

**Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District
Secure Rural Schools Title II Resource Advisory Council (RAC)
March 14, 2014**

Meeting Purpose: To review Secure Rural School (SRS) Title II proposals and make recommendations for funding.

This was a public meeting and there was an audience, but attendance of the audience was not taken. The meeting had been advertised in local publications, as well as the federal register.

Note taker: Katie Isacksen, US Forest Service

RAC Attendees: Category 1: Mike Barnes, Pamela Berrian, Jerry King
 Category 2: Dana Dedrick, Kevin Matthews, Sarah Peters, Greg Ringer
 Category 3: Faye Stewart, William Tucker, Denise Walters

Others present: Virginia (Ginnie) Grilley (BLM Designated Federal Official), Patricia (Pat) Johnston (BLM RAC Coordinator), Phyllis Trimble (BLM Budget Officer - arrived at 1 p.m.)

Absent: Roy Keene (Category 1)

Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:15a.m. A quorum was not in place so the election of Chair was put on hold. Johnston began a discussion on content and asked Grilley to say a few introductory words.

8:17 a.m. (Berrian joined the meeting and a quorum was met.)

Grilley thanked everyone for volunteering for the Resource Advisory Council (RAC). She reminded everyone that if a project is not on federal O&C administered lands, it could not be considered for these funds. Reintroductions were made and Johnston asked for a Chair to be elected. The Chair serves as representative for the group, helps facilitate the meeting and review the notes to make sure they accurately reflect the meeting.

King declined to be re-elected so Johnston asked for volunteers or nominees.

Stewart was nominated by Tucker and seconded by Berrian. A vote was held and there was unanimous support vote for Stewart to be the Chair.

Johnston reminded the group about the established criteria for the projects to help guide the group to the best outcomes. These were decided by the group at a previous RAC meeting.

Johnston passed out a sheet of the BLM's ranking of the projects and explained the BLM Senior Staff Specialist findings. BLM's Eugene District Senior Staff reviewed the SRS Title project proposals and categorized them based on a technical review.

The projects were reviewed for:

1. Meeting core legal requirements, including criteria set forth in the enabling legislation for SRS Title II projects (Project location –benefit to federal O&C administered lands, Endangered Species Act (ESA)

compatibility, requirements of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) met, etc.

2. Project feasibility including budget request i.e. would funding request potentially meet the needs
3. Red flags.

BLM Senior Staff ranked projects into four basic categories:

- fully support,
- support with minor adjustments,
- support with major modifications, or
- not support.

Senior Staff also looked at the amount of BLM work force needed to support the project, in addition to the grant request; if the proposed project fell within the understood priorities of the District; was competitive for funding through other mechanisms; had a meaningful bang for the buck; and/or provided within-in county returns (employed a local workforce, etc.).

Johnston called for questions.

Berrian: What is a CX?

Johnston: It is a categorical exclusion. It's a level of environmental analysis within NEPA that ties a project into a previous project that has had a deeper analysis.

Walters: The senior staff recommendation was not based on the 1, 2, 3 method. (i.e. ranking in order of priority)

Johnston - That is correct.

Tucker - I'm be curious what the return is to Linn County on these projects. If we don't get the money back, we need to look at it. What's come in the last five years and what's gone out in the last five years. Just so we know it's balanced.

Johnston - We don't know how much we'll be getting yet. The legislation estimated 90% of the previous SRS Title II allocation. For Linn, we think it would be in the \$30,000 range.

Grilley - This is Senior Staff recommendations, since you have asked. But it's your choice as a RAC.

Johnston went over housekeeping information for the building and lunch options. She then asked to go around the room and have the RAC members state any encounters with any BLM employees or projects over the year.

Walters - This year, I was more involved in watershed council and so learning more about NEPA process.

Dedrick - I was working out at West Eugene Wetlands office, watching BLM competently handling projects around oak thinning. I was also more aware of the planning processes BLM has to go through to achieve goals.

Ringer - I have been working with State Department in East Africa and Philippines, so not at all with the BLM.

Stewart- I attended a planning outreach session for Forest Management Plans and have a monthly call on the O & C lands, where we get to hear from the BLM State Director. I've had a few citizen requests on the Row River Trail project and about road closures.

Berrian– Besides the planning committee, I haven't been on BLM lands much. I have been writing grants.

King – My last experience was a year ago with the group.

Barnes – I've been to the planning meeting last week for the resource management plan. That's about it.

Tucker – I have been to a few O & C lands meeting. I am also been involved with some Forest Service projects and land exchanges that would involve BLM.

Matthews – For me one of the highlights was attending a community celebration in Washington; the unveiling of the new San Juan National Monument, which is managed by BLM. It was a warm event. I have been to several forest planning meetings up the McKenzie and my personal perspective is constantly being broadened by talking with thousands of community members.

Peters – Most of my professional work deals with the Forest Service, but as recreationalist, I hike and float rivers on the BLM. That's mostly where I've been.

Grilley – I just wanted to let you know we are in the middle of a comment period for our planning criteria. It has purpose and need of our management plan and the analytical methods for assessing impacts on the ground. If you're interested, it's on the web. We've had a public meeting on every district. When we do our analysis and release our draft EIS, that's a great time to get involved and comment on it. We will have a better understanding of alternatives. I'll be retiring March 31st so this will be my last meeting with you guys.

Johnston went over the rules of engagement for the presentations. Presenters have ten minutes. "I've recommended five minutes for the presentation and allow five minutes for questions, but you can use that time how you like."

Project Presentations

Cedar Creek Riparian Enhancement project

This was presented by Jared Weybright of the McKenzie Watershed Council. The project would focus on the Cedar Creek sub-basin that is an interface of Springfield City limits. There are BLM lands in the headwaters but project would occur on the lower portion of the creek. It provides exceptional habitat for Spring Chinook Salmon, pond turtles and salmon. The goals are to enhance wildlife, protect water quality, promote community understandings and establish native vegetation.

Matthews – I believe there is US Army Corps of Engineers Metro Waterways Study. How does that play into that?

Weybright – So the status of that project for Amazon Creek and Cedar Creek - Amazon has been dropped. Cedar Creek is still a project for Army Corps that they potentially could fund. We don't know how daunting that process is for funding. One of the requirements is a local match and acquisition of local lands. The volunteer and collaborative model that we have already established is a more likely source than Army Corps.

Berrian– It didn't appear to address the issues in the assessments (of the BLM senior staff.)

Johnston– He didn't see those assessments.

Kalapuya Conservation Corps

This project was presented by Stefan Aumack of the Bethel School District. The program is to increase the employability of at-risk and low income Lane County Youth through involvement in service-learning work programs focused on forest restoration and recreation area management. It would address multiple issues on BLM land, including improving the ecological function of forest and riparian areas (through invasive species removal and native plant propagation and planting) and increased safety and access for the public (through trail and recreation area maintenance and improvement). Fund requested would cover two years. The Corps has to have 90% attendance and good grades and students want to be it – has reduced drop outs and increased graduation rates.

King - Who will run the chipper?

Aumack - The crew leader or one of the assistants with the training.

Walters - Where does the match come from?

Aumack - The school district provides much of this in transportation and materials. And we just got a science grant that came in yesterday.

Crow Creek Culvert Replacement

This project was presented by Celia Barry of Lane County. It is located east of Lorane and would replace two deteriorated, perched, undersized culverts with a concrete arch span on a creek that is habitat for lamprey, cut throat trout, and coho salmon. BLM has done some woody debris placement and culvert replacement nearby so this project would enhance those efforts. Project isn't scalable but program managers could get less money and try to find other sources.

Berrian– Do you have a picture of the inside of the culverts? I've seen culverts with more damaged where they can't last a couple of years.

Barry - The inside is dented. There is a lot of truck traffic and it's getting quite a bit of impact from that. It is also substandard in size for fish passage and it is beginning to fail. It may have another five year life expectancy.

Matthews – So that's helpful. The RAC may want to distinguish between road passage problems and fish passable problems. Projects must meet NEPA standards.

Barry - We have all our permits. It has been reviewed by NOAA fisheries for anadromous passage.

Matthews – Thanks.

Stewart –How much actual fish habitat exists above this culvert?

Barry - About two miles.

Johnston– Are you replacing your original ask with \$98,000?

Barry - Yes. We checked with BLM fish biologist he had no problems to go to the steel arch. It's more typical, we just didn't know it was available at this size.

Forest Clean Up Project

Brian Barr with the BLM presented the Forest Clean Up project. This project proposes to cleanup dump sites and to improve culvert stability. It would improve health and safety of forest visitors, recycle and remove garbage, reduce risk of mass failure and erosion at high risk sites and extend lifespan of site. It would employ local timber workers and is not scalable.

Dedrick – I know about the dump issues. The senior staff review said that reshaping it has not been successful. I don't know if that's for road passage or what.

Barr – It's not necessary a damaged culvert, its holding sediment back. It is quite feasible to get them functional again. It's for cross drain culverts not big culverts.

Matthews – Looking at the culvert ends. Looks to me, like it's a fair number that represent vehicle damage. What are the systematic sources of the damages?

Barr – Most of these happen from maintenance crews and heavy hauling traffic.

Eagle and Lost Creek Restoration

This project was presented by Steve Liebhardt from the BLM. The project would focus on improving habitat for spring chinook and cutthroat trout through placement of large woody debris. The \$50,000 the BLM would get from the RAC would pay for the acquiring, transportation and placement of the logs. About 1.2 miles would be opened up for Spring Chinook habitat.

Peters – Where are you getting these trees?

Liebhardt – From 80 to 150 year old stands from nearby BLM lands. We will try to get the root wads.

Peters – Is that covered by a categorical exclusion?

Liebhardt – We have a restoration CX that covers this type of work.

Walters – Is it scalable?

Liebhardt – Yes. But it costs a lot of money to move in large equipment and the trees are relatively cheap so once you get in there additional costs are minor.

Dedrick – What's the future recruitment potential if you didn't add them?

Liebhardt – The stand is young...I didn't want to pull what larger trees that are there over. They have a little ways to go before they are adding any wood.

Ferguson Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement

This project was presented by Jed Kaul from Long Tom Watershed Council. The project would improve habitat for lamprey, cutthroat trout, native amphibians and other aquatic terrestrial species while providing local youth on the job training. The project would plant native trees and shrubs, install 150 trees, and replace two passage barriers on the creek. They originally requested 90,000 but can scale back to \$74,000.

Peters –Is it all the cost of culvert replacement?

Kaul – No, the cost of transport is included in the project.

Matthews – The BLM staff commented that this was a situation to consider a bridge over open bottom culvert. How much would it improve the habitat with this method?

Kaul – Bridges are always preferred but would add \$30 to \$40,000 dollars to the cost. If we did get the full amount of funding, we could consider that option.

Tucker – Would you bring beaver back in?

Kaul – No, they were there but have moved elsewhere. I think if we provide structures, they'll come back in.

Dedrick– And the land owners are okay with that?

Kaul – Yes.

Question from an audience member – I'm concerned about weeds. What are you going to do for all the loads of logs that are covered in dirt that may be full of noxious weeds?

Kaul – Well, we could look into that. That's a good consideration.

Illegal Dump Site Cleanup

This project was presented by David Lockman of the non-profit Clean Forest Project. They use youth and volunteers to get out in the woods to clean up sites. They recycle 60% of material they recover, restore lands to natural conditions, complete signage, work with law enforcement, do environmental education, and establish green teams in the high schools. Last year, they cleaned up about 150,000 pounds of trash with RAC funds.

Dedrick – So what would this project fund?

Lockman - It would fund the vehicles, the insurance, office work, dump fees, all that.

Berrian– It looked like in your budget, you had a paid leader. It sounds like your leader was paid \$750 and you only had 100 volunteer hours.

Lockman – That doesn't sound right, it must be a typo.

Peters – How do you find the dump sites?

Lockman – The BLM provides us sites, but they are easy to find.

Berrian– Are your volunteers local?

Lockman - Yes and the contractors that we use are local too.

Improving Habitat Rare Species – Oak Basin

This project was presented by Ian Silvernail of the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE). Before the presentation, Ian explained there was a mistake in the original budget, so he passed out a new budget that reflected their request (new budget request is \$77, 977.) IAE engages in native ecosystem restoration activities, research, education and on-the-ground restoration. The Oak Basin is a BLM site that hosts a variety of rare listed species like Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine. The primary goal is to control invasive weeds and enhance native plant communities. It is scalable, and has two phases; phase 1– noxious weed control, mowing, nursery production planting, seeding and phase 2 – maintaining work and meadow expansion.

Tucker – Do you a plant seed for the lupine?

Silvernail - This lupine is particularly touchy. Our focus is to use local source genetics from the Coburg Hills, so they'd have similar adaptability in the high elevation sites. There are a handful of nurseries we've worked with for native plants.

Dedrick – 172 work days – I only see 18 in the budget.

Silvernail - Several days of work are with ten person crew, like NYC. So multiple those days by ten.

Berrian– On this particular property where the butterflies are – are those lands publicly accessible?

Silvernail - It is BLM land but our access is through private land nearby. For the general public it would be hard to get it.

Berrian– So why conserve it if no one can see it?

Silvernail - Well, it is a federally listed species and we have a mandate to try and protect it.

Dedrick - Is it near Horserock Ridge?

Audience member – It is about four and a half of miles as the crow flies. It is connected to a larger portion of private owned land that has restoration on going. These populations are more connected to the valley.

Peters – Is it scalable? Would it be worthwhile with just a one year and follow up?

Silvernail - Yes, absolutely. We have funding for monitoring separately. Those pieces would continue. Our goal would be to enhance the plant community.

Recovery of thin-leaved peavine

This project was also presented by Silvernail of IAE. Before the presentation, he stated they had another mistake on the budget, and passed out correct one, which had a slightly higher budget request. The thin-leaved peavine is a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and BLM species of concern, but has no legal protection. IAE is trying to figure out how many populations of the plant are out there. After visiting existing sites, 60% of known sites are gone. Federal listed species are expensive to manage, so IAE would try and recovery this plant and remove the need for listing it. This project would be for future seed collection, growing plants in the nursery, monitoring, restoration sites, planting, etc. Lands would continue to do work on BLM lands. The proposal is for a three-phase, five year project.

Tucker – I am not familiar plant at all. I know from lupine is very elevation specific. Is this plant like that all?

Silvernail - It doesn't seem to be. It can be in sunny and shaded locations and it's simple to germinate. It is less sensitive than Kincaid's lupine.

Tucker - What happens to it in a pasture where there is grazing?

Silvernail – The largest population is on some actively managed site for grazing. The landowner keeps the site blocked until the plant has set seed and it does ok. But it is more likely to be found on edges.

Berrian– How many acres are there for this project?

Silvernail – We haven't defined the exact locations of where we are going to do this. We're talking about 15 acres on small locations.

Dedrick – Where is it disappearing from and how is surveying it so far?

Silvernail – So far, the BLM is funding it. Right now it's disappearing from roadsides. It is falling prey to herbicide use in roadsides and early mowing.

Cottage Grove Row River Trail Mechanical Maintenance

Amanda Ferguson, City of Cottage Grove, presented the Cottage Grove Row River Trail Mechanical Maintenance project, which asks for SRS funding to help take care of Row River Trail. The project would allow the City to continue to use mechanical treatment on both City and BLM portions of the trail. Right now, the BLM doesn't have staff or equipment to maintain their portion but since the City has staff, shop and experience, it could take care of it. The Row River Trail is an economic driver for the community. The BLM does it twice a year, while the City maintains it twice a month.

Dedrick – Could you tell us about the botanical resources?

Ferguson - It used to be an old rail road and it is quite compacted. We would like to use this as a catalyst for an on-going relationship with BLM.

Peters – Is this just for one year?

Ferguson – Yes, this request would also cover the cost of a leaf blower.

City volunteer – The surface of that trail is a real issue where tree roots have started to cause issues. Pine needles come off the tree limbs and cover up hazard markings.

Kennedy Conservation Corps for the Row River Trail

Mike Ingman and Matt Hall from Kennedy High School presented this project. Kennedy High School actively works with students at high risk of dropping out to create a path toward a future with a livable wage through further training or education. It is well established that high school graduates provide both economic and social benefits to society. In addition to earning higher wages, which results in benefits to local, state, and national economic conditions, high school graduates live longer and are more likely to raise healthier, better-educated children, are more likely to engage in civic activity. For this project, the crew would provide repeated hand cutting, using hand tools, gasoline powered brush cutters and chainsaws, of brush, primarily Armenian

blackberry vines on specific sections of the Row River Trail where their encroachment represents a safety hazard to trail users.

Dedrick – Can you elaborate on the scholarship versus paid crews?

Ingman - Yes, the paid crew also gets an Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) scholarship. Students can earn \$375 for successful completing a trimester - up to four trimesters.

Ringer – The City of Cottage Grove has requested funds for a blower, and one of the tasks for these students is to do the blowing. Is it contingent on getting the blower?

Hall – Those are two different things. This would be a hand blower – the City is talking about something you could drive and blow the whole trail.

Ingman - Our commitment is to work together with the City and BLM.

Ringer - I guess I'm saying if we don't have enough funds, I'd rather put it into support versus equipment.

Lane County's Juvenile Forest Work Team

Matt Sterner presented on the Juvenile Forest Work Team of Lane County. They work through the Martin Luther King Education Center, which provides students with opportunities to develop skills needed to be successful in school, work and our community. The overall reading and math scores of students enrolled in the M.L.K. Ed. Center have increased by two grade levels and recidivism/re-offense has shown a 74% reduction. SRS funds would allow them to work on a variety of backlogged BLM projects. 60% of the crews' time will be spent constructing, maintaining and decommissioning trails within the Shotgun Park OHV system. The other 40% will be used equally on projects such as the Row River trail system, McKenzie River boat launches, invasive weed removal projects, stream rehabilitation, litter removal and campground maintenance.

Berrian– In your budget you have a half time employee – is that a social worker?

Sterner - It's an assistant crew leader.

Berrian- Who are the on-call workers?

Sterner - It's for if the crew leader is sick or out, or if the project requires a second leader.

Lane County Sheriff's Crew

Dan Buckwald presented for the Lane County Sheriff's Crew. They work on the backlog of maintenance and restoration needs on BLM lands and projects needing intensive hand labor to be accomplished that would not have been completed by other funding or contracting avenues. The work performed, will enhance Federal lands, public infrastructure, restore habitat and reduce the risk of wildfires. Title II is currently the only funding source to hire local correctional crews. The type of work can/will include removal of noxious weeds, clean-up of illegal dump sites, culvert maintenance and parks and recreation preparations. The crew are people who have been charged with traffic violations or other things that they can't pay off, and this is an opportunity for them to make restitution, all while giving back to the community. They are now running seven days a week, so people who have a job on the crew, don't have to miss work to serve. It is scalable.

Dedrick – I see the missed snow days still have a cost associated it with that.

Buckwald - Yes, I'm going to make those up. We'll run double crews.

Berrian- Do you work on dump sites?

Buckwald – Anything that can be done by hand. We've never been asked to do that.

Berrian- That's something I'll bring up later. It'd be interesting to see what the BLM's priorities are, cleaning up scotch broom or removing old cars.

Buckwald – Yes, I don't set the priorities.

Northwest Youth Corps (NYC)

Keith Brown, Deputy Director of the NYC, presented the proposal for funding the Northwest Youth Corps. The program provides job-training and work opportunities for youth. The various types of proposed projects offer a unique, team based work experience where youth can test their ability to face a challenge and see highly tangible results of their efforts; it is an experience that fosters pride in individual abilities, enhances self-esteem, teaches critical thinking, and builds leadership.

Dedrick – Is it \$20 an hour for the crew?

Brown – Yes.

Berrian- Are the students paid?

Brown- Yes, they get a stipend.

Peters – Is this scalable?

Brown – Yes, we'd just do fewer weeks of work.

Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration Project

Kiira Siitari with the Siuslaw Watershed Council presented on the Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration Project. The project would be for BLM and neighboring projects for a field crew to do monitoring (western pearl shell mussel surveys) and riparian restoration work. It offers gainful employment to local residents, reduces demands on federal resources and has a proven track record. The project is scalable and flexible.

Dedrick- What are the costs for the mussel research versus the riparian work?

Siitari – Its eight weeks for mussel work - no equipment costs and training is minimal. It's about \$30 an hour for crew members. Restoration has the same cost but needs tools, supplies, etc.

Dedrick – What are you doing for restoration?

Siitari - The plan would be to meet with the BLM on their needs. We'd plant native trees on private properties.

Note: The Wetland Improvement and Environmental education project did not meet the SRS criteria and Interpretive Signs for Row River Trail project was withdrawn by the proponent.

Total amount requested:

Cedar Creek Riparian Enhancement	44,930
Cottage Grove Railroad Trail Mechanical Maintenance	33,051
Courtney Creek Fish Passage	170,000
Crow Creek Culvert Replacement	98,835
Forest Cleanup and Culvert Stability Improvement	15,750
Eagle/Lost Creek Restoration	50,000
Ferguson Creek Fish Passage	89,773
Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup	83,058
Improving Rare Species – Oak Basin	77,977
Recovery of Rare Thin-leaved Peavine	111,599
Kennedy Conservation Corps RR Trail	67,704
Kalapuya Conservation Corps	58,028
Lane County Juvenile Forest Work Team	94,000
Lane County Sheriff's Work Crew	170,880
Northwest Youth Corps Environmental Stewardship	48,738
Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration Crew 2014	84,374
Total amount requested:	\$1,298,697

Johnston– Is anyone here for public comment?

Public Comment Period:

Audience member, City of Cottage Grove volunteer – I have a real vested interested in Row River Trail. One thing that I think would be valuable is to familiarize you with the covered bridge scenic bikeway. There are nine designated trails but there are only two that are family friendly, one being the Row River Trail. And it’s the only one on the I-5 corridor. They have been promoting nationally on this effort. One time, I came across a couple on the Dorena Lake. They had come from Vancouver as a result of the scenic bikeway was to come down and ride everyone one of them. It just shows how important this is and that the trail needs to be a safe environment.

(Brief break for lunch)

Deliberation Period

Johnston did not have time to look into Tucker’s question on Linn County funds but would do so at a later date.

Stewart, as RAC Chair, took over the meeting proceedings. He suggested they go down the list and rate it high or low. If everyone believes a project is a low priority then they can put them in the ‘parking lot.’

Stewart - We are going to have to reduce this list by 50%.

Dedrick – Can we ask general questions first?

Stewart – Yes.

Dedrick – So the Juvenile and Sheriff work teams, is it for on-going work?

Johnston– I have asked them to stay and talk about the balances, as they issue their invoices quarterly. Kennedy still has a balance. We put funding on an assistance agreement, with a total of \$82,000. I think their annual cost is in the \$66,000 range.

Dedrick – I ask because this may be the last chance for Secure Rural School funding availability and so I didn't want to inadvertently give funding to someone who is trying to fund through, say 2017, rather than another group who will run out of funding this year. I am just trying to keep track to the funding timelines.

Johnston– The crews could tell you that.

Sterner with the Lane County Youth Crew – We bill quarterly, but crews get paid monthly. Our last bill was for \$20,000. By the time this funding comes in, we will have spent that.

Buckwald, with the Sheriff's Work Crew - It might be a little misleading. We are scheduled to work another 52 days and make up the 10 days for snow. So the \$90,000 balance we show will last us until June.

Johnston– We don't know when our funding will come in. We have procurement deadlines that we need to get the money to folks before a certain time.

Ringer – What about the two other grants?

Pat Johnston– So what we'll do with those other two - we'll just have to work with them, and if they are approved, then it's a point of process.

Berrian– The senior staff team recommendations don't match with the ones on this page.

Johnston - They may be additive.

Stewart – Dana brought up a good point that this might be the last funding cycle for the SRS. Ginnie, is there any proposals for that?

Grilley– No. There is no Title II money in either of the Wyden or DeFazio bills.

Stewart – I won't say it's dead at this time. But go with what we know and assume it's the final year. So raise a hand if you think they should be funded.

All projects had support expect the Illegal Dump Site Cleanup, Cedar Creek Riparian Enhancement, and the Courtney Creek Fish Passage. Those three were removed from funding consideration.

Stewart – So, everyone will get six dots. Put yours by the ones that hold the most value. Only one dot per project.

Dot Result:

Cottage Grove Railroad Trail Mechanical Maintenance	7
Crow Creek Culvert Replacement	2
Forest Cleanup and Culvert Stability Improvement	4
Eagle/Lost Creek Restoration	5
Ferguson Creek Fish Passage	5
Improving Rare Species – Oak Basin	4
Recovery of Rare Thin-leaved Peavine	2
Kennedy Conservation Corps	6
Kalapuya Conservation Corps	7
Lane County Juvenile Forest Work Team	8
Lane County Sheriff's Work Crew	5
Northwest Youth Corps Environmental Stewardship	1
Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration Crew 2014	4

Tucker – I appear to be the only dot for the NYC. I feel it was core - these kids are doing some great things, with a lot of funding matches.

Dedrick – Their ask was double some others' ask. It is scalable.

Grilley – We have a number of great youth employment programs here. When you look at our senior staff, Kennedy was down at the bottom. We've had them on the bottom because they have been out pulling weeds and they haven't been very productive. They also have quite a bit of reserves. It's all about putting people in the right place.

Dedrick – I was wondering why that comment was blank.

Tucker – Can you comment on NYC?

Grilley – Sure, they have a good mission they are reliable and do good work. In terms of productivity, we get more work out of Lane County Sheriff Crew, but in terms of youth, they are great.

Berrian – I see them ranked as one.

Johnston – What the one stands for is support. It's a technical review.

Dedrick – There is a clarification here. One is either support or zero is none. But the second list it is how they are ranked.

Matthews – One thing I'm trying to understand - Is there a difference in the neediness of the youth that participate in these crews.

Tucker – When I've worked with our county's juvenile crew - that is the neediest of the needy.

Dedrick – Wasn't Kalapuya at risk?

Grilley – Yes.

Tucker – Not high risk.

Matthews – That's what I'd like everyone to consider.

Stewart – It's not like Kennedy, Kalapuya and Lane County Juvenile Forest Work Team; those are all at-risk youth.

Berrian– With a group that has done work for so long, for such amount of work, it seems odd that the senior team has so many problems with it.

Johnston– It received a 2 across the board; the senior staff could support it with minor adjustments. We'd need a CX, etc. It's not a priority listing.

Matthews – This column that says BLM ranking - that should have a different title.

Johnston – Yes.

Peters – I did put a dot by Kennedy, but I would move my dot given their productivity. And if the funding from last year could be reallocated to that project.

Johnston– Last year, you allocated \$20,000 to Kennedy Conservation Corps and \$62,000 came from the BLM general fund from the Upper Willamette Resource Area. The Row River Trail is in the Siuslaw Resource Area. I don't know what it would take to shift that. You (as the RAC) have more flexibility with the \$20,000.

Grilley – That \$60,000 is for weed treatment. There are some weeds on the Row River Trail.

Walters – I would be happy to shift my dots too.

Stewart – Instead of allocating our money, we can put in our report that we ask the unspent money to go those efforts. We could X that out. Is that a general consensus?

Everyone nodded.

Johnston– Let me ask a question – so the request for this one is for BLM to shift the \$82,000 that is unspent.

Grilley – You can advise me about \$20,000. I'd be willing to commit that and a little more than that. But not more than \$40,000; we have other weed areas.

Dedrick – I would want to say, please work with them as best you can to be a better crew.

Matthews – I propose that we recommend to the District that they evaluate shifting the unspent \$20,000 to the RR Trail and shift additional weed money to that project and then we'd not consider giving them additional SRS funding.

Grilley – What I need to do is go back to my staff, and find out if our priority is where the spotted knapweed is just starting or somewhere that is already established.

Matthews – We have a moral basis for asking about the \$20,000. We don't have the ability to ask them to spend non-SRS money.

Tucker – I agree, but if I knew that she were considering it, I'd reconsider allocating them funds.

Johnston– Our weed program goes to noxious weeds – knapweed and false brome. Eugene District does not use herbicide and we exhaust our funds for weed control each year. We're hand pulling weeds. That's the challenge of our current weed program.

Matthews – To continue this educational moment, what does the Eugene District do in regard to blackberries?

Johnston– Blackberries aren't considered noxious weeds so we don't treat for them.

Stewart – It sounds like Kevin Matthews made the point we support the Kennedy Conservation Corps, and we'd like to ask to allocate the \$20,000 go to the Row River Trail and to consider using other District dollars for that support.

Stewart – The rare pea-vine research has two dots.

Walters - One of those dots is mine. It made a lot of sense to me to try to do something while we can.

Stewart – It is scalable, so could be funded to one year.

Dedrick – We could make some gains by our management with our road maintenance. Then the mussels became more of a priority for me. Also, I had a question for the proponent. You had mentioned BLM approved unit costs – what does that mean? They are high.

Silvernail – Those are recently approved rates for our organization to work with the federal agency. Part of the idea, from those rates, is we are able to match staff time and volunteer hours.

King – What's the pre European habitat for this species if it's now in hedges and roadsides?

Silvernail – There isn't much of a consensus on that. Not much is known.

Tucker – They are intriguing in that they are the potential tipping point for these species. But we don't know. Were these brought in on a wagon?

Berrian– My discomfort is the high number of hours for the staff for 15 acres; I just don't get it. Seems like they could circle the acres hundreds of times for those hours. Seems like you could teach kids to do this.

Matthews – I just want to reiterate what Dana said about hourly rates.

Stewart – Lane County doesn't use herbicides or sprays. There are farmers that do. Let's just leave it there for a moment and go to Crow Creek Culvert.

Ringer – I like that it opens up two miles of creek and there is a lot of other work that is being done up there.

Stewart – I put mine up there too. I feel the two miles is huge and there is a large amount of leveraged funds. I'd like to hear what Dana has to say about the efficiencies.

Dedrick – I bet it would be a good OWEB [Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant] candidate. It's a big price tag but it's a valid project.

Berrian– It was scalable.

Dedrick – If you had some funds then you are much more likely to get OWEB to give money. Dedrick - Can it go to the next one on the list?

Johnston– So a word about funding, if you fund a project contingent on it getting match funding elsewhere, and it did not get the match funding, then there is the danger that the SRS funds would not get spent. In that case, what we could do is de-obligate and apply it to a project on an approved backup list. The key is to do it this fiscal year. We would have to de-obligate it and obligate it to another project prior to June 2014 – which is unrealistic.

Dedrick- You won't find out until September for your OWEB grant, so never mind, it isn't a good idea.

Berrian– I like that they have their permits in-hand. It seems like you could almost cut it in half if you fund those road pieces.

Grilley – One idea, what if you came up with some dollar figure that would go to the proponent, and if they say it's a no-go it could go to the next project on the list.

Johnston– I wanted to remind everyone that at least half of the allocated funds need to go to road decommission and obliteration or stream restoration.

Stewart – Want to flip it over and start with the ones that have the most dots? Sheriff work crew had eight and they were asking for \$178,080. Senior staff recommended fund youth and give them half.

Matthews – My feeling, just to get the process moving, put in the staff recommendations and see where it shakes out.

Stewart – Okay – so 50% - \$85,400.

Walters - I grabbed Amanda to ask about why BLM isn't part of their program of work. She said they could likely do it without the blower.

Tucker – The dollar amount is small, so I'd suggest you give them the \$30,000.

Dedrick – You could take out the cost of the blower and it'd be an even \$30,000.

Berrian– And the recommendation is for \$33,000, so should we just put that in and see where the dollars fall?

Stewart – I'm hearing the \$33,051. Okay, Kalapuya Conservation Corps.

King – I love this one.

Peters – And Ginnie said they were productive and good for BLM. I'd like to see them funded more than half but if we're going with the staff recommendations we can start there.

Stewart – Do you want to start with 50%? Jerry are you okay with that?

King – I would go with what the staff is requesting but put an asterisk there.

Tucker – For a first pass, put it in at \$58,000; I'd fund the full thing.

Johnston– How we looked at it, and work force crew, they all have been doing great work and are interchangeable.

Matthews – I'm content with full or half amount.

Stewart – NYC is in the parking lot and recommended at half. We could put that with the Kalapuya Conservation Corps. So let's go with the full amount.

Dedrick - I just wanted to make sure that we shouldn't be questioning the costs. Some just have different costs.

Grilley – Yes, the staff is more highly trained.

Stewart - Now down to the ones with five dots....Let's talk about Lane County Juvenile Work Crew. They are requesting \$94,100. Another one that was recommended at 50%. What's the pleasure?

Berrian– I would put them higher than 50% because of the high amount of recidivism.

Dedrick – The others went up to full so we should give them more.

Stewart – I'm hearing more than half?

Walters – Would be helpful to put them at the requested amount and then widdling them down? Consistency either way.

King– That's what I'd like to see.

Walters – So we'd want Sheriff's crew at full.

Ringer – I had a question about the grant amount.

Johnston– I'd have to go back and check.

Stewart - Eagle/Lost Creek Restoration was at \$50,000. The partner was doing the culvert replacement.

Peters – There is no equipment overlap that it could reduce the cost.

Johnston– It’s been a conversation but it depends on when the funding comes in. They have been talking with the partners.

Dedrick – I’d give it the \$50,000.

Johnston- Phyllis let me know that you have \$52,000 left.

Stewart – Is everyone comfortable with giving the full 50,000 to this project?
I’m seeing nodding heads.

Stewart – Ferguson Creek. I didn’t get to ask how much habitat that opened up.

Dedrick – Two barriers and one and a half miles.

Walters – They said that road is for a planned BLM timber sale in 2015. Is there any other money that could be coming to that road?

Grilley – We pay maintenance fees when they do it. We most likely wouldn’t put money into repairing that.

Dedrick – So its safety, not restoration.

Grilley – Correct.

Stewart – Do we have a suggestion on this one?

Dedrick – It was ranked high by BLM, has no OWEB funding and gets you 150 trees and barriers removed.

Johnston– I had scalable at \$74,083.

Stewart – That works. I like the cleanup and the most of the cost of road repair is culverts.

Matthews – I agree, it’s not a lot of money.

Dedrick – I agree.

Stewart – Okay let’s give them the full amount. How about the Oak Habitat project?

Walters – I support giving the first phase of this for \$37,000 and then hopefully the USFWS will help out with the other parts.

Stewart – And we have already have invested in it. I’m seeing it for the first year funding of \$37,000. Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration.

Peters – I had a question. It seems like with how much we gave last year, there is a lot of money left. Are they having problems getting people out?

Johnston– I did talk to Liz. A couple things, first, sequester played into this. Last year, money got to people late

and that sometimes means the biological window is missed. And when we give money, in the form of grants, it's an assistance agreement. They have five years to spend the money. They will have to spend that money this year. So likely this work will have to be done next year. But that's true for most people, so when we actually get money folks in hand, it will be spent next year.

Dedrick – I calculated it as \$19,000 for mussel work and \$11,000 for restoration work. It has all the great components of head of households, a crew, etc.

Matthews – I think there is something to be said for restoration and monitoring in tandem.

Tucker – Where I came to, when I know that they have enough for a year plus, since they haven't spent it yet. It looked like they were a couple of seasons behind. But if their time is going to run out...

Stewart – It is scalable and flexible. It's a good bang for your buck and valuable. Should we put it up for the full or talk about scalable?

King – I'd say full amount.

Dedrick – I'd do \$20,000 for the mussels.

Berrian– It's a unique project.

Stewart – We'll start with the full amount.

Trimble – You've met the 50% split, but once you start adjusting down it could change. You have \$570,000 total.

Stewart – This could actually be our list, if we want. If we start looking at partial payments, we could make a list for additional funds.

Dedrick – Going back to 50% for the crews, we'd be roughly there.

Peters – We don't have NYC allocated for anything.

Stewart – We have three other projects that we don't have crossed out yet.

Dedrick – Well, we have selected to fund the Siuslaw Monitoring but none for the NYC.

Grilley – The reasons why it's like that is the mussels aren't threatened or endangered and with the funding for those crews, we'd get a lot more work out of the NYC. They are all very valuable projects, we just felt like we'd get more bang for our dollars.

Peters – I know the NYC do great work; I would rather see Kalapuya Conservation Corps get the money.

Stewart – Do we feel strongly that we need to add money to the three unfunded projects?

No comments from the RAC.

Stewart – So now we need to determine scalability.

Matthews – Knock \$7,500 out of Row River Trail for the blower. And if more money comes in than we can fund for that later.

Stewart – I'm hearing strong support for our youth.

Matthews – I felt like the Eagle/Lost Creek is scalable, they are doing 50 trees.

Walters– Well, he said once you get the equipment in, it doesn't really matter much per trees.

Peters – Is there any other money source that they could get it?

Dedrick – Well, they already got the culvert from OWEB. What compels me is the BLM wants it and they know their resources.

Walters – Anyone open to scale Siuslaw to focus on the mussels?

Berrian– It seems so small.

Stewart – \$12,000 is for putting in willow sticks and other things.

Dedrick – I'd argue for the mussels. I worry about giving them money before the youth crews. So \$20,000.

Peters – I like that too, there isn't a lot of money that will go to researching that.

King – I supported both but I'm willing to go with the consensus.

Stewart – I'm hearing \$20,000. The Sheriff had the highest with eight dots. \$170,000 is the request, which is scalable, at any level.

Dedrick – Can we put the \$85,000 for staff recommendation and then suggest that any extra funding goes to them?

Grilley – It seems to me a good place to scale. I would support that.

King – It's the most scalable for the biggest number.

Dedrick – What if we took 25% off the rest of the crews?

Trimble – Too get to our 450, you have 120 to go. Something else is going to have to come up to 204 to get us up to 50% of restoration.

Tucker – I would be more comfortable cutting 50% of Kalapuya than the Juvenile. Unless BLM has a preference.

Grilley – They are equal to me.

Dedrick – I would want to add the Eagle/Lost Creek to full amount.

Stewart – If I understand this right, we had 570 plus a little bit, now that we have made those reductions, we should record them.

Walters – We need to get rid of \$60,000. We could take a certain percent more from Juvenile, Sheriff's crew and Kalapuya.

Peters – Do we want to do that or cut the mussels and the oaks?

Stewart – The question is, do we want to fund the Siuslaw Monitoring?

Matthews – I want to fund it as the base funding. I'm really hoping we'll get more funding that will go to the work crews. If we zero this out, it just isn't going to get done.

King – If we take it out of Sheriff and Juvenile, then, if we get more, we'll just give it back to them.

Stewart – I have heard a lot of support for Kalapuya. It might be easier to do it through the Sheriff's Crew.

Matthews – If you think about funding those three crews at 60% and see where it comes out.

Trimble – It doesn't come out much different than what we had before.

Peters – What if take money out of the Row River Trail and they just don't mow as much in the late summer?

Berrian – We cut it back once.

Peters – Well, that was for the blower.

Dedrick – I'd more likely take from the Oak Basin, because IAE can get money elsewhere and the USFWS is very interested.

Matthews – Cut it to \$30,000, then take \$9,000 off the mowing.

Dedrick – I don't want to take too much from them. I wouldn't go below \$20,000.

Matthews – Then you'd need to get \$4,000 from somewhere else.

Berrian – I feel kind of bad that the Kalapuya is getting cut back so much when they are doing so much. The IAE want a lot for only 15 acres.

Ringer – That money isn't just for those acres, it's for finding the habitat.

Dedrick – Mostly it's the field technician and an assistant.

Peters – But they are also using NYC for part of it.

Berrian – That's only one day.

Walters – The sheet he handed out today says four.

Peters – I agree with you.

King – Yes, now looking at the big picture, does it feel right? I would like to give the Kalapuya some more money.

Dedrick – What if we took five from the Oak and put it with the Kalapuya?

Grilley – I have an idea. We could ask the Sheriff’s crew to do garbage pick-up. They are hiring two other folks that can do it.

Peters – So we could get the \$15,750 and give it to the crews?

Tucker – So give 10 to Kalapuya and 5 to the Sheriff’s work crew?

Walters – Or do it backwards because Sheriff’s is more expensive?

Stewart – Or we could split it in half and give it to each. Are we all feeling better about this? So those would be our first priorities at those levels.

Cottage Grove Railroad Trail Mechanical Maintenance	20,000
Eagle/Lost Creek Restoration	50,000
Ferguson Creek Fish Passage	74,083
Improving Rare Species – Oak Basin	25,000
Kalapuya Conservation Corps	47,692
Lane County Juvenile Forest Work Team	56,400
Lane County Sheriff's Work Crew	110,403
Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration Crew 2014	20,000
	403,578

Stewart – So does everyone want to allocate the extra money to the three crews?

Timble – We need to know how to allocate the money.

Peters – It would be easier to have the spread sheet up.

Dedrick – I would propose we go first \$5,000 back to Row River Trail to bring it to \$25,000 and then equally to the three work crew: the Kalapuya, Lane County Sheriff, Lane Juvenile Crew.

Peters – And that would it be easy to allocate?

Grilley – Yes, because it all comes in at once.

Stewart – My thought is that we’d go from the Q column to the L column if we got more funding, and if we got more, we’d move up the column.

Trimble – Well you’d run into a problem with the Forest Clean Up.

Stewart – No, take that to zero. Would we then recommend that the Oak Basin be brought up before the work crews got money?

Stewart – I’m seeing yesses.

Grilley - So if we have any remainder above \$420,000, it would go to the workers.

Stewart – Yes. Second priority:

Cottage Grove Railroad Trail Mechanical Maintenance*	20,000
Eagle/Lost Creek Restoration	50,000
Ferguson Creek Fish Passage	74,083
Improving Rare Species – Oak Basin*	25,000
Kalapuya Conservation Corps**	47,692
Lane County Juvenile Forest Work Team**	56,400
Lane County Sheriff's Work Crew**	110,403
Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration Crew 2014	20,000
	403,578

In the event of additional funding:

*Cottage Grove RR Trail Maintenance would be funded up to \$25,000 and Improving Habitat Rare Species – Oak Basin up to \$37,027

**After this, any additional funding would go to each work crew proportionally

Trimble – Depending on what we receive. First we’d go with column Q, then we’d go to Column L and if we get the full amount, we’d go with Column R.

Grilley – What I’m hearing the committee say is that they’d fund Kalapuya first then the two Lane County crews.

Dedrick – I’d propose we allocate them together proportionally, rather Kalapouya fully funded first.

Johnston– A show of hands that we are comfortable. Okay, it’s unanimous.

Stewart – In closing comments, I’d just like to say it’d been great working on the RAC and with you Ginnie. I appreciate it.

Resource Advisory Committee

March 14, 2014

Agenda

**Eugene District – Bureau of Land Management Office
Room 214**

8:00 Welcome and Introductions

Elect Chairperson

Review Worst and Best Possible Outcomes Collective Statement

Pat Johnston, BLM –RAC Coordinator

Discuss BLM assessment of Title II Project Proposals

Ginnie Grilley, BLM Designated Federal Officer

Review and Discuss RAC Criteria for Title II Project Proposals – Collective Statement

Pat Johnston BLM-RAC Coordinator

BREAK 15 minute break

9:00-12:00 Project Proposal Presentations (10 minutes each)

- Cedar Creek Riparian Enhancement
- Kalapuya Conservation Corps
- Courtney Cr Fish Passage
- Crow Creek Culvert Replacement
- Forest Cleanup and Culvert Performance Stability Improvement
- Eagle/Lost Creek Restoration
- Ferguson Creek Fish Passage
- Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup

BREAK 15 minute break

- Improving Habitat Rare Species-Oak Basin
- Recovery of rare Thin-leaved Peavine
- Cottage Grove RR Trail Mechanical Maintenance
- Kennedy Conservation Corps – Row River Trail
- Lane C. Juvenile Forest Work Team
- Lane County Sheriff's Crew
- NYC Environmental Stewardship
- Siuslaw Monitoring and Restoration Crew 2014

PUBLIC COMMENT (Scheduled at 12:15 - 12:45 PM)

LUNCH - on your own

1:00-5:00 Resource Advisory Committee Discussion of the Projects and Recommended Allocation of Title II Funds