

**STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 31, 2008**  
**Burns, Oregon**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Hoyt Wilson, Grazing Permittee, Princeton, OR  
Daniel Haak, Mechanized Consumptive Recreation, Burns, OR  
William Renwick, Environmental Representative, Burns, OR  
Stacy Davies, Chair, Grazing Permittee, Frenchglen, OR  
David Bilyeu, Environmental Representative – Statewide, Bend, OR  
Fred Otley, Private Landowner, Diamond, OR

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Steve Purchase, State Liaison, Salem, OR  
Pam Hardy, Vice–Chair, Dispersed Recreation, Bend, OR  
Richard Angstrom, No Financial Interest, Salem, OR  
Michael Beagle, Fish & Recreational Fishing, Eagle Point, OR  
Brenda Sam, Burns Paiute Tribe, Burns, OR

**DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL (DFO):**

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

**DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL ASSISTANTS:**

Kevin Thissell, SMAC Coordinator, BLM, Hines, OR  
Connie Pettyjohn, Program Analyst, BLM, Hines, OR

**FACILITATOR:**

Dale White, Burns, OR

**PRESENTERS**

Karla Bird, Andrews Field Manager  
Rob Perrin, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM, Hines, OR  
Skip Renschler, Realty Specialist, BLM, Hines, OR  
Jeff Rose, Fire Ecologist, Science Strategy Lead, BLM, Hines, OR  
Lisa Grant, RMS, BLM, Hines, OR

**COMMENTING PUBLIC:**

Brent Fenty, ONDA,  
John O’Connor, BCH, Burns, OR

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Fred McDonald, NRS, BLM, Hines, OR  
Kelly Hazen, BLM, Hines, OR  
Autumn Richardson, BLM, Hines, OR  
Karen Moon, HC Watershed Council Coordinator, Burns, OR  
Rhonda Karges, BLM, Hines, OR  
Brent Fenty, ONDA  
Joe Glascock, BLM, Hines, OR  
Joan Suther, BLM, Hines, OR  
John O'Connor, BCH, Burns, OR  
Mike McGee, BLM, Hines, OR  
Brendan Cain, BLM, Hines, OR  
Dan Jordan, Private Land Owner, Burns, OR  
Phil Kessinger, Burns, OR  
Harold Oatman

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, HOUSEKEEPING AND AGENDA:**

The meeting was called to order and self introductions made. A quorum was not met.

The SMAC dinner is scheduled at the Meat Hook Restaurant Thursday @ 6:30 pm.  
New member Daniel Haak was welcomed to the SMAC group and provided a brief biography.

Frenchglen School has been reserved for the September meeting.

**CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

Stacy had no update at this time.

**DFO UPDATE**

- The nominations for the current vacant positions, Wild Horse Management and Dispersed Recreation, are currently in the Washington Office (WO) for approval. The Wild Horse Management position will be filled for the remainder of the existing term which expires October 2008. The Recreational Permit Holder position will be filled for the remainder of the existing term which expires October 2009.
- The four positions due to expire in October 2008; Local Environmental Rep, Grazing Permittee (Hoyt's), Dispersed Recreation, and Wild Horse Management, are at the WO awaiting advertisement in the Federal Register for public release.
- National LTH facilities are filled to capacity which will affect the Burns District WHB Program's ability to move horses. They currently have 30 horses on an internet adoption with additional corral adoptions and OR/WA satellite adoptions scheduled. Burns Corral is holding more horses than anticipated which is impacting the district budget.

- The North Steens EIS was appealed. IBLA did not grant a stay to this point, so current projects will go forward.
- Decisions for TMP are not definitive; an appeal from 5 parties has been made to IBLA. The TMP ties to the RMP lawsuit.
- Recently issued a decision for the Rock Creek Land Exchange which has been appealed by another landowner.

### **FIELD MANAGER REPORT**

- Karla Bird shared excitement about the new science strategy that will be presented today. She encouraged SMAC's suggestions and comments on the plan.
- Rob Perrin will talk about the Comprehensive Recreation Plan and would like SMAC to provide ideas on methods to obtain public input.
- Andrews Resource Area staffing updates:
  - Rick Hall has retired; Mark Sherbourne will retire this week.
  - Skip Renchler will take over many of Mark's land related topics. Holly Orr is the other land specialist.
  - Fred McDonald and staff will assist with Mark's recreation related duties and will retain supervision of Recreation and Wilderness.
  - Will be hiring a second supervisor for range, botany, and riparian staff. The new supervisor will be selected by the next SMAC meeting.
  - Looking forward to SMLG meeting which was rescheduled to Feb. 5, 2008.
  - Brent Fenty is the new director of ONDA.
- Year Ahead Report:
  - Reviewed a handout of BLM projects and activities planned for 2008 including; 1) On the ground projects, 2) NEPA planning documents, 3) Inventory and monitoring activities. Karla shared details on the planned projects and their locations.
- Smyth- Kiger AMP/EA Draft will be presented later in the meeting.
- No new wilderness recreation permits will be issued for hunting/guiding/camping until BLM staffing is available. BLM keeps a record of interested parties and currently has 16-20 who have responded to BLM inquiry. Seven permit holders were active initially but that number is now down to four.

The FM report generated several questions from the group which were addressed by BLM.

- Fred McDonald is working with OTAK engineers to get a plan and then will go forward with NEPA process for the Page Springs Weir.
- Fred McDonald agreed that some fences around Riddle Bros Ranch meadows could be removed to allow migration of animals.

### **GROVE CREEK ROAD ISSUE FOR SMAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Congress asked BLM to submit legal description of the Wilderness and CMPA boundaries as part of legislation. The cadastral survey crew needs direction on, the Grove Creek Road. During the April 2003 meeting SMAC had expressed their intention to keep the road, for the full extent of the route, open for campers as well as the private property access route by not passing a motion to exclude public use of this road. The BLM would like the SMAC to make a

recommendation to validate including the entire length of the Grove Creek route as an excluded cherry-stem route.

Karla's concern is that there is no way to close the route without constructing a fence barrier and maintaining it. SMAC concerns include: 1) the road may have migrated since it was initially diagrammed on the map, 2) Cold Spring Road was mentioned in legislation, but Grove Creek Road was not specifically mentioned.

Stacy suggested making a SMAC recommendation with the five members present. He would like to discuss the issue and go forward with a decision, then ratify at a later meeting with a full quorum.

**Motion made:** Hoyt moved that the GPS segment of the route shown on the aerial image map handout be included as a part of the Grove Creek Road route within the CMPA travel network. The motion was seconded by Bill Renwick.

***Unanimous Agreement (does not constitute a formal recommendation to BLM as there was not a quorum):*** Include the GPS segment of the route as shown on the aerial image map as part of the Grove Creek Road route within the CMPA travel network.

#### **UPDATE ON COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP)**

Rob Perrin provided a brief update on scoping status. The scoping letter that was distributed to SMAC was also mailed out to 374 individuals and groups in December. Rob has received 14 responses to date. Responses have been typical of expectations.

The BLM would like SMAC recommendation on how they should continue the scoping process. Current BLM efforts include:

- ✓ Meeting with groups and clubs. Recently attended a meeting with Back Country Horsemen (BCH) who are planning a working session in February in order to provide more input.
- ✓ Planning to meet with more groups and review maps this winter.
- ✓ The second phase will include field work.
- ✓ A generic recreation survey is to be completed that will provide good information about visitors on the mountain. Burns District will tailor the survey for several issues if they are allowed the flexibility. OMB must approve any new survey/questions, which currently restricts the district to using the generic survey.
- ✓ Speak with Dick Jenkins for input regarding comments he has received from visitors at his Round Barn Visitor Center.
- ✓ Hold an open house or scoping workshop in Bend in conjunction with the May SMAC meeting.
- ✓ Seek SMAC recommendations on how to connect with visitors for the input and how to get the word out about the CRMP scoping.

#### **SMAC Brainstorm Session for ways to get people involved with CRMP:**

- ✓ Seems to be difficult for BLM to obtain input from family users.
- ✓ BLM could provide interim reports with the scoping framework and interim updates along with the survey form. It may help everyone be more aware of the process and see the importance of their input.

- ✓ Develop timelines to provide the SMAC a "snapshot" or interim reporting schedule for progress during the lengthy process? The concern here is that the yearlong scoping process needs to be kept on track with a set of timelines in order for the SMAC to make timely informed recommendations.
- ✓ Work with ODFW to send information out to hunters who applied for hunt tags in that area in order to receive input from that group of users. Suggest sending survey to applicant list rather than successful list to include a wider audience. (Fred M. noted that BLM has obtained ODFW mailing lists before and can do it again).
- ✓ Survey needs to include users at areas other than Page and Fish Lake
- ✓ Staff a BLM booth at the Land/Air/Water conference to provide survey information and notify people of the opportunity to provide input.
- ✓ Suggested BLM attend a variety of other similar conferences for promotion purposes.
- ✓ Link to the Oregon Explorer and OSU developed website devoted to provide information related to watershed areas. It is an information repository for Oregon covering a wide range of topics and levels of information/data at [www.oregonexplorer.info](http://www.oregonexplorer.info)
- ✓ Place message pamphlets at points of entry, overlooks, kiosks, etc...(asking for interested parties to contact SMAC or BLM)
- ✓ BLM set up information tables at regional ATV events like the Deschutes County Fair.
- ✓ Host an evening hearing/scoping event prior to the Bend SMAC meeting. Have ONDA and Daniel Haak put articles in the Bend Bulletin prior to the meeting to generate interest. Controversy typically generates interest and attendance.
- ✓ SMAC members have the responsibility of getting their constituents involved.
- ✓ BLM and/or SMAC host localized meetings with specific residents/vendors within the local communities to obtain their input from their contact with visitors to the area. (Fields Store, Round Barn Visitor Center, The Narrows, Frenchglen Hotel, Hotel Diamond, etc).
- ✓ Be willing to travel to do outreach and provide informational talks to groups.
- ✓ SMAC could help analyze results of scoping and assist with formulating the actual plan based on the scoping documents received.
- ✓ Place bulletin in PNW 4-Wheel Drive Association monthly newspaper. Daniel Haak offered to provide a survey form at their upcoming Region 6 meeting.
- ✓ Use a letter format providing a series of potential issues along with the survey questions.
- ✓ Utilize other groups to conduct the surveys to allow more flexibility with survey questions.
- ✓ Volunteers could be made available onsite to visit with people.
- ✓ Could RMP lawsuit affect recreation use plan and cause a need for changes in any recommendations made prior to resolution of the lawsuit?
- ✓ David B offered to work with BLM to host a public meeting at college.
- ✓ Forecast and plan for potential new uses in the next 10 years.
- ✓ More motorized/mountain bike use anticipated, need to define a use policy.
  - Large range of bikers: high speed/tech challenging versus slow, easy ride opportunities/camping related, casual use.
  - Overall maintenance of the Loop road not conducive to bikes. May need to provide a separate mountain bike trail.
  - Casual use not as critical. Technical trails usually require 25 miles of single track trail. If trail opportunities are non-existent they may make their own trails.

- BLM has seen more mountain bike use. Have had a request for mountain bike races (a challenge type race of 25+ miles) but no permit applications have been received.
- ✓ Should CRMP address potential uses, to what extent and where?
- ✓ If we build it will they come? Does this conflict with wilderness characteristics values and uses? Should they build it in advance or wait until it is requested?
- ✓ Could go ahead and map out potential routes.
- ✓ Consider activities that are not desired for development, for example special trails that require additional maintenance and compliance monitoring.
- ✓ The winter recreation policy needs to be re-visited in terms of "how we manage".
- ✓ Increase management of developed and/or frequently used undeveloped sites?
  - Mann Lake fence is torn down, need to aggressively manage misuse.
  - Alvord Hot Springs use – access/management policy needed for campground.
  - N Steens access routes and need for developed camping at dispersed sites.
  - MOU properties: Jordan, etc.
  - Burnt Flat area.
  - Stonehouse – campground at foot of road.
  - Vehicle turn around spots at dead end roads for safety purposes.
  - What should be done for possible increases in Kayaking/boating and hang-gliding users?
- ✓ Public comment: Remember that a lot of people have commented previously in the scoping process about why Steens Mountain is important so need to include that input with the current scoping and input received.

The SMAC Chairman proposed an agenda modification to allow the group to complete the meeting in one day. The DFO will put out a public announcement to inform the public about the cancellation of the Friday segment of the meeting.

Proposed modification to the order of discussion topics:

- CRMP brainstorming – 10 minutes
- WJMA discussion
- Easement and Acquisition
- Public Comments
- Completion

WJMA Discussion:

Bill Renwick, Karen Moon and others are working with BLM on development of an interpretive plan. An OWEB grant was received for interpretive signing and brochures. A landscape architect has been at Page Springs to provide suggestions. The BLM has met with the Crane FFA chapter to help develop a brochure as part of the grant. A pullout has been funded. A presentation will be given at the next meeting.

## **EASEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS – What are SMAC’s interests?**

Skip Renschler:

### **Background/History of Steens Acquisitions**

1984 – Begin – Modern era – Rex Clemens Land Exchange

1986 – First LWCF appropriation and purchase – Rex Clemens through TPL

Major Components totaling 61,000 ac. since 1984 – 20 years

- Proud – competitive with any project area in the Bureau
- Steady progress with spikes of activity - Generally able to complete most proposals by willing sellers that are in the public interest

### **Exchanges 42,000 acres**

State Exchanges – 1984, 1988 – 18,000 ac.

Steens Legislated Exchanges – 2001/2002 – 18,000 ac.

Other Private Exchanges – Balance 4000 ac.

Fee Purchases-19,000 ac. – for \$3,083,586

Purchased w/ LWCF funds

Total appropriation 3.6 million

Third parties include TPL, TNC and ONDA

Easements and CMAs

- Access and road easements
- CMAs for fence installation and maintenance and recreation use.

### **Ongoing/Current Projects**

Generally focusing on wilderness inholdings

Two year interest letter

Rock Creek Land Exchange – 233 ac acquired / 1124 conveyed

Decision to proceed made in October - Protested and currently under appeal.

Clemens Land Exchange-240 ac. acquired / As much as 1240 ac Federal land

Feasibility awaiting action by proponent

Bordy Purchase – 20 ac. fee purchase \$320/ac. \$6400

Recently received clear title – quiet title suit - Should close this FY

### **Interaction with SMAC**

Typically brief SMAC on all projects

Exchanges – Feasibility, NOEP, Decision

Purchases – Generally when purchase agreement is made, generally near closing.

Projects are presented to SMAC as they come up and include public notification as well as county court and SMAC involvement. Wilderness in-holdings are top priority; however, other CMPA lands may be considered as an option at a lower priority. Skip noted that the “Hatfield Money” was part of the LWCF appropriations funding. Small purchases are possible with the LWCF emergency funds. The land sale program provides funds that must be competed for within the state. Large acquisitions would require LWCF appropriations process. Potential

easements have been identified in the RMP and can be purchased as opportunity arises. The BLM works with willing land owners if agreement can be reached on appraisal values. Appraisals are based on highest and best use and can be agriculture (livestock grazing) with recreational uses. There were no questions or comments on easements and acquisitions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Brent Fenty**, Executive Director, ONDA introduced himself to the group and noted that he is familiar with SMAC and many of the issues although he has spent the last four years in Alaska. He realizes there are always a lot of divisive issues and that ONDA's interests and approach isn't always popular in Harney County. He would like to work at finding common ground and believes there are opportunities to work toward constructive common ground on the Steens. He's looking into current wilderness issues. Regarding the Grove Creek Road, he agrees the corridor should reflect the actual road. Suggests having part of the road be a permit road and install a sign at the fork informing travelers that it is a permitted road to reduce turn around use at the end of the road. Need to provide a turn around at the road entry point.

Regarding the Recreation Plan: We should remember: a lot of people have commented previously during the scoping process about why Steens Mountain is important to them; so, we need to include and re-visit that input during the current scoping process under "input received." He is open to questions. He will be contacting SMAC members personally and wants to hear from them to catch up with what he has missed in the last four years regarding SMAC business.

**John O'Connor**, President, BCH noted that he has been working with Dan Jordan on a sign. The Klamath Falls chapter is building and funding it while the local chapter will put it in. The sign is to facilitate interim trailhead parking.

Dan Jordan had been concerned about 4 wheelers leaving a lot of trash behind; so, he chained off the roads. Allowed use will be for a primitive pack it in-pack it out trail. No off-road vehicles will be allowed. The trail route will include Whorehouse Meadow and Honeymoon Lake.

Regarding roads, he believes cherry stem roads are unnecessary. Regarding mountain bike trails, he suggests that bikes and horses on the same trail can be a problem and need to provide separate locations for them. Regarding Cold Springs tank/spring box, he is concerned that the spring box has been removed leaving no place to water horses.

### **RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Bilyeu suggested that mixed use should be consciously considered in the recreation plan.

Bill Renwick agrees with making the new GPS Grove Road stem into private property as permitted use only. Would like to see the BCH sign at the Jordan property meet the proposed parameters for Steens signing. John O'Connor clarified that the sign will be installed in June and will be a durable bullet proof sign approx 2x4 feet located at the 800 acre parcel at Whorehouse Meadows (not at the Pate Lake 40 acre parcel).

## **SMCMPA SCIENCE STRATEGY**

Jeff Rose, Burns District Science Coordinator, presented the draft Science Strategy for SMAC to review, discuss and respond to. SMCMPA required a science and monitoring strategy for the Steens. All NLCS units are required to have a science strategy.

It is a public information document and can be provided as a handout to potential researchers to help them focus on specific questions that BLM has and would like to see answered. The document also provides a monitoring strategy to check on progress toward meeting objectives. The strategy can help researchers set priorities and direction for their research projects and give them a plan and protocols for collecting their data. It will also provide them a place to store their data for review by BLM. Science should be able to answer questions related to what has been done and what is being planned that affects the Steens.

SMAC will need to provide suggestions for research needs that can be addressed. It's not a closed process and anyone can participate and provide ideas. It will remain an open document and can be updated as input is received from SMAC.

Public outreach is important for BLM and the Strategy. The BLM wants to share information with outside audiences as well as internal audiences. The SMAC should plan to provide an annual report and presentation that will be open to the public.

The Science Strategy provides opportunity for BLM to step outside of the agency and do additional things on the web. On February 13, Karla Bird, Jeff Rose, and David Bilyeu will be visiting with OSU to consider setting up a page on the Oregon Explorer website for the BLM/SMAC Science Strategy committee to serve as public outreach. All information on the site is searchable and all types of data and research can be put in the library.

Bill noted there has been a lot of discussion as to what science is. Table 2 in the Strategy addresses that question and should help everyone recognize and quantify the value of any research. The list could be grouped into broader categories if necessary.

Eventually there will be a permit process set up for groups/individuals conducting research on the Steens. If the BLM funds a scientific project they own the data and have access for tracking purposes; however, raw data will not be required from the research groups. A centralized categorizing system will eventually be used.

BLM would like to receive input from SMAC at the next meeting.

### **SMAC DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS regarding the Science Strategy:**

- Provide a recommendation on the entire strategy.
- Provide specific research topics/ideas of interest.
- Look at it in context of the NLCS Science Strategy.
- Timeline concerns – recommendations due early November.

- Add the statement: “We support research on wildlife and watershed health” and let BLM finish. Then attach specific documentation.
- Strategy and scientific activities may need to include social and recreation aspects.
- Social/economic aspects should be addressed.
- Cultural aspects should be addressed.
- Currently no scientific research available on social/economic aspects.
- There is a need for better science related to social and recreation management.
- Primary focus is currently on juniper management.
- Perception that juniper management is just a way to increase livestock grazing, so need to emphasize it as an ecosystem and watershed management action.
- Consider broader perspective of social/economic issues to make juniper management more acceptable to a broader group of people.
- Consider and include the socio-economic effects of all decisions/recommendations.
- What are the economic parameters for juniper uses? If there were real value to using juniper, wouldn't someone be doing it already?
- Require annual meeting with researchers to share information and have BLM build the requirement into the permit process.
  
- BLM specialists should also be encouraged to participate.

Stacy suggested the committee could make broad open statements that allow flexibility in order to meet the deadline and then take the time later to develop specifics to make it a good workable document.

Jeff encouraged the group not to worry about the document deadline. It is more important to create a good science document. Sky Root, a college student, is doing his senior thesis on natural resource economics and may be able to provide additional input for SMAC.

Joan Suther, BLM Field Manager, agreed that an annual meeting and reporting would emphasize accountability. She suggested that cultural needs be included on the list as a research topic of interest in the science strategy document. Jeff avowed he would continually fill in any gaps to the strategy as he receives input from the SMAC.

### **SMAC RECOMMENDATION:**

SMAC recommends BLM continue with the science strategy effort and modify the document to include a paragraph listing items that are the scientific focus of today as well as recognize a need for more research on the social and economic impacts of the decisions and recognizing that the focus may change over time.

**Motion made:** Stacy Davies moved that the SMAC support the science strategy effort and to include a paragraph listing items that are the scientific focus of today as well as recognize a need for more research on the social and economic impacts of the decisions,

and recognizing that the focus may change over time. The motion was seconded by David Bilyeu.

***Unanimous Agreement (does not constitute a formal recommendation to BLM as there was not a quorum):*** The SMAC supports the science strategy effort and to include a paragraph listing items that are the scientific focus of today as well as recognize a need for more research on the social and economic impacts of the decisions, and recognizing that the focus may change over time.

Brainstorm session for Research ideas:

- Prevention of invasive weed expansion.
- Soil conditions that are conducive to invasive species establishment.
- Recreational use patterns on the Steens (historic and current).
- Vegetation cover impacts on snow movement, snow drift pattern and soil moisture retention for plant use in summer as well as the overall hydrological function.
- Ecological differences/effects of cattle free zones versus cattle grazing zones at the Watershed Analysis level.
- Existence of livestock free area lends itself to long term research on watershed analysis.
- Effects on botanical diversity from grazing, fire, Western Juniper removal/eradication
- Wildlife use patterns related to grazing/no grazing, juniper control/no juniper control, burned/non-burned areas
- Causes of Sagebrush (patchiness) and its effect on wildlife (not sagebrush mosaic).
- Seasonal burning and its impacts on forbs and desirable forage production.
- Effect of prescribed fire on livestock and horse grazing and wildlife use.
- Appropriate fire frequency and impacts of various frequencies on vegetation.
- Impacts/effects of burning under different fire intervals.
- Include input from constituents and other interest groups. There may already be existing research on some of the suggested research ideas.
- Climate change and its impact on management actions.
- Traffic and road effects on wildlife use pattern.
- Impacts to wildlife related to density of water developments. Is a single water feature more or less destructive the many smaller ones?
- Relation of the density of cover and existence of a monoculture to adverse impacts on Redband trout.

Jeff Rose pointed out to the group that there are instances where it may be beneficial to replicate research study due to variations in precipitation in order to test different conditions. It's a way to validate the research findings. With range science it is difficult to control variables like climate change.

Note: Compile list and send out to SMAC members so they can prepare for the next meeting.

The SMAC research topics list will be added to the science strategy.

## SMYTH KIGER AMP/EA DRAFT

A presentation was given by Lisa Grant who asked for SMAC recommendations prior to sending the draft out for public review. She provided a power point presentation titled: 2004 Allotment Evaluation – Standard for Rangeland Health Analysis.

### SMAC COMMENTS

Daniel Haak - Why extend the livestock grazing season when area is winter grazing area for deer and elk?

Joan Suther response: Cattle would rotate between private and public land. Total AUM's are not increased, just allows flexibility with grazing rotations.

Fred Otley – Would like to see more water developments within the Allotment as well as a change in the rest rotation schedule.

Joan Suther response: Since 2001 a different permittee has been on the allotment. The previous allotment management plan was not being followed as closely as it is now. Burns have affected the allotment and management. The Juniper cutting will not affect the allotment.

Stacy Davies- Allotment evaluation has taken 4 years and the plan period took 4 years. The evaluation began in 2000. In general, planning lags management and evaluation. Horse use is year round while cattle graze for a short period. Horse use impacts riparian areas year round.

Bill Renwick– Was the option considered to create riparian pastures along the full length of the creek?

Lisa Grant response: Another alternative was considered; to fence the entire side of the creek and create one riparian pasture, but, it was not pursued.

Bill Renwick - Why turn out April 1 before growth period?

Stacy Davies response: he is going to the creek pastures early to allow rest during main growing season.

Bill Renwick - Can SMAC make a recommendation outside of the proposed alternatives? He likes Alternative C, but would like to see a combination. (C has more improvements than B)

Hoyt Wilson – Is there any control over pasture use by horses?

Joan Suther response: When a gather is conducted the BLM can return horses to specific areas, but horses usually return to their home range. Recently the BLM has been returning them to Wood Camp and Swamp Creek pastures and not Yank Springs pasture. The Five Creeks plan provides that horses be returned to areas outside of burned areas. On page 5 Lisa can modify it to include the option to use other pastures.

Joan Suther – If SMAC recommends additional range improvements (Alternative C) The BLM will need to prioritize the improvements. BLM funding will not afford all improvements being completed right away, and improvements in other areas may be higher BLM priority.

Bill Renwick - Concerned about a need for additional water gaps and possible affects. He would like to see the number reduced. Water developments would reduce the need for water gaps which he'd like to see.

Fred Otley – Suggested maintaining access trails.

Dana Shuford informed the group that the BLM could amend Alternative C to exclude the additional (third) water gap.

**SMAC RECOMMENDATION (Unofficial):**

SMAC recommends BLM adopt Alternative C amended to include gap style fencing with two water gaps versus three.

**Motion made:** Hoyt moved that SMAC recommend that the BLM should adopt Alternative C; amended to include gap style fencing with two water gaps. The motion was seconded by Dan Haak.

***Unanimous Agreement (does not constitute a formal recommendation to BLM as there was not a quorum):*** SMAC recommends that BLM adopt Smyth Kiger Allotment Management Plan Alternative C amended to include gap style fencing with two water gaps.

**MARCH MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

- Review recreation use brainstorming ideas
- Ratify Grove Creek Road recommendation
- Ratify Science Strategy recommendation
- Ratify Smyth-Kiger draft AMP/EA
- Mountain bike policy recommendations (designate trails or not, single use or multiple w/horses)
- South 1/2 map discussion

Friday meeting cancelled as all topics were covered today.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Members need to contact their constituent groups and solicit their involvement with the recreation plan.
- Reservations should be made for the May meeting in Bend by April 1.

Next meeting date: March 13–14, 2008 at Burns District BLM office.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. Dinner at the Meat Hook Restaurant changed to 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by Connie Pettyjohn

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council approved the minutes as amended on \_\_\_\_\_

SMAC Chair \_\_\_\_\_