

*FINAL
John Day Snake
Resource Advisory Council
Pendleton, OR
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2007- Business Meeting*

Business Meeting RAC Attendees: Frank Bird, Art Waugh, Adriane Borgias, Berta Youtie, Mike Hayward, Phil Shephard, Terry Drever-Gee, Robert Parker, Dave Riley, J. David Moryc, Dan Forsea, Shirley Muse

RAC members not present: Bill Lang, John Tanaka.

Quorum: Yes

RAC Federal Official Attendees: Dave Henderson, Jeff Walter, Kevin Martin, Steve Ellis, Mike Montgomery for Stan Benes

Federal officials not present or represented:

Presenters: Chris Knauf, Spencer Hovecamp

Visitors: Larry Bartee,

Designated Federal Official: Dave Henderson

RAC Chair: Berta Youtie (vice-chair)

Notetaker: Pam Robbins

Facilitator: Virginia Gibbons

Meeting Called to Order/Introductions-Berta Youtie, Chairman

Travel voucher/Action Item Recap/November minutes /Agenda overview-Virginia Gibbons

Need to sign travel authorizations & vouchers & return to Virginia or mail to:

Roger Bost (541) 416-6787

c/o Prineville District BLM

3050 NE 3rd Street

Prineville, OR 97754

RAC Business Update-Dave Henderson

DFO status-New DM @ Prineville is Debbie Henderson-Norton, who is transitioning into the office. There are two more meetings before the usual RAC transition to next DFO. Dave will revisit with Debbie and with Forest Supervisors about who will be the next DFO.

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

*Virginia will send current roster and action item summary to RAC members.
Steve Ellis will check into recruiting a tribal member.*

*Pam Robbins will e-mail Steve application material and information regarding the vacancy,
through Tanis Hester.*

Proposed Boundary Change-Dave Henderson

Proposed shift of boundary to accommodate the Eastern Washington RMP. Will require a change to the Standard Operating Procedure. Discussion of shifting jurisdiction to political boundary instead of watershed units. John Day-Snake would retain the Grand Ronde River basin, but the Snake River drainage would be divided.

JDS comments and EWA comments would be sent to the State Director to forward recommendation to the Secretary. But JDS has not had activity in that portion of their jurisdiction. Concern about making an administrative decision that separates the natural ecosystems to match District boundary. However, this RAC has no representative to forward advice to on the lands in question, because their District Manager has not historically involved in the JDS.

Changing the boundary would put more of the Snake drainage under a single jurisdiction. Question whether the RAC feels strongly enough that they want to invest time to submit recommendation language.

DECISION: The RAC approved the administrative boundary as proposed by the Eastern Washington RAC; the boundary shift will match the Eastern Washington RMP boundary excluding the Umatilla National Forest and Vale District lands within Washington State.

We encourage a better liaison process to coordinate between the two RACs for good management of weeds, FERC issues, salmon recovery, and other potential issues where interests overlap.

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

Meeting minutes from the JDS meeting will be forwarded to the Eastern Washington DFO with a cover letter focusing on the issues most important to RAC members. Request copies of their minutes as well.

Adrienne may attend future Eastern Washington meetings as a liaison

Recreation RAC Update-Steve Ellis

New RRAC members appointed; 11 members from 77 applicants. There are only five RRACs nationwide. Two year terms with primary mission to recommend recreation fee implementation and changes. First meeting is next week. Hells Canyon will be considered, so that the fees can help to offset cost for seasonals that maintain facilities. Steve was unable to get a copy of their charter, but it is very similar to JDS charter.

Frank Bird is one of the new members, and shared that their agenda will include Roseburg and Mt. St. Helens fees at first meeting.

JD Basin RMP Update-Virginia Gibbons

Team recently had second round of public meetings for the John Day Basin. Looking for the thought processes that formed community attitudes about specific areas and places. Got more than 180 calls in addition to the public meeting comments. In early June the team will provide a draft of alternatives.

In early fall, they will ask the RAC for formal recommendations on draft alternatives and effects. Adjusted timing slightly so that public gets the draft in early Spring 2008. RAC members are receiving materials that were shared at the public meetings.

Team will want RAC comments at the June meeting.

Subgroup met in January at Prineville to be briefed on the material, and discussed situation analysis with the team. Salem meeting had many people going through, but Bend meeting was not well-attended. Fossil meeting had many people and John Day meeting was also very productive. The team worked hard to get people involved interactively and draw ideas and attitudes from the public.

Area at Little Canyon Mountain is a focal point for resolving resource conflicts. Trying to find short-term avenues to mitigate friction between OHV users and local residents.

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

Subgroups to meet after they get the rough draft, to review the materials. They should be prepared to deliver summary and recommendation to the full RAC at the next meeting, so the team can receive RAC input at the June meeting.

Travel Management Strategy Update-Chris Knauf

Efforts to have comprehensive strategy for statewide travel issues. History includes guidance through several methods, covering varied vehicles. SD direction to meet public pressures and Focus for ID teams: comprehensive travel management, open areas, road & trail inventory, rule sets, partnerships, and interpretation. ID team includes RAC members from John Day-Snake and Southeast Oregon RACs, and BLM employees.

Team needs input from the RAC about the issues specific to their interest area, issues about specific sites that need to be taken into consideration, and travel-centered questions or concerns.

Questions for RAC to look at include:

OHV Designations - Land uses

Road & Trail Inventory - Resource consideration

Weed transport - road & trail retention

Compliance - partnerships

What is missing from the current version of the strategy?

Inventory Terminology (Labeling)

Roads = Can be driven by a passenger/low clearance vehicle

Primitive Roads = Can be driven by a 4WD/high clearance vehicle

Trail = <54" in width

Terry D-G recommends one-on-one interaction with county Roadmasters for each affected county. This would inform our process and facilitate better interaction / acceptance with them. BLM is coordinating with Forest Service, but they are further along in the travel management process, in terms of designating routes. Want to front-load integration with Forest Service areas where travel routes meet (1170 miles), so that rules for the public are consistent or signage notifies them of differences. At conclusion of full process, the results would include specific designations, maps, and signage.

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

RAC Members will forward individual comments on the strategy to Chris Knauf as soon as possible.

RAC Members to review the strategy, and return their questionnaire responses to Adrienne by May 22, 2007, so those replies can be integrated into the process. Focus on your area (interest area, subgroup concentration, and geographic area) with examples or added information that would help clarify the topic or situation.

Chris Knauf will send electronic version to Adrienne to forward to all RAC members. Adrienne will compile replies from all JDS members and send to Chris.

Chris Knauf will organize and consolidate comments from both RACs into a database, and develop a poster or other visual representation of the input. Full RAC will receive that information for consideration three-weeks ahead of next meeting (June 5 for JDS). RACs would make recommendations at the next meeting.

Salmon Recovery Update-Spencer Hovecamp

Snake Basin including Grand Ronde and Imnaha. State is making extra effort to get mid-C complete. Review starts with limiting factors. That text is well-developed, but requires review & redrafting. Compiled from full range of data already on the shelf, and has been synthesized. Limiting factors include range of threats, historic and present. Recovery actions to ameliorate the threats.

Research Monitoring, Evaluation (RME) module. No draft in place yet; looks functional, but it's just framework, not a lot of substance.

Outline coming from headquarters, but many of the actions are about getting more information – critical uncertainties remain. Screen out the ones that don't fit into RME. Expecting expert panel report soon, then integrate with more stuff.

State agency staff very objective and in some cases critical, which will help the recovery plan.

There are no regulations for recovery plans-only legislation: includes site-specific management actions, objective measurable criteria for success as basis for de-listing, estimates of the time and cost of recovering species to this criteria.

Group will be meeting April 10

*Remaining tasks: complete RME framework, complete strategy and criteria, hold public meeting events, address public review comments,
Draft products can be reviewed by RAC members at ftp://ftp.afsc.noaa.gov
It is not ready for public comment before draft is completed.
Public piece is targeted to this autumn, with hopes of completing comment period by end of 2007.*

Q: How can the RAC pull out key areas where it would be useful for their input?

A: Materials should be user-friendly, and they hope to gain by input from RAC and others to help improve the recovery actions. Suites of recovery actions will be prioritized with cost/benefit data to focus on the highest gain areas first.

Recovery plans will guide agencies as they prioritize work plans. Any feedback on the Mid-Columbia River Plan is needed by Kevin Martin before May 11, 2007. Snake Basin feedback should be directed to Mike Hayward by June 10, 2007.

Expect a draft plan to be out by July 1 for mid-C area.

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

DFOs will be prepared by the June meeting to discuss the potential for a RAC role in the recovery plan, as it affects Federal lands within their jurisdiction.

Virginia to get the state web address from Spencer to forward to RAC members.

Virginia to send contact info for Spencer to David Moryc.

Public Comment Period

No public present

Africa/Protecting Water Sources for Villages-Berta Youtie

Slide presentation illustrating Tanzanian water project

Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision-Kevin Martin/Steve Ellis

We are in early rough draft stages right now. Second draft will have big changes, and go to the Regional Office in early July for comments and revision. Third draft for final internal review at Washington Office will be in Fall 2007. When that is returned, the draft will be published for general public comment. Likely end of 2007 or early 2008. Sticking with the current timeframe until decision is made about whether the 2005 planning ruling affects this plan. Forests will proceed with what they CAN do.

All important, but focus especially on desired condition statements, emphasis areas, and "management categories." There are several areas still to be developed, and pre-draft shows those.

Q: Have the States been given copies of the pre-draft?

A: They've been included all along, but not sure if they have a copy yet.

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

If RAC members have comments to submit on the pre-draft they have in hand, Dave Schmidt would like them by April 7, so it can be presented to the Regional Office and co-conveners. This would be individual action at this point.

RAC sub-group will develop feedback on each stage of the draft as it's completed, and present to full RAC. Sub-group will e-mail initial comments from pre-draft to Terry Drever-Gee to compile before the draft comes out.

Sub-group conference call to review hard copy draft on June 5 @ 7:00 pm, to be completed before conference call. Terry will send draft comments to full RAC for review on June 5. Full RAC conference call scheduled for June 7 @ 7:00 pm to make recommendation on comments.

Pam Robbins to reserve conference line for RAC conference calls.

Kevin to send copies of first draft on May 28 to the sub-group members: Mike Hayward, Shirley Muse, David Moryc, Terry Drever-Gee.

Virginia will send Blue Mountain Subcommittee members an e-mail with conference call number and times, and members can use it as reference for group e-mails.

Umatilla Noxious Weeds EIS-Bob Rock

Discussion of published EIS.

Three forests involved with this document: Malheur, Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman. Malheur expects to have their final out by December 31. Plan is integrated for early detection (EDRR), prevention, treatment, aerial application, and restoration. Interagency, intergovernmental, and public included to get comprehensive approach to effective treatment. Intent is to allow all three forests to respond timely to contain and treat infestations. Treatment options include bio-control, chemical, physical, and mechanical. Priority system is set up so that treatment efforts will be concentrated on areas where there is the greatest probability of success (ie. delays won't undermine effectiveness). Coordinate across boundaries so adjoining sites are treated in concert with each other to

There are four alternatives:

No action – continue treatments that are currently NEPA compliant

Proposed action –

No broadcast spray in riparian areas -

No aerial spraying –

Maps on the Umatilla website include option for site-specific posting of comments. Matrix shows characteristics of specific sites to determine appropriate treatment methods.

<www.fs.fed.us/r6/umatilla/projects/readroom/invasives>

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

RAC members with strong feelings on the internal draft will submit individual comments to Bob Rock by May 1, 2007 (rrock@fs.fed.us), with a copy to Berta Youtie for subgroup record.

Vegetation EIS Subgroup will prepare recommendations when public draft is ready at end of May. They will discuss in a conference call June 18 @ 7pm and have recommendations ready to present at the June meeting. Subgroup includes Terry Drever-Gee, Shirley Muse, Phil Shepard

Virginia will add this as an Agenda item for the June meeting.

Roundtable

Frank Bird – Nothing

Mike Montgomery – Brief handout on the Malheur. Ranger vacancies at Prairie City and Emigrant Creek. Travel management plan process starting soon, launched from existing travel plans.

Jeff Walter - Ochoco update: Working on weed EIS joint with Deschutes with three alternatives. Currently in comment period. Travel management has conducted six public meetings and working groups are trying to prioritize uses and sites. Developing rec facilities master plan; at mid-stage on that. Wildland Fire Use plan to encompass all of Ochoco and some BLM land – hope it's in place for 2008 season, to use as a tool when appropriate. Getting added funding for Law Enforcement, and will likely put new person duty stationed at Bend to cover western zone. More money coming this year for NW Forest Plan as part of settlement agreement with AFRC, to try to implement harvest levels directed by the Plan. Target to increase harvest levels wherever possible.

Dave Riley - Nothing

Steve Ellis - Sled Springs OHV plan decision will be made this month. Changes on wildland fire policy will be implemented this fire season – appropriate management response will be another option to reduce costs. Expect to run out of money again, and have to tap other programs, so AMR may provide an avenue to scale back project fires. Initial attack will not be reduced by using AMR strategy in logical places. BLM planning a weed tour this July in Hells Canyon for agency Leadership Teams and state resource managers.

Adrienne Borgias – Nothing official, but daughter's feet are on a Nike ad in "Runners World."

Dan Forsea – Nothing

Mike Hayward – Forest Safety net may have a chance of coming out of committee. Presidential veto possible, but sponsors will continue to attach this as a rider to all possible legislation until it gets passed. It includes fully funding PILT as well. Had 75 votes in the Senate.

Kevin Martin – Charlie Johnson passed away from leukemia on March 25. Memorial service on April 16 in Baker City at 2:00 pm. Umatilla travel plan handout distributed. Halfway through Recreation site facilities review. Adding a Law Enforcement person, sited at Walla Walla. Mary Gibson is retiring from the Walla Walla RD at end of the month. Lots of interest in the vacancy.

Berta Youtie – Prineville District funded pamphlet guiding native plant seeding.

Dave Henderson – Vale waiting to hear where BLM is on the national Vegetation EIS. Oregon is working on an interim strategy, tiering off national. We'll complete NEPA process to present to courts to get some relief, and be ready for completion of the national plan. Healthy Lands Initiative intended to mitigate impacts related to energy development. Had some funding in '07 budget, and larger portion for FY08. Oregon/Idaho/Nevada area focuses on shrub steppe areas to restore sage grouse habitat. Began with an energy effort, but is expanding to other economic benefit.

Phil Shephard – TNC hired Heather Swartz, a Range Conservationist to help out. Starts in a month or two.

Terri Drever-Gee – Lobbying in DC for the Secure Rural Schools legislation. Had 28 visits in three days to carry forward the message about impacts. Framed the reality that it's a partnership, not a subsidy. Showcased the array of services and people that would be lost to rural communities: emergency services, education, other essentials. Demonstrated that it is an emergency situation for the counties affected. Long term reauthorization focused on the projects and benefits of community collaboration. Metallurgist speaking at Baker City next weekend at the high school. If interested, contact Chuck Chase (541) 523-3285.

Bob Parker – Nothing

Art Waugh – Working to get biomass treated in same way as other renewable energy sources.

Shirley Muse – Focusing on local issues (while thinking globally). Engaged in "The Grandmothers' Roundtable" to bring expert presenters on key issues. Hopes to remain involved in local forest issues.

David Moryc – Met with Jason Robertson, head of BLM's national WSR, and talked about resource constraints around WSR in Oregon. He got a good tour of Prineville features, and hopes to return for a river trip on the John Day.

Upcoming meeting dates and field trip considerations – June 25-27 in Walla Walla; Best Western Walla Walla Suites Motel will hold block of rooms until May 26. Field trip will be on the first day to view seeding, monitoring, etc. Lots to see, so Forest needs feedback about how long they're willing to be in the field. Plan for 10 am to 4 pm to visit all sites.

September 11-12 meeting is planned for Baker City, with a field trip on the first day to view sage grouse habitat. National Guard Armory has affordable meeting space, and Geyser Grand may have space available.

December 4 meeting in Pendleton.

*****ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)**

Shirley will find out about local caterers who could prepare sack lunches for the field trip.

ADJOURNED BUSINESS MEETING at 3:45 pm

/s/ Berta Youtie
Vice Chair

/s/ Dave Henderson
Acting Designated Federal Official

