

**Coeur d'Alene Resource Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2009**

**Moscow, Idaho  
Idaho Dept of Labor and Commerce, Career Center Office**

**RAC Members in Attendance:**

Category 1: David Brummer  
Ron Hood  
Doug Boggan  
John Barker

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

Category 3: Greg Taylor  
Aaron Miles

**BLM Staff in Attendance:**

Gary Cooper – District Manager  
Lisa Wagner – RAC Coordinator  
Scott Pavey – RMP Team Lead  
Brian White – CDA Outdoor Rec. Planner  
Joe O'Neill – Cottonwood Outdoor Rec. Planner  
Dean Huibregtse – Rangeland Mgmt Specialist

**FS Staff in Attendance:**

Joni Packard (Northern Region)  
Kent Wellner (Idaho Panhandle NF)  
Trish Callaghan (Salmon-Challis NF)

**Other Attendees:**

Mitch Silvers from Senator Crapo's Lewiston office  
Dean Ferguson from Congressman Walt Minnick's Lewiston office

*Note to readers: A copy of each attachment listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes, is on file with the official copy of minutes in the BLM Coeur d'Alene Office. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Lisa Wagner at (208) 769-5014.*

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

District Manager Gary Cooper welcomed everyone. Since this was the first meeting of the new 2009 Coeur d'Alene District RAC, Gary asked the council to introduce themselves and state what they represent. The meeting was then turned over to Chairman Jerry Shriner. It was agreed on by the council that Jerry would continue as Chairman until elections are held. The Election of Officer's will have to be held at the next meeting since there isn't a quorum today.

Chairman Shriner shared with the council some info he came across regarding how the meetings are run. Since the full RAC is also the Recreation RAC and the meetings are held at the same time, currently, one meeting is adjourned in order to hold the other and so on. Jerry researched the procedure and found that a simple recess would work. Therefore, when the Recreation RAC needs to meet the full RAC meeting will recess during that meeting and reconvene when business is taken care of.

### **RAC Meeting Recessed at 10:15am Recreation RAC in Session**

#### **Forest Service Recreation Update**

Kent Wellner from the Idaho Panhandle NF gave an update on the Snyder Guard Cabin (Handout #2). The cabin has undergone two summers of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Beginning in late May the cabin will reopen as a rental. The fee will not be changing this is just an informational presentation to keep the RAC informed.

Kent also gave an update of the Avery and Shoshone cabins that were approved for fee increases at the meeting last September. They are expected to be online and ready for use next spring.

Joni Packard gave a few updates regarding the recreation fees. Although, she couldn't elaborate she told the council that legislation has been introduced to repeal REA and reinstate agency authority to charge fees under LWCF. The Bill # 868 gives the details. A copy will be emailed to the RAC for information.

Joni also talked about the regional fee schedule that she is proposing the RAC to use. She handed out examples of the pricing tool that could be used as well as a fee status spreadsheet. Joni is proposing to use the pricing tool (Handout #3 & #4) and schedule spreadsheet (Handout #5 & #6) as a way to evaluate fees in the future. The spreadsheet would show a proposed increase by percentage every couple of years for inflation. It should be noted, the spreadsheet numbers (including the inflation factors) shown are not the "real" fees or inflation factor(s) to be used; just numbers entered to show how the spreadsheet works and to see if this format was workable for the RAC and the public. The RAC liked the format of the spreadsheet. The RAC thought the scheduled fee increase process would work as long as they had the opportunity to review each year and make adjustments as needed. There was also a clear message of the need of transparency and open communication through this process between the Forest

Service and RAC/Public. On a final note, the RAC requested a cost comparison between private and public facilities for future fee proposals would help the RAC make their recommendation.

As a side note, the formula for how recreation fees are managed between LWCF and Fee Demo/REA are as follows:

LWCF = 15% is kept by the agency and the rest goes to the Treasury.

Fee Demo/REA = 100% is retained by the agency.

Trish Callaghan from the Salmon-Challis NF addressed the RAC about the Salmon River Working Group. She would like the group to meet again prior to the RAC's next meeting. There was discussion about who should be involved and if a video conference would work for folks. Currently the Salmon River Working Group is a combination of commercial and private jet and float boaters that use the Salmon River. A subgroup of the RAC attends the meeting in order to bring information back to the full RAC in order to make a recommendation to the FS. The subgroup is Doug Boggan, John Barker, Susie Borowicz and Jim Kingery. The last meeting was held June 2007. Trish will plan to have the group meet before the next RAC meeting. Doug asked Lisa to locate the letter that was previously sent to the Forest Service regarding the involvement of the RAC in the SRWG and send it to Trish for information.

### **RAC Meeting Reconvened at 11:30am**

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

Scott Pavey, RMP Team Lead gave an update of the Cottonwood RMP (Handout #7). He reviewed what has happened since the last RAC meeting in September. Five protest letters were received with one of them being dismissed. Scott explained the protest process and what comes next. See the handout for more details of the protest issues.

### **LUNCH BREAK**

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#### **Public Comment Period (1:00pm-1:30pm)**

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#### **Coeur d'Alene Recreation Program Update**

Brian White, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Coeur d'Alene Field Office gave a Power Point Presentation about his recreation program and what projects they are working on this year. He specifically talked about the new Blue Creek Bay recreation site where trails are being developed this spring. After his presentation there were some questions. Kim asked about signage in the Blue Creek area to mark the history of the Mullan Rd and Coeur d'Alene Tribe. She also suggested he check the National Registry for historical information of that area. Linda

mentioned the backside of Blue Creek is not signed well with regards to public and private land. Brian said that was part of the signage plan to make it easy to determine land boundaries. He will also look into the history and incorporate that as well.

### **Cottonwood Recreation Program Update**

Joe O'Neill, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Cottonwood Field Office gave a presentation of his recreation program as well. He showed pictures of different recreation sites and the work being done out there.

### **Bighorn and Domestic Sheep Update**

Dean Huibregtse gave an update on the Bighorn and Domestic Sheep issue. He passed out a map of the sheep allotments affected (handout #8), a list of the grazing lessee's and allotment specifics (Handout #9) of the four allotments shown in the map and a strategy document (Handout #10) signed by the four agencies involved as well as on grazing lessee. The Cottonwood office is waiting for the Payette NF to come out with their decision on how they are going to deal with the issue before the BLM proceeds. In the meantime, the strategy document will be followed.

### **New and Old Business**

John Barker reported that the Sandal Gulch boat is not longer an issue. Asotin County has plans to work with the BLM with regards to the launch. Chairman Shriner suggested the RAC write a letter of support.

Kim reminded presenters as well as the RAC Coordinator the need for getting documentation for review prior to meetings in order to be better prepared.

### **Next Meeting**

September 1, 2009, location to be determined.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 pm.**

Minutes recorded by: Lisa Wagner, RAC Coordinator

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

Date: 10/05/09

### **Handouts:**

1. Agenda
2. Snyder Guard Station Cabin Rental
3. R1 Campground Price Tool
4. R1 Cabin and Lookout Price Tool

5. Region One Recreation Site Fee Status - 10%
6. Region One Recreation Site Fee Status - 3%
7. Cottonwood RMP Update
8. Sheep Allotments Map
9. Grazing Lessee and Allotment Specifics on Four Sheep Allotments
10. Strategy for Reducing Risk of Contact between Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep in the Salmon River Area (Partridge Creek and Marshall Mountain Allotments) For 2009 Grazing Season