

**John Day Snake Resource Advisory Council
Pendleton, OR
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2009- Business Meeting**

Business Meeting RAC Attendees: Art Waugh, Berta Youtie, Mike Hayward, Terry Drever-Gee, Dave Riley, Pat Dunham, Dan Forsea, Aaron Killgore, John Tanaka, Mark Webb (by telephone)

RAC members not present: Adriane Borgias, Bill Lang

Quorum: Yes

RAC Federal Official Attendees: Dave Henderson, Tina Welch, Steve Ellis, Kevin Martin, Doug Gochnour

Visitors: +

Designated Federal Official: Dave Henderson

RAC Chair: John Tanaka

Notetaker: Pam Robbins

Facilitator: Mark Wilkening

Meeting Called to Order/Introductions-John Tanaka, Chair

Travel voucher/Update Roster

Need to complete travel worksheet & return to Mark, or mail to:

Bureau of Land Management

c/o Sally Hall

100 Oregon Street

Vale, Oregon 97918

RAC Business Update-Dave Henderson

DFO Dave Henderson extended a welcome to everyone. We're glad that John Tanaka could graciously arrange his schedule to join us at this meeting. His service as a charter member has helped shape the successes of this RAC. Dave presented a plaque as a token of appreciation from the agencies and the RAC.

Election of Officers – Mark Wilkening

Berta Youtie was nominated for Chair by Terry Drever-Gee; nomination seconded by Kevin Martin
Discussion closed – Youtie was elected unanimously

Mike Hayward was nominated for Vice-Chair by Terry Drever-Gee; action was seconded by Berta Youtie.

Discussion on coverage requirements during scheduled absences of the Chair; then discussion closed – Hayward was elected unanimously

Wallowa-Whitman Travel Management Update – Steve Ellis

Steve distributed a handout updating their plan, and showed the early draft EIS which he is currently reviewing. Viewpoints in the written comments were balanced fairly evenly, though the public meetings had a more vocal segment of stakeholder opinion. Hunting enthusiasts were divided almost evenly between motorized access and closing off any OHV activity. There are six alternatives in the current proposed EIS, and a seventh could be added soon. The “No Change” alternative cannot be selected because it’s not in compliance with the USFS regulations. Wallowa County, Baker County, and Union County recommended alternatives which have been rolled into a single “County alternative,” though there are variations in the material each county submitted. The Forest Service-developed alternative does not close as many roads. A proposal developed in public meetings lets current roads stay in place but stops cross-country travel. An environmental community alternative takes out more roads than the current usage in the area. The Regional Forester is looking at another choice that may come tomorrow, based on an Office of General Council (OGC) recommendation. The OGC would like the alternatives to include some core issues that are being challenged in other plans, and those items may be able to roll into Alternative 6. Regional Office input is the final step before the EIS can be released for 45-day public comment period. The objective is to publish the draft document about May 1, and hold public meetings in mid-May after the public has had a chance to look it over and ask a few questions. Three meetings will likely be held: one in Wallowa, one in Union and one in Baker County. The Forest Supervisor has the option to extend the comment period, so it could go 60 days. Then they will assess the impacts, and the Decision Record could be issued at the start of 2010. The administrative appeal period will likely be followed by litigation in District Courts, and the team is focused on making the plan ready to withstand Federal Court review. The Wallowa-Whitman is an open forest, not following the national roads framework, so they must go through this process. If the RAC is willing to host meetings, the Forest would love it.

Q. Can RAC members get a preliminary version of the draft to prepare their comments ahead of the closing date?

A. Sure. The Forest wants the RAC’s help.

Q. Some of the counties are looking at forming teams to operate within cooperator status on plan formation. How does that fit in?

A. Counties have adopted their own natural resource plans, and Forests try to be consistent with those plans where possible. The Forests have authority for decisions on lands they manage, but whenever they’re inconsistent with the County plan, they are obligated to explain the justification for their decision.

Q. Does the plan include open areas where people can still get outside and play, using their OHVs?

A. There is a graveled area in Wallowa County that could be appropriate. The plan does not deal with the Sled Springs area, because there has been an appeal in that area. Under that appeal, the Forest has actively been meeting with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Hells Canyon Preservation Council (HCPC) in appeal-resolution meetings. The case is likely to go to appeal officer. HCPC has been consistently successful against the Forest Service when they have felt an issue is worth litigating. They are arguing that the Sled Springs decision violates road density standards and creates adverse impacts to elk; moving them to private lands.

Q. Does the Forest have a standard for determining what qualifies as a road, what's a trail, etc?

A. They are still trying to make clear delineations on that. The draft plan contains a lot of map data, but planners are working hard to develop maps that are readable by the average person.

Q. If there is no preferred alternative at this stage of the process, how can there be grounds for appeal?

A. Under NEPA, the decision officer could select a preferred alternative, but Steve has decided not to select one. The basic objection in the public meetings has been the mindset of "We don't want to see any more roads closed." The challenge of the document is to bring people to select a given alternative and then modify it to make it the best management practice.

Q. What is the major concern about elk displacement?

A. Motorized activities can prompt elk to move away from those areas. The elk are displaced, and then move to private lands, causing unintended consequences.

Discussion: The LaGrande PNW lab is doing studies on the elk habitat, and their research may be useful for Forests to use for modeling. The study looks at security areas and forage opportunities for the elk instead of focusing on road density issues. Research is being done jointly with ODFW. The national direction being implemented will affect cross-country travel West-wide.

Mike Hayward: This is an extremely controversial issue for people. Public meetings will generate intense interest and strong opinions.

******ACTION Steve Ellis will send Mark Wilkening an extract of the Journal of Forestry article about success rates of environmental organization litigation. Mark will forward it to RAC members.***

******ACTION Look into inviting Mike and Bruce from the PNW lab to brief the RA on the latest findings on elk management. It would be nice to have a preview and then hear how it worked in practice.***

RAC Survey – John Tanaka

Before allowing the study, the BLM Director required that all RACs be briefed on the outcomes of the Sociology Assessment. The University of Idaho conducted the survey by phone and personal interview, then recorded and compiled results. Those conducting or planning the study were excluded from responding, and the study members do not want to know who was contacted. There were three main groups of study subjects, with open-ended questions and qualitative data. Three sociologists analyzed the responses. The whole project included interviews with all BLM Social Science staff (26 people), a review of BLM planning documents at many levels, a survey of a random sample of BLM Managers and staff (excluding non-affected occupation areas), and a random sample of RAC members. The Director wanted to include County planning staff from around the country in the RAC survey, but it was determined that the lack of response from that aspect of the study made any results un-usable.

Ninety RAC member interviews were conducted, with the largest number of respondents being citizen-at-large, environmental, and energy/mineral. Their length of membership was documented, and occupation was noted as well as the stakeholder group they represent. The majority felt social science was an important topic. Respondents were asked if they had worked with the BLM on Social/Science issues. Groups confirmed the perception that BLM does consider the local impacts of their decisions. There is an even stronger sentiment that the agency considers local planning concerns.

Strengths: RACs are listening to the public; RAC role and openness of approach, with good local personnel

Weaknesses: Lack of funding and staff; Washington DC “red tape”, and lack of social and economic science

Overall, there is a general level of satisfaction with BLM’s resource decisions.

Understanding that more social science analysis will not solve the legal, political and environmental controversy that impedes resource management

Absence of social and economic evidence of benefits and impacts can exacerbate interest group pressures.

All RACs are having the discussion about BLM’s mission, which mirrors the internal questioning of whether social and economic analysis is genuinely or formally a part of the agency’s mission.

There were divergent opinions about tribal expectations and rights with respect to public land management and the BLM. Those RAC members who support social science dimensions found the impacts to be larger.

The “Advisory” capacity of RACs may limit their ability to overcome the listed factors. They have limited empowerment on higher-level decision-making, as local needs are balanced against national initiatives. The purpose and role of the RACs is paradoxically to be the agency’s interface point with communities and people.

Recommendations from the study are now being formulated. One of the most helpful factors they have found in preliminary analysis is to make sure that whoever does the socio-economic sensing is familiar with the community, its values, and the key players.

COMMENT: Doug reminds us that the impact of FS unit activities can vary widely if they affect urban or rural areas. The aspect of socio-economic impacts has become an element (though hard to define clearly) in all analysis of projects. The Wallowa-Whitman has invited counties as cooperators, and that has helped make sure that local perspectives are adequately reflected in the analysis.

Q. How do we get a copy of the final report?

A. A final copy will go to the Bureau’s Lead Sociologist when it’s completed.

Boardman-Hemingway Transmission Line Update – Dave Henderson

The socio-economic impact was surely felt on this issue. Two maps and a project overview & timeline were handed out to the RAC. Idaho Power is proposing this 300-mile project, primarily on private land, with only 32 miles of BLM and five miles of Forest Service. But because Federal lands are involved, a NEPA analysis is required.

BLM has completed their scoping effort, and about 300 members of the public have been involved so far. Westwide energy corridors are included within some of the alternatives. Several Counties and other agencies in Oregon and Idaho have asked to participate in the plan effort as cooperators or a similar role. Some modifications have been added to the plan alternatives, based on input received in the scoping process. BLM’s scoping meetings have included Oregon DOE, in order to create parallel processes between NEPA on Federal land and Oregon’s Energy Facility Siting Process for private land. Most of the private land issues concern land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use.

The question is being repeatedly asked about why so much of this project is being routed on private land if it is for public good. Only 13% of the project is located on Federal land. The nexus for NEPA is usually endangered species or cultural resource issues, but the socio-economic effects might be how it comes into play on this project. We're just at the beginning now, but people are getting prepared to develop alternatives. We don't have a cap on how many alternatives the public will be offered to consider.

The timeline to issue the Draft EIS for public review is mid-summer. Idaho Power has the capacity to condemn private property, but they have never had to use it before. They would like to begin building in 2011, so are diligent in efforts to get the analysis done and move forward.

This is a good preview for other projects of this type that agencies may see. Pressure is increasing to provide avenues to get green power to energy users. There is no way that projects of this scope could all be sited on public lands or all on private lands.

There will be opportunities for RAC involvement as this proposal moves forward. It could be very busy in early 2010.

Q. How did the BLM end up taking the lead on NEPA for this?

A. The Department of Energy has authority to issue permits for energy projects on private land only. Of the portion of Federal lands involved in this project, BLM had the largest land base. Since this is an interstate project, BLM is coordinating with a national program manager.

Q. With a project of this type, and applications for biomass and geothermal increasing, will we see even greater interest in alternative energy sources?

A. Possibly so.

Q. How close does this route mirror I-84?

A. Pretty close, but there are areas where it cannot follow the same route.

Q. If this line goes in, will it give the energy company rights to expand later if they need it?

A. Idaho Power says this is all they need, but the right-of-way areas being looked at are larger than the minimum. It is uncertain whether a new analysis would be required.

COMMENT: Berta tracked this project from the last meeting, and visited the related website. Some issues that came up have already been addressed in the proposals. Surveys will probably start very soon on the most accessible areas.

SUBGROUP UPDATES

****Noxious Weed Subgroup*** – They had scheduled a conference call after the last meeting, but the Wallowa-Whitman draft was not issued, so the call was cancelled. March 6 is the new date of issue for their draft plan, so a conference call will likely be needed within that 45-day period before the comment period closes.

****JD Basin RMP Subgroup*** – The subgroup did some committee work; drafted a letter, but it could not be sent as a RAC comment because the December meeting was cancelled. They made their comments individually. They asked the District if the subcommittee would have any further role, and await that decision. Tina will share that at Roundtable.

***OHV Subgroup** – Decided that the Heppner west-end OHV was the only active issue. The subgroup elected to submit individual comments to that plan. The topic of Class II vehicles was limited, to allow greater focus on other types of OHVs and areas. Subgroup is waiting now to see how the Wallowa-Whitman plan will want the RAC's interaction.

***BLM Travel Management Subgroup** – The travel team took the RAC's input into consideration as they determine how the BLM will institute the strategy. Currently they're in the process of deciding where and how best to start. The litigation on the SEO RMP has pointed out issues that the BLM wants to assess and address, so BLM is pausing on other transportation decisions until that's settled.

***Baker RMP Subgroup** – Subgroup has not met; they're waiting to see what assignment would be helpful. Scoping is completed. The District is getting ready to process input from the cooperating agencies. No Subgroup Chair has been selected so far.

***Blue Mountain Forest Subgroup** – Subgroup is waiting for regional Forest Plan decisions so they can see what is needed.

*****ACTION** *Weed group will decide at lunch whether they will do a call, and if so, set a date for it.*

Annual Work Plan for '09

There are at least eight active EIS processes in the works for this year, as well as travel management plans. Forest Plan decisions are coming. Many of them are on controversial topics. Energy issues will continue to emerge as a component of many projects. We want to get the balance right between what the agencies know they will need to request from the RAC, and the topics that are important to RAC members.

Q. Will the issues the RAC considers this year require a new energy subgroup?

A. The RAC sees a potential need. Dave Riley moved, and Berta Youtie seconded a motion to form a new subgroup. RAC discussed what topics might be included, and how extensive the RAC's role might be. Motion to form a subgroup carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION While Riley appreciates the briefings that the RAC receives, there has been a limited role in active work in the past several years. There is a lot of expertise at the table that agencies could draw on for recommendations. There may be bigger opportunities for the RAC to engage actively in sounding out the stakeholder concerns and funneling that input to agency managers.

The agency managers get great value through the RAC discussions; it allows them to see the areas where there is concern. The knowledgeable feedback from RAC members informs their decisions more fully. Much of the current agency activity is the planning mode – not actual implementation – and it can be frustrating for members to not get their hands into the process yet.

RAC members then did some brainstorming about potential new members to fill the vacancies on the RAC. Members were encouraged to share info about prospective members with DFO and support staff, and share info about the vacancies with qualified folks they know who might be willing to serve.

Review of Subgroup Membership and Balance

Chairs are denoted with (C); the Baker RMP has not yet designated a Chair.

Noxious Weeds: Terry Drever-Gee, Berta Youtie (C), Adriane Borgias

John Day Basin RMP: Adriane Borgias, Art Waugh, Dave Riley, Aaron Killgore, Berta Youtie (C), Mark Webb, Pat Dunham

OHV/Travel Management: Adriane Borgias, Art Waugh (C), Bill Lang, Aaron Killgore

Baker RMP: Adriane Borgias, Terry Drever-Gee, Dan Forsea, Art Waugh, Berta Youtie

Blue Mountain Forest Plan: Mike Hayward, Bill Lang, Dave Riley, Terry Drever-Gee (C), Mark Webb

Energy: Aaron Killgore, Berta Youtie, Adriane Borgias (C), Terry Drever-Gee, Mike Hayward, Dave Riley

Future Meeting Planning

May 27 field trip on Baker RMP; 28th business meeting

Sept 23 field trip to Enterprise; 24th business meeting

Dec 1 @ Pendleton

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Visitor had no comments.

Roundtable

Aaron Killgore – Next time we meet, there will likely be some new wilderness areas. Discussions have begun for a stewardship group for Spring Basin, as part of the Badlands area. A conservation group purchased the Murtha Ranch at Cottonwood, and Oregon State Parks is interested in possibly taking over part of the ranch. That 8,000 acres of public land might create some new opportunities in the area. They are currently working on discussing what adjacent landowners' concerns are around Sutton Mountain – trying to get ahead of contentious issues prior to any wilderness designation. Give them a voice in how the decisions are being made. There are productive ESA fish streams and other land amenities in the area.

Dave Riley - Pleased to have update on the School Fire rehab. Maybe the RAC could help Forests/BLM resolve appeals on plans.

Kevin Martin – Umatilla Forest comment period ended early February, and they received 196 comments. Roads & trails are already set up on most of the forest. Maps should be available by this summer, and the West end Heppner plan might be completed by end of summer covering the forest west of Hwy.#395

The Forest is working on a Final for Invasive Species Management, and it could be available by this summer. They are making changes based on feedback that the Wallowa-Whitman got back from their Regional Office review.

Finals on these documents will go to the subgroup chair. Blue Mountain Forest Plan is still scheduled for completion in 2011; it is a strategic vision for 5.3 million acres and three forests. The last draft has gone to RAC subgroup. The Forest is currently meeting with co-conveners and area tribes; getting ready to prepare “proposed action” for RO review. The NEPA process will start with a draft EIS in 2010. That comment period will surely go longer than the 45 day minimum. Meetings will be scheduled across the affected area to get good feedback. Forest hopes to go final at end of 2011.

******ACTION: Set tentative conference call between next two meetings to go over the Blue Mountain material.***

Fire/fuels camp at Heppner was a success. Six forests, BLM, and area colleges participated; the 2009 version is set for October.

Q: Is this only for Morrow County students?

A: The proposal is in cooperation with Morrow Schools, but they filled some slots last year from other schools.

Visited the School Fire rehab project to see how treatments compare. Monitoring is funded for another two years.

Distributed a recap of a study done on prescribed fire use.

Several positions needed on the Forest: at the North Fork John Day, Craig Dixon is retiring; the Fire Staff went to the Regional Office, leaving a vacancy. Their Operations Staff is retiring in June, and there are other vacancies too. Many retirements are causing internal movement which leaves other vacancies.

Steve Ellis – There is a handout on their weeds plan. He will send material to the subgroup. The Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman are in the process of combining their fire dispatch organization. There will also be a national study of the rappel crew function, placement, etc. A change in the fire procedures will be a system to classify ignition of fires: planned or unplanned. Suppression response might be keyed to that factor, and the Region could start implementation during this fire season. Steve will be getting more info at the Fire Directors meeting; WFSA will go by the wayside and a new framework could be used this year. Ellis will brief County Commissioners as soon as he has the basics. Initial Attack would not likely see big changes, but after a fire goes into extended attack, the process could change.

Q: What about fires in wilderness?

A: Each Forest Supervisor determines the approach to fires in their Wilderness, operating within prescribed limits. Questions arise when fires are near the boundary, and the Forest Supervisor weighs threats and benefits.

The Wallowa-Whitman (WW) sent their Recovery Act projects to the Regional Forester last week. WW has recommended road maintenance, facility maintenance, and biomass projects.

Tina Welch – The Economic Stimulus data call required things that are ready to go immediately. Prineville's road system and weed treatment have been the major focus of their submission. The John Day Basin RMP comment period ended January 29. Thank you to those who submitted comments; they received 1500, with about 900 being unique instead of form letters. Transportation, OHV, and wilderness characteristics make up the greatest share of comments. District is organizing them now to see if those comments introduce the need for new alternatives or changes to what is already there. The RAC did a great job on the grazing matrix and transportation. Expected final RMP is Spring, 2010. Much of that time is for the official review process. The Spring Basin wilderness proposal is part of the new wilderness law, including a WSA that will require a land exchange.

Q: What are the rules or policy decisions relating to areas adjacent to existing BLM lands that might have wilderness characteristics? How do we deal with off-Federal lands if a parcel doesn't reach 5,000 acres?

A: We are only looking at Federal lands. Four criteria would be used as tools on Federal lands to retain characteristics on the BLM lands. District also considered adjoining Federal agency lands.

Q: Does BLM have a sense of the comments received on the proposed action as far as OHV use; overgrown 2-tracks and other potential?

A: Most of the concerns seem to be philosophical rather than geographically specific. Many comments supported the philosophical value of recreationists traveling cross-country on whatever route they choose, rather than being confined to designated roads and trails. Also, there were comments made that there are little to no sites specifically for Class II vehicles.

Pat Dunham – There is a lot of interest in public recreation facilities, and the RAC has not had much dealing with those picnic areas, trails, heritage sites, and other facilities. The economic stimulus might mean that there is greater interest in this.

Berta Youtie – On April 1-2 in Ontario, OR, Berta will conduct a workshop on Great Basin Plant Selection; mostly for FS/BLM fire and procurement folks looking at successful native plant use for rehab and habitat development. A portion will include a field visit to look at seeding drills, planting techniques and other aspects. OHSU has a forb demonstration site for testing different methods, showing research results. Workshop has room for 150; 110 are signed up. Berta can provide registration information.

John Tanaka – Working with BLM and FS in his role with Society for Range Management; planned the national meeting in Reno last year, and will publish a synthesis of the workshops in SRM's magazine. Assessing what works and doesn't in the high desert ecosystems. Working to get more things on the ground for training that is readily accessible to range specialists. Attempting to get in-the-field training that can deliver hands-on skills to the field. Video short was just released at the SRM annual meeting in NM; titled "Hope on the Range." Their goal is to get a longer version released to PBS or other media outlets. A Sustainable Rangelands effort is coming through State of Oregon; can help to identify what needs to be monitored to make a good assessment. E-Extension is now operating; 18 universities developing a website for rangeland health, and there is another one being developed for forestry. Western Rangelands offers a way to search peer-reviewed literature; www.rangelandswest.org

Dave Henderson – Busy with the Baker RMP revision. Veg Treatment EIS is moving along well. Team is crafting the alternatives now, and draft could be out in late May/early June. If RAC can get a preliminary draft, it can be part of the May meeting agenda. Recommendations could be discussed at the conference call on the Wallowa-Whitman plan. Stimulus work was heavy into habitat rehab and weed control; road infrastructure, campgrounds, and NHOTIC

Doug Gochmour – The DR Johnson land in the John Day river headwaters is being broken apart and sold as private sections. The Forest has been working with partners on two large landscape projects: Jane, in Harney County and Damon, in Grant County are both nearing the proposed action and scoping stage of NEPA. Progress has been too fast for some and too slow for others in the collaborative group. Forest is being sued by a permittee based on wild horse use.

Mike Hayward – The local timber industry has been in free-fall for quite some time. In NE Oregon it's been exceedingly difficult. All phases of the industry are hit – the few mills still operating are rotating shifts, cutting hours. The wider economy has stopped orders, so by the time demand increases again, the plants could be gone. One factor is the conversion of private forest land into new subdivisions of 40-acre homesites. As stocks plummet, land looks like a good investment. Biomass has to provide a stable supply before investment will be there to support these efforts. A plant being considered for Wallowa County was \$10 million minimum, and they need assurance of supply and a demand in the marketplace before they want to fully commit.

Terri Drever-Gee – Hot issues in Baker County are the 500kv overhead line proposal. Fear that people’s property might be condemned and they won’t get good market value out of their land. Application period just closed for a county resource management advisory group (NRAC), especially focused on the road management topic. Many local people are just feeling overloaded with “government.” The current situation is like stepping on the broken pieces of stuff; gives us an opportunity to look at things in a new way because the basics are changed now. Need to build trust so that the benefits of all perspectives can help positive things emerge.

Q: How will they assure balance on NRAC?

A : Not sure, but they are aware that is an issue, and are going step-by-step to get it right. Striving to have something similar and as functional as the NRAC in Wallowa County.

Dan Forsea - Negative effects across the country in this economy require us to emphasize the positive where we can. As Baker County Livestock Committee member, he’s been donating beef to schools for lunch programs. That was a great help to the School District and local families, as the schools didn’t have to raise prices on their lunch program. Communities still looking for solutions. Baker County Chamber of Commerce gave Forsea Ranch an award as Ranch of the Year.

Art Waugh – Ron Price has moved to head up the State of Oregon ATV program. There could be some discussion about splitting Class II designation into more descriptive categories. Right now it’s just a catch-all, but if change is made, it might affect Federal route designations. BLM’s method of classifying routes gives broader classification than what the FS regs and policies do. Art has formed a new 4x4 club (Wolfpack) in NE corner of Oregon, (Sherman/Wasco east to Washington border). It might mean a possible boundary change with a La Grande club who may want to join them. Art speculated on the possibility of the Lower Snake River Dam removal becoming an issue again in the new administration; that raises sideline topics of sediment removal, tributary rehabilitation, streamside vegetation, fish policies, etc.

REVIEW ASSIGNMENTS

Mark Wilkening to contact Mark Webb for his votes on RAC officers and 2009 Program of Work. Also notify him of the scheduled meetings and calls.

Steve Ellis will send Mark Wilkening an extract of the Journal of Forestry article about success rates of environmental organization litigation. Mark will forward it to RAC members.

Kevin Martin will look into having Mike Wisdom and Bruce Johnson from the PNW lab brief the RAC on the latest findings on elk management. It would be nice to have a preview and then hear how it worked in practice.

Terry Drever-Gee will determine best tentative date for a conference call between next two RAC meetings to go over the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Proposed Action, and have Mark Wilkening reserve a conference call line.

Tina Welch to get an update for the RAC on the grazing matrix review issue.

All RAC Members will review the climate change letter that Adriane has drafted, so it can be finalized at next meeting.

Weed Subgroup will present their recommendations to the full RAC on the Wallowa-Whitman Weed EIS on April 14 at 7:00 p.m.; **Mark Wilkening** to schedule a conference line and notify members.

***Dave Henderson** will notify RAC members when BLM's draft climate policy can be shared with the public.*

***Steve Ellis** will provide preliminary copies of the Travel Management plan to Subgroup members as soon as it's available so they can develop discussion points prior to the next RAC meeting.*

***Dave Henderson** will provide the RAC a calendar of the appropriate timeframes for the RAC to provide feedback on the Baker RMP.*

Next Meeting

May 27 field trip on Baker RMP; 28th business meeting @Baker City, OR

September 23-24 in Enterprise, OR

December 1 in Pendleton, OR

Potential Agenda Items:

Comment on the Wallowa Whitman weed EIS

More comprehensive update of the Wallowa Whitman Travel plan

West End Umatilla Travel Management

Fire Policy change update

ADJOURNED BUSINESS MEETING at 2:50 pm

Approved as written:

RAC Chair

Designated Federal Officer