

**Coeur d'Alene Resource Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2008**

**BLM Coeur d'Alene Office  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

**RAC Members in Attendance:**

Category 1: Doug Boggan  
David Brummer  
Alan Harper  
John Barker

Category 2: William Barteaux  
Tom Crimmins  
Linda Bonser-Rider  
Kimberly Brown  
Jerry Shriner

Category 3: Susie Borowicz  
Randy Doman  
Jim Kingery  
Aaron Miles  
Howard Van Tassel Jr.

**BLM Staff in Attendance:**

Gary Cooper – District Manager  
Lisa Wagner – RAC Coordinator  
Stephanie Connolly – Cottonwood Field Manager  
Dean Huibregtse – Rangeland Mgmt Specialist

**FS Staff in Attendance:**

Joni Packard (Northern Region)

**Public Attendees:**

None

The meeting began at 8:15 a.m.

District Manager Gary Cooper welcomed everyone. He thanked David Brummer and Alan Harper for the tours of their company's saw mills and Linda Rider for having everyone out to her place for dinner.

Gary distributed a handout of Coeur d'Alene and Cottonwood Field Office projects (Handout #3). He gave a brief update on projects in both field offices.

Gary then turned the meeting over to Chairman Jerry Shriner.

### **Meeting Minutes Acceptance**

Chairman Shriner asked for acceptance of December 4, 2007, meeting minutes.

Jim Kingery motioned to accept minutes  
Motion Seconded – Kim Brown  
All in favor – Minutes accepted

### **Sandal Gulch Boat Launch (John Barker)**

John Barker made a presentation on the status of Sandal Gulch Boat Launch. He began by distributing a map of where the boat launch is located and a design of a boat ramp design by the Idaho Dept of Fish and Game (Handout #4). The boat launch needs to be repaired/upgraded to relieve congestion at the Heller Bar Boat Launch which is eight miles upstream. Asotin County and BLM Spokane District own the property. Funding is available from different sources and a preliminary design has been drafted by the Idaho Dept of Fish and Game, but the county or Spokane BLM has not joined in the effort which is necessary for this project to move forward. Stephanie Connolly, Cottonwood FO, noted that her office has always been open to help maintain the site one day a week while her staff is in route to Heller Bar Recreation Site. Heller Bar is managed via agreement among BLM Baker City, BLM Coeur d'Alene, Washington State Fish and Game, and Hells Canyon NRA. John asked the RAC to consider writing a letter to encourage the BLM Spokane District to take action.

#### **Decision:**

John Barker will write a letter to the BLM Spokane District as well as their RAC with a copy to Gary and the Coeur d'Alene District RAC. Jerry will sign the letter as Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene District RAC. The purpose of the letter will be to start dialog with the BLM Spokane District to get them involved with this potential project. Lisa will keep a file on the Sandal Gulch project for future reference by the council.

Jerry Shriner motioned to send letter as stated above.

Motion Seconded - Howard Van Tassel Jr

All in Favor – Letter will be sent on behalf of the Coeur d'Alene District RAC

Bill Barteaux motioned to adjourn meeting.

Motion Seconded – David Brummer

All in favor – Full RAC adjourned

**FULL RAC MEETING ADJOURNED – RECREATION RAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
OPEN**

**Forest Service Fee Proposal Update (Joni Packard)**

Joni reported to the RAC that the Idaho Panhandle and Clearwater Forests are still in the process of getting public comments regarding their fee proposals. They should be ready to present their proposals at the next RAC meeting. Joni proposed a field trip to one of the Forest Service (FS) cabins in September. The council agreed, so Joni and Lisa will schedule the next RAC meeting for early September to be held at a cabin on the Nez or Clearwater Forest.

Kim Brown requested the group receive recreation fee proposals before meetings, so the council has time to review and come prepared to make a recommendation. Joni agreed to have fee proposals to RAC two weeks prior to meetings.

As a result of recreation fee proposals and the use of cabins there was much discussion of Outfitter rental rights. Joni will get clarification out to the RAC following the meeting.

The FS will be meeting with Congressional's regarding the proposed repeal of the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). The public feels the FS is continually raising fees. Fees have not been raised on most sites for 10-15 years. Due to the REA process the RAC is reviewing and recommending fee increases on different sites separately instead of grouped together. This is giving the perception that increases are occurring at the same sites. The FS will be developing a process over the summer to help lessen the perception of continual increases and streamline the process. Joni expects to present the proposal at the September meeting for the RAC to consider.

The FS is looking at providing an Extended Stay Special Use Permit. Joni asked RAC if they would like to be involved in shaping that program. A subcommittee involving the following will participate - Doug Boggan, Jim Kingery, Tom Crimmins and Jerry Shriner. This subcommittee will report to the full RAC at the September meeting.

Bill Barteaux motioned to adjourn meeting.  
Motion Seconded – Howard Van Tassel Jr.  
All in favor – Recreation RAC meeting adjourned.

**RECREATION RAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED –FULL RAC MEETING  
OPEN**

## **Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update (Dean Huibregtse)**

RMP Lead Dean Huibregtse gave a PowerPoint presentation (Handout #5) on the status of the Cottonwood RMP.

## **Lochsa Exchange Briefing (Stephanie Connolly)**

The RAC was briefed on the Upper Lochsa Exchange. The lead agency was identified to be the Clearwater National Forest. Other agencies involved are: Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, BLM - Cottonwood Field Office, and Idaho County. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is a partner. The proponent is Western Pacific Timber.

The purpose of the exchange is to consolidate ownership on Lolo Pass. The proponent has 40,000 acres of checkerboard lands at the pass and intermingled with the Clearwater National Forest. The proponent is looking for approximately 23,000 acres in the exchange around Elk City and in the Palouse prairie.

The issue is finding tracts to exchange that do not have issues such as municipal watersheds, critical elk habitat, ACECs, and active mining claims. Because the Lolo Pass area is within Idaho County, it is preferred that the federal acres in the exchange are also within Idaho County so that the tax base for the County is not greatly impacted.

Public involvement will begin after the feasibility study and agreement to initiate are complete.

## **LUNCH BREAK**

### **Public Comment Period**

Chairman Shriner relayed concerns brought forward to him by Dave Larsen. Mr. Larsen's written statement is provided below for the record:

---

Carl Washburn, Specialist  
Navigable Waters/Submerged Lands Leasing  
Mica Supervisory Area  
3706 Industrial Ave. South  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Dear Mr. Washburn:

I am requesting the Idaho Department of Lands hold a public hearing regarding North Idaho Maritime's request to build a floating dock, float home, and boat garage storage area on the south side of Cougar Bay (Application number L-95-S-3615B).

According to the submitted application, this storage pod would expand to the south the already large log storage area and be built near the shore which The Nature Conservancy and Bureau of Land Management own.

My reasons for requesting this public hearing follow:

Construction of this storage area would impede navigation in Cougar Bay. The bay is already a favorite paddling place for people who want to safely escape from the frenzy of motorized boats racing around in the lake's main body. Its popularity as a boating haven will only grow because of its proximity to Coeur d'Alene and its surrounding undeveloped shore.

The application is vague and, if approved, will allow long-term storage of commercial debris in an environmentally sensitive bay adjacent to land dedicated to the maintenance of natural habitat. This commercial storage would threaten Cougar Bay's ecological balance and wildlife values.

Cougar Bay is shallow and already clogged by debris associated with logging. It does not need to have more junk floating in it or sinking to its bottom. Nor does it need to become a place where commercial development takes place.

Many organizations (including The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, Kootenai County, the Friends of Cougar Bay, and the Rural Kootenai Organization) and individuals have worked very hard over the past 15 years to keep Cougar Bay's shoreline from being developed. This has been accomplished through a series of land purchases and grants of conservation easements. If approved, construction of this storage area would greatly compromise these preservation efforts.

Finally, the preservation of Cougar Bay's environment and natural habitat represents its most valuable current and future use to the community. In an increasingly commercialized and hectic world, people, fish, birds, and other animals need calm places to recreate and live. Like Tubbs Hill, Cougar Bay offers this tranquility. The land around it is already owned by organizations dedicated to habitat preservation and upholding the natural values the community embraces. These conditions and values do not need to be jeopardized by the commercialization of Cougar Bay.

Commercial development related to the storage of docks, float homes, and boat garages needs to take place somewhere other than Cougar Bay. Therefore, I am specifically requesting the Idaho Department of Lands to hold a public hearing regarding North Idaho Maritime's request to install pilings and float logs to create a commercial dock storage area in Cougar Bay (Application L-95-S-3615B) and am enclosing a check for \$75 to cover the cost of the publication of the hearing notice.

Sincerely,

David B. Larsen  
208-664-6215

---

## **Bighorn Sheep Briefing (Gary Cooper)**

Gary gave a PowerPoint presentation on Big Horn and Domestic Sheep management (Handout #6). Doug Boggan provided three articles (Handout #7) related to the subject for everyone's information on the subject as well. After the presentation Gary handed everyone a copy of a letter from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Handout #8). The letter asked for comments regarding issues to be included in the management plan. Gary asked the group if they would like to participate in providing comments as a group.

### **Decision:**

The RAC chose not to participate in the comment period.

### **Next Meeting**

September – date to be determined.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm.**

Minutes recorded by: Lisa Wagner, RAC Coordinator

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ Jerry Shriner

Date: 06/26/08

### Handouts:

1. Agenda – May 6
2. Idaho BLM in Action – February 2008 Edition Publication
3. Coeur d'Alene and Cottonwood Field Office Projects
4. Sandal Gulch Boat Ramp Maps
5. RMP PowerPoint Presentation
6. Bighorn Sheep/Domestic PowerPoint Handout
7. Sheep Articles - 3
8. Letter from Idaho Dept of Fish and Game