of removal and use of downed juniper trees, and reviewed Section 113, Subsection (b)(2) of the Act, which talks about removal of trees on Federal lands in the CMPA.

Motion made: Cindy made the motion the BLM authorize and encourage the use of downed juniper trees within the limits of the Steens Act (Bill seconded).

Unanimous agreement: Full treatment [alternative] everywhere except wilderness. Treatments in wilderness areas would be following an EA and natural fire would be allowed to burn in wilderness. The BLM authorize and encourage the use of downed juniper trees within the limits of the Steens Act.

FIVE CREEKS EA

Lisa Norfolk and Lindsay Davies gave a presentation on the Five Creeks Restoration Project. The main purpose of the project is rangeland restoration through juniper control. The project location is near Diamond and consists of approximately 73,000 acres. The project considerations include wildlife habitat, juniper, noxious weeds and cultural resources. The project purposes are to reduce hazardous fuels and restore and/or increase system functionality through the restoration of shrub-steppe, aspen and riparian communities. The Proposed Action is to: utilize prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to reintroduce fire and/or maintain natural fire regimes; reduce hazardous fuels within the project area; move the species composition and structure of mountain big sagebrush-bunchgrass, low sagebrush-bunchgrass, aspen and riparian toward historic conditions; improve big game, sage-grouse and other locally important species; increase wild horse and livestock forage; and improve watershed health. Lindsay stated there are numerous supporters of this project around the area including grazing permittees, private landowners, SWCD, Watershed Council, ODFW, County Court and would also like to include the SMAC. The group then went into discussions about the project and how the SMAC feels about the project and how they would like to see it move forward. Paul was concerned about leaving a little more space around the dispersed camping areas. They also discussed the involvement of the Burns Paiute Tribe. Joan said that has been given to Scott Thomas and he was invited back to the Tribe's April meeting.

Motion made: Hoyt made the motion the SMAC supports the Five Creeks Plan with provisos BLM make an effort to encourage consumptive use of wood fiber, there is consultation with the tribe to consider cultural resources, and give more consideration to the size of the protection area around camp sites. (Cindy seconded)

Unanimous Agreement: Support the Five Creeks Plan with the provisos BLM make an effort to encourage consumptive use of wood fiber, there is consultation with the tribe to consider cultural resources, and give more consideration to the size of the protection area around camp sites.

PAGE SPRINGS WEIR UPDATE

Mike McGee gave a presentation on the Page Springs Weir. He said what he is looking for is cooperation or collaboration and including SMAC. Mike gave the history and background on the weir. He noted the construction of the weir began in 1937 to accurately gage water. ODFW's requirement for fish passage is no more than a foot drop with no greater velocity than 6 feet per second. Currently it is a 2 1/2 foot drop with a velocity of 8 feet per second. The issues being faced include: the Steens Act says removal if scientifically justifiable and funding is available; the RMP identifies modification as an option; and wild and scenic river corridor in wilderness. The weir is necessary for accurate water measurements and there is also legal obligations tied to the weir. It also includes the Redband Trout Reserve. Currently fish passage is very restricted. The goal of the project is to implement an alternative that will improve fish passage and maintain the ability to measure stream flow while protecting wilderness and wild & scenic river values. The alternatives under consideration are: no action, complete removal, small roughened channels, cross vane rock weirs, modification, prefabricated steep paths fish way, or pool and weir prefabricated fish way. Mike went through and explained what each one was and the pros and cons to each of them. There will be a meeting on March 27 with BLM, ODFW and USFWS to discuss the best possible option and also a water measurement meeting on April 13 with the same people including Water Resources. The completion of the EA is planned for June '06. The group discussed the issue of the weir, the proposed actions, water measurement, and the water users. Mike stated they will come back to the SMAC when they have decided on an alternative and when they have more of a proposal. Hoyt said he would like to see the EA when it is still in draft form. Mike said he had no problem..

Follow-up: Provide an update at the May meeting.

March 17, 2006

INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order and self introductions made.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DECEMBER MINUTES

On page 1 Pam Hardy was moved from member's present to member's absent. On page

3, second paragraph, change “her” to “Karla”. On page 3, last paragraph, delete “from The Wilderness Society”. On page 5, paragraph 4, third sentence, should read, “Cindy added that there may be conflicts with the users on the Loop Road.” On page 7, second paragraph, towards the bottom, delete “the majority of”. On page 11 take the word “park” out of Erik Taylor’s title. On page 16, first paragraph, change “there” to “their”, two occurrences. On page 18, paragraph 3, delete the word “not”.

Stacy motioned to approve the minutes as amended (Jerry seconded).

Consensus: Minutes approved as amended.

ACTION ITEMS REVIEW

Paul noted he contacted the Harney County Chamber and they had about 12 people that requested mountain biking locations. He also contacted four different mountain bike outfits in Bend and asked for a one word answer to the mountain bike question. They all said it was a two word answer which is yes, yes. He contacted a mountain biking guide and they said because it is the wilderness area, they don’t do tours but they see it as a great asset to the area and the community. Paul stated in a nut shell the mountain biking issue is important and should be dealt with as part of the travel management plan.

All other action items are ongoing and still need to be addressed.

SMAC’S ROLE IN THE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pam and Jerry worked on a framework the SMAC members can take back to their constituents to see if it will work for everyone. The group discussed what they had come up with. For the most part everyone was good with it. There were a few concerns about the permittees. They continued to discuss how to make it better. The group agreed they would take this back to their constituents and it would then be discussed at the May meeting. It reads:

Regarding the Steens CMPA Travel Management Plan, the SMAC encourages BLM and stakeholders to consider a provision allowing grazing permittees motor vehicle off road travel as needed to implement terms and conditions of their permit in an economical manner, limited to normal management activities during periods of authorized use. This provision would take the place of designating existing or additional routes for such purposes. BLM would place stipulations in each permit that prevent and mitigate for new lasting impressions upon the landscape or other measurably adverse ecological impacts resulting from this provision, including suspension of off road travel until such time as conditions return to what they were prior to the TMP. This is just part of the overall considerations that will continue going into the TMP process. Feedback is requested for consideration by the SMAC prior to the May 2006 meeting.

Follow-up: Talk to constituents regarding Travel Management Plan provision language.

Follow-up: Prepare draft language regarding Burns Paiute Tribe and SRP interests for the TMP (Cindy and Brenda).

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FUNDING PROJECTS

During this time the group went through and suggested projects they would like to see happen. Projects mentioned include:

- North Steens EIS and Five Creeks.
- WJMA
- Pave the Loop Road.
- Camp improvement and additional pull-out space at South Steens Campground.
- Expanding the area at the Five Creeks and possibly gravel the area or the fire pits.
- Additional winter recreation improvements, trail maps or signs.
- Ankle creek inholding.
- Page Springs weir removed.
- Alvord Desert on the east side and maybe around Mann Lake (restroom facilities).
- The need for more law enforcement.
- Trail maintenance.
- More BLM staff with a public contact job description (education, monitoring, PR, explaining programs).
- More consistent maintenance on the road.
- User friendly method to dispose of human waste carried out of the back-country.
- Juniper management plan.
- Dan Jordan's issue to develop some easements.
- Monitoring.

They then went on to discuss the possibilities of obtaining the funding for these projects. This topic will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Follow-up: Prepare a list of projects (providing as much information as possible) you would like to see happen on Steens.

Follow-up: Research getting help to develop a Business Plan for SMAC/Funding Request Package.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND Q&A

Susie Hammond, Hammond Ranches Inc., as a representative of the landowner group and Hammond Ranches, said she is really impressed with the SMAC committee and what they have done in the last two days. She thinks they are moving forward and a lot of the petty stuff she has seen in the last five years has been pulled under the rug. She congratulated them.

John O'Connor, Backcountry Horseman President, said the fence removal has happened. It has been rolled up and forgotten about and then they put the contract out. The posts and the wire are coming out on the backs of mules as it should be in the wilderness. They were watching real closely that someone wouldn't come in with a four-wheeler and take it. That didn't happen and Mr. Mathews got the bid. He worked with him a couple of days to make sure things were taken out right. He said it is amazing the weight you can take out on a mule, and it went well. He encourages the SMAC to keep funding this

removal in the future. He has heard them talk about money. He said if you were to employ a grant writer and the most successful grant writers are the ones that are in it for the money. One thing they would like to see is a trailhead on the Fish Lake area. They pursued this with the state people, and then back to the BLM. He decided to wait it out. A lot of people just pull in and take off from there and something is needed like a trailhead up there. The Kiger grazed pretty good for years and years and it seems to come back o.k. Last year they didn't graze, and he thinks the fence they got in there is a deterrent to the elk. He took pictures and he can't say he was bothered by the grazing. He doesn't think hard science was used when they decided to go with the no graze zone. He could see if he could be king for a day, they could do some kind of fall grazing after the plants are dormant. You can't really hurt the plants during fall grazing. The trails are what they are pursuing. They have good ideas on where the trails are and just to make it more user friendly where they can ride into the Kiger, Little Blitzen, and possibly the Big Indian. They packed in the Sierra Club's gear last summer. He said the people they dealt with were good, honest, hard-working people. Some were a little naïve, but quick to learn and it was refreshing. It went well. He said talk is cheap. He acknowledges that and commends them. When they were riding back into Ankle Creek, they were on the Newton cabin road and there saw a four-wheeler. It was a landowner. He can see the mountain is beautiful and admires people for sitting in on all these meetings and keep going on.

The SMAC committee continued to discuss the trail issue with John and Jack.

AGENDA SETTING FOR MAY MEETING

Travel Plan - Cindy and Brenda's To Do's
Revisit the Wilderness Plan
Funding Projects – SMAC members will bring back their list of projects
Purposes of the Act
Commercial Services Needs Assessment
Feedback from constituents regarding the TMP provision language.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Amy Freitag.

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council approved the minutes as amended on May 12, 2006.

/s/
Stacy Davies, Chair

May 12, 2006
Date