

Coeur d'Alene Resource Advisory Council Meeting  
December 6, 2006

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

RAC Members in Attendance:

Category 1: John Barker

Category 2: Jerry Shriner and William Barteaux

Category 3: James Kingery and Susan Borowicz

RAC Members Absent: Doug Boggan, Bruce Brewer, Clifford Osborne, Ronald Hood, Tom Crimmins, Linda Bonser Rider, Cora Patterson, Aaron Miles, and Howard Van Tassel Jr.

BLM Staff in Attendance:

Lew Brown – District Manager

Stephanie Snook – RAC Coordinator

Kay Schiepan (Boise) – Idaho Recreation Planner

Terry Kincaid – Coeur d'Alene Outdoor Recreation Planner

Brian White – Coeur d'Alene Outdoor Recreation Planner

Greg Yuncevich – Cottonwood Field Manager

Joe O'Neill – Cottonwood Outdoor Recreation Planner

FS Staff in Attendance:

Terry Knupp – N. Region, Recreation Program Manager (manages campground, facilities and fee program)

Public Attendees: None

*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 the minutes in the BLM Coeur d'Alene District Office. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Stephanie Snook, 208-769-5004.*

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

Lew Brown welcomed the RAC members and introduced members of the BLM staff. Stephanie Snook handed out minutes from the previous meeting held on 09/21/06 (**Handout #1**). Minutes were reviewed, approved and signed by Chairman Jerry Shriner.

Stephanie provided copies of the new Coeur d'Alene District RAC Charter (**Handout #2**) and pointed out a new item (#11) regarding the need for an ex officio FS representative to be present when FS fee issues are on the agenda. Jane Cottrell, Nez Perce NF Supervisor may be the ex officio member for Region 1.

Election of Officers was postponed until next meeting since there was no quorum. There was a discussion on how to get more RAC members to attend the meetings. A suggestion was made for the next meeting; add an agenda item concerning appointing alternative members.

**FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT - PowerPoint**

**Presentation (Handout #3)** - Kay Schiepan provided an overview of the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) and fee proposal/approval process. Some highlights of the handout included:

Special Recreation Use Permits (SRUP) fees for outfitters and guides return to the Forest. Fees for ski area resorts or recreation residences return to the National Office. The Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) does not allow the Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) not to charge access fees. The RAC is not involved with Outfitter & Guide legislation.

California has an Adventure Pass to cope with the millions of dispersed recreation visitors. The pass costs \$10 per year and is for “high impact recreation area” authorized by REA to deal with resource damage (litter, barriers, etc). Lake Como near Hamilton, MT in Region 1, FS would fit this description.

J. Shriner asked about the flexibility to use fees at a different site – other than from which it was collected. For BLM, 100% of the fees collected will go back to the BLM site where the money was collected. The Forest Service is returning the money to the “unit” of the Forest. The overhead or administrative costs are limited; can not exceed 15% of the fees collected (on average). The Forest Service keeps 5% for National Office – FS.

REA introduced new nationwide Federal Interagency Passes: Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass and Volunteer Pass. REA merges the current system of interagency passes into one pass called the “America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass, effective on 1/1/2007.

RACs are part of the public involvement process for new or proposed fee changes. This RAC will need to decide how often to meet on the Recreation Fee issues/proposals (REA requires at least an annual meeting). “Subcommittee” implies a subset of the RAC. Need to find out about quorum requirements and a process to open up the Recreation RAC Subcommittee meeting to bring in other people to get the broad and balanced interests needed to address fee proposals/changes.

**REA Notebooks** – Kay provided each RAC member with a REA Information Sourcebook (Handout #4) and walked through the various sections. For the section labeled REA Legislation: Yellow highlighted areas are additional info. such as definitions; the gray highlights are policy sections; and the orange highlights are further definitions.

Section 4 of REA deals with Public Participation and RACs– see notebook, tab 2, page 10; 4(d)(1)(D) **Use of Other Entities**. In Idaho, the four existing BLM RACs will be used instead of establishing new Recreation RACs for the Forest Service. Please read through and become familiar with this section involving the RAC and subcommittees. It addresses the frequency of meetings (at least annually), composition of the committee, broad and balanced representation, quorum, approval process, etc. A “subcommittee” implies a subset which allows other members of the public to join to achieve the “broad and balanced” approach to dealing with recreation fee issues.

**Terry Knupp - FS Region 1 (Handout #5)**

Terry provided a handout describing the Recreation Fee Program on National Forests in Region 1 (Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce and Clearwater). There are about 80 new/changed fee proposals since REA was passed in 2004. The FS will propose fewer changes than this to the RAC and would like to get on a regular schedule to have proposals presented to the RAC.

Terry handed out and reviewed a Sample Template (Handout #6) showing a campground in their database. They are setting this up in hopes of making the information about the site(s) easy to understand. She asked for suggestions for improving this form.

FS Template Suggestions:

- Current fee and proposed fee boxes should be closer together
- Include an expected state date, season of use at the site, fees and costs
- In the Public Participation Tasks/Results block – does this include the RAC? Make this clear.
- Any additional suggestions or changes should be sent to Stephanie who will consolidate and forward them to Terry.

The RAC briefly discussed the requirement for a State tourism Official to be an ad hoc member of the RAC subcommittee. It could be that we have one person for Idaho who will meet with each Recreation Subcommittee.

LUNCH BREAK

**Public Comment Period** - No public in attendance; meeting continued.

J. Kingery asked if the RAC can expect to see the fee change proposals before or after public involvement. Both agencies will be doing public outreach prior to bringing the proposals to the RAC.

**Recreation Site Facility Master Planning** - Terry Knupp – Region 1 Forest Service: Terry gave a PowerPoint Presentation to provide an overview of the planning process, status of Region 1 forests in this process and budget needs/trends. There are approx.

1500 recreation sites in the Northern Region providing 12.4 million visits of which 11% are in campgrounds.

Program of Work – business like approach on what sites they have, costs and how to best manage these.

Public dialogue includes open houses, RAC presentations, etc. Include the public in the Niche development instead of just responding to the proposed program of work. NEPA analysis on site closures, scoping, decisions.

Fee Changes – REA process thru the RAC; provide market and scientific info as well as the public responses. We'll get the public involved in Niche development instead of just responding to the proposed program of work (PPOW).

Consider options such as contracting, concessionaires, volunteers

BLM's Asset program is similar – what do we have, what's there, what's it worth, how much money do we have and how should we best spend it?

### **Mineral Ridge Public Boat Launch – Proposed New Fee Site**

BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office – Brian White (Handout #7)

Coeur d'Alene Lake Map shows public recreation facilities

- Recreation fee program summary
- Business plan for Mineral Ridge
- 18 sites developed, varying degrees
- Blackwell Island Recreation Site is the most developed

Proposed new fee site at Mineral Ridge Boat Launch

Capital improvements, access, paved parking

State funding for docks in 2007

Public Outreach - Will publish a Notice in the *Federal Register* Business Plan after State Office and Washington Office review

Expanded Amenity Fee charged for Blackwell Island – An Annual Pass will also be good at the Mineral Ridge Boat Launch site

\$5 noncompliance fee – failing to self pay

- Idaho State Parks started it
- High level of noncompliance with self service: Place a notice on windshield, talk directly with the person, send demand for payment letter, then turn over to law enforcement (only happens about 4 times a year).

A question was raised about the rest of Idaho BLM charging the \$5 noncompliance fee. Right now, only the Coeur d'Alene Field Office is doing this. RAC members discussed the idea of applying this state-wide, at all BLM sites. Would the RAC need to agree on the surcharge fee for new sites? Consistency is needed within each BLM District. Lew thought it might be a good topic for the four Idaho RACs to discuss.

Proposal is to charge a \$4 parking fee and \$5 failure to pay surcharge at Mineral Ridge Boat Launch. Parking would include single vehicle parking and/or boat launching. See the Business Plan with map and photo for additional information.

### **BLM Cottonwood Field Office – Recreation Overview**

Joe O'Neill, Outdoor Recreation Planner, provided an overview of the field office's recreation program:

BLM receives about \$100,000 each year in fees on the Clearwater River sites:  
Pinkhouse Recreation Site receives about \$30,000/yr.

Spent about \$29,000 on Clearwater River to install ADA compliant sidewalks, archeological site mitigation, and a stipend for volunteer camp hosts.

Receive \$98,000/year on the Lower Salmon River (permits required)  
Spent \$94,000 for boat ramp at Lucille Recreation Site, as well as portable toilets and seasonal river rangers. Need to replace two more toilets at Pine Bar, as well as provide new picnic tables, fire rings, and kiosks. Also plan to spend \$30,000 for a new well at Lucille.

BLM is partnering with the county waterways and Idaho Fish & Game at Harpers Bend Recreation Site.

The Cottonwood Field Office does not charge a surcharge or noncompliance fee. They rely on BLM Park Rangers to monitor uses and involve Law Enforcement Ranger when citations are needed.

The RAC discussed how revenue is lost when people do not comply with the fees/permits. Lew said he would review the issue about the surcharge fee and may take it up with the state-wide Leadership Team.

The RAC asked questions about the fee demo funds being retained as well as Special Recreation Use Permit fees. These were and still are retained by the BLM.

### **Close-out Items:**

Date considered for next meeting: April 3, 2007, Moscow. Start time will depend on the agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Stephanie Snook, RAC Coordinator

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

Date: April 3, 2007

**Handouts:**

1. Minutes of 09/21/06 meeting
2. Coeur d'Alene District RAC Charter
3. Recreation Power Point Presentation – Kay Schiepan
4. REA Notebooks
5. National Forest Recreation Fee Program
6. Sample Template/Format Draft (Forest Service)
7. BLM-Mineral Ridge Boat Launch New Fee Proposal package

**Recommendations/Decisions:** none

**Agenda Topics for Next Meeting:**

Election of Officers

Alternative RAC members

Recreation RAC Subcommittee processes:

- Quorum requirements
- Identifying areas of interest not represented on the subcommittee.
- How to involve other people in the subcommittee to achieve the broad and balanced interests needed to address fee proposals/changes.

**Follow-up Items:**

Noncompliance surcharge at fee sites