# Coast Range Province Advisory Committee Meeting
# January 19, 2012

Attendees: Miles Brown, Jerry Ingersoll, Zac Jarrett, Rennie Ferris, Ginnie Grilley, Betty Jean Keele, Annabelle Jaramillo, Trish Hogervorst, Joni Quarnstrom

Jerry Ingersoll – A quick welcome to our new building. The Siuslaw National Forest is moving January 27 to the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab located on the Oregon State University campus. This has long been the largest or second largest Forest Service research lab in the country. The research branch is fairly independent of the traditional Forest Service side of the agency and we hope to strengthen ties with researchers.

The Siuslaw has expanded the use of stewardship authority to include the Hebo Ranger District which means authority now covers the entire forest. Half of our timber sales are sold under stewardship authority.
Our vegetation program is growing. Last year we sold 36 mmbf, and cut 61 mmbf.

Roads are getting right sized and capable of supporting rain storms. So far, culverts are running half full with large trees coming down stream during this storm. It is still a large and high standard road system and we can take pride that we are putting our road system in good shape. Every road that covers streams bearing salmon has had fish passage work done.

Pam Gardner, district ranger for Central Coast recently accepted a deputy Forest Supervisor job in Billings, MT. Jeff Uebel is acting in her place until a permanent replacement is selected.

Miles Brown- Salem BLM has started up a recreation strategy for all the recreation projects to help prioritize with the amount of funding and resources available.

Rich Hatefield replaced Trish Wilson, as the Marys Peak field manager. Trish is now the natural resource staff officer for the Willamette National Forest.

BLM's budget is doing pretty well. Flat, but down on a few counts. Overall, we are doing well compared to other agencies, but do expect some reduction in 2013.

We are meeting our 53 mmbf timber target.

We recently completed a half mile of fish habitat improvement work on the Nestucca River and would love to be there today in all this rain. Miles showed some photos of completed log structure work.

Ginny Grilley- Several districts in southern Oregon are working with the Administration to develop pilots using Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson's recent management ideas to improve issues in the Northwest Forest Plan. The goal is to put complex early serial back into the system to allow for more timber production.
Medford Pilot – had two citizen groups working on this and have gone on to sell a timber sale.

Roseburg – citizen group continues to work on their sale.
Coos Bay – pilot is encountering entirely different issues due to location with Coquille tribe. The tribe uses timber receipts and so they are very interested in seeing how this will work.

Bill Hatton, Eugene BLM, has taken a new job in Tillamook in a veteran's administrative position. His position is temporarily filled by Alan Corkoran. Bill's party is March 3.

Round Robin –

Rennie Ferris –
OWEB has plans to deal with lottery funds dropping about 25% and reduction in federal funding. They may have to totally cut monitoring, education, assessment grants.
Plan A – select certain watershed areas only for support
Plan B – include all watersheds for support
The Soil and Water Conservation District is looking to be in good shape, however the Mid Coast watershed council may not be. The Alsea watershed council is moving towards support of restoration work.

Annabelle Jaramillo
Rosewood Estates, near Lewisburg, were evacuated today due to landslide.
Final draft of comprehensive natural areas and park plan out for comments. Please look at the Benton County Parks and Recreation web site to review. Measure 76 has really helped us. This process has generated a lot of public comment.

We have completed most of our fish habitat improvement work on county roads, funded through BLM and county payments. It's allowed the county to keep some of their road maintenance workers. The county always wants to showcase successful collaborative partnerships.

Payments to Counties – There is not a lot of hope for this to come back, or only in small amounts.
We do have some concern about OWEB and lottery funds. Conservation and land acquisition projects that the county is trying to finish (blue fenders butterfly) are funded through OWEB grants.

Betty Jean Keele
Emerald Chapter of Backcountry Horseman finished the year with 2,400 volunteer hours. 22,000 miles of driving, hauled stock for 13,000 miles, used 238 horses or mules for 133 days. This is from a group of about 20 people. Betty Jean promoted the importance of volunteer coordinators for the agencies as a way to create successful volunteer projects.
Scheduled March 10 for annual Baker Beach cleanup.
Snowy Plover habitat review coming up.
We had questions about horse camp at Cape Mountain charging fees. (Jerry addresses this later in notes)

Review of PAC Charter and Membership/2012 Coast Range PAC:
Provides opportunity to talk about adjacent lands.
Meet at least once a year.
RAC meeting competed with PAC; they can be a pool to recruit from
Expand membership
Over the years, subgroups have spun off – watershed councils, noxious weeds.
Possibly bring all entities together annually
Problem solving specific topics
DECISION: Have an annual meeting and call additional meetings as needed. Have one large topic for most of the meeting and bring in speakers.
Hold a meeting in May, 2012 and have one or two big topic:s
1) critical habitat for the spotted owl;
2) BLM legislation. Status and planning around O&C lands, etc. Where are we going with forest management ?
Invite a panel of resource staff from legislative supports (Wyden, Defazio, Schrader). Invite USFW to discuss critical habitat, someone from legislative staff supporting proposed legislation for BLM land management, someone from BLM talking about planning effort, representatives from key constituent groups (industry, environmental, impacted counties) Mike Clausy, OFRI, Russ Hoelich, nature conservancy.
A lot of this is moving targets so you'd have to design this around what is most appropriate. But right now there is a lot of dialog about what's going on with land management in Western Oregon.

Oregon Dunes Designated Route Process
see attached power point and briefing paper

Salem Recreation Strategy-
Salem BLM is conducting an over-all review of their recreation sites with the attempt to prioritize and ground truth the costs of operation.
Two large sites:
Yaquina Natural Area
Nestucca OHV and campgrounds

Diverse recreation population – generate $675,000 in fee receipts, mixture of developed and dispersed areas. Marmot Dam removal has land reverted back to the BLM. Huge public demand since boundaries are near three quarters of Oregon's population.

No prioritization/direction since 1992. In the last three years we have completed a couple of projects, including Sandy. Set direction for Mallola River, 25 miles of non-motorized use, headed to a more managed setting. Outside of North end of Cascades, we have a huge need for planning recreation.

We are trying to figure out if what we have to offer the public is adequate. Six months ago the District went on a vision quest. Currently a working group is reviewing a strategy.

1) Setting Priorities

2) What is our niche? Where can we make a difference? Identified all our niches

3) Established a true cost to run program, at a base cost. Keep the doors open, provide safe area, and maintain infrastructure.
   Identified different themes where we want to move into the future. We want to take north area resource and finish implementation, to gain a return from public to sustain.
   Then look at the other areas and how they merge into the big plan.

Plans:
Alsea Falls: environmental assessment release to public by early spring, then decision, with management plan.
Plans for Upper Nestucca.
This is not intent to expand areas, but how to manage, cap and mitigate what we have.
In the next two years, you will see a different vision at these areas.

Q) How much hunting goes on? We don't have a contiguous land base so hunting is not large. Less than 5% of all public visits is hunting.

We will need partnerships to help keep recreation areas going. Anything we do in the future will be with partners. No signing of plans unless a memo of understanding is underway with a recreation group that is willing to help.

Proposed Legislation for BLM Lands
1994 = Northwest Forest Plan developed. Immediate lawsuits ensued. Consistent with NFMA
Time went by. BLM was not meeting timber plan as directed under the plan so developed a new plan
2008 = Record of Decision for new plan. Not consistent with NFMA. ROD was withdrawn.
Secretary of the Interior had to pull the ROD, but found out we can't do that and must follow DTO.
Another lawsuit from Pacific Rivers Council occured, and now we asked for someone else to pull the ROD. No decision yet.
We are anticipating the critical habitat rule by the US Fish and Wildlife for the northern spotted owl will affect BLM management.
As a federal agency, we support the Administration and we complete work funded through Congress.

Q) What about all the protections for riparian buffers, connectivity, T&E species? Will this significantly change? It depends. Lots of rumors heard about this law. If it remains federal lands, it would be managed the same.

This is a complicated issue based on prior plans.

BLM in Western Oregon have primarily been thinning for the last 15 years. We cannot thin anything over 80 years. We are running out of stands we can thin. For Eugene BLM we are running out of

Cascade thinning areas and have eight years of thinning in the Coast Range. Salem BLM has eleven years left of thinning.

Q) Where do mureletts come into this? Since 2008, populations are declining although we don't know why. We would need to relook as part of planning process.

In 2008 we said we would obey the Clean Water Act and T&E act. And that was our first priority, not harvesting timber.

Annabelle: breaking up lands doesn't really follow the landscape level management.

Forest Service Planning Rule-
This is not about what plan we operate under, but what rule we use to develop the plan. We are required to write an individual plan for each forest. We came out in 1982 with regulations on how to write a plan. Since then, there have been dozens of attempts to change these regulations. We have worked on these and now we are close to coming out with a new rule. This rule will provide the context and ground rules for if, and when ,we decide to redo our forest plan.
Should there be subsequent changes to plan at the national level, or should we leave details up to the local level. How detailed do you get? Broad level or detail level?
Rumor has it that the final planning rule will be released very soon. It won't change anything about the Siuslaw forest plan, but it will change the context on how we revise our plan. The Siuslaw is set to initiate forest plan revision in 2014 but this most likely won't occur. At some point, we will, but no definite date yet.

Marys Peak Communication Site-
For a long time there has been some sort of administrative facility at the top of Marys Peak. Still, it remains a very special place for people.
In 2006, an engineering review identified a need for lightning protection and enhanced security. This fall we built a security fence around the site, buried cable and put up lighting rod.
in hindsight, we did not do a good job with public sensing about the project. Around Christmas, people noticed the fence, were upset and communicated this through the newspaper.
What is impact of natural meadow vegetation and how will it be mitigated?
Eight feet around outside of fence has ground pulled up.

Horse Camp @ Cape Mountain (up the hill from C&H stables)
We have recently reconfigured how we manage our developed sites from Forest Service to concessionaire, American Land and Leisure. Included within this proposal are some non-fee sites. Part of the contract, the concessionaire can propose that they would like to charge a fee. Before we would make a decision, public involvement needs to occur.
Will they continue to clean the bathrooms and provide horse water? Right now, the horse water is a quarter mile down the trail with a spring and needs attending.

For public comment, please address concerns and suggestions to Jerry Ingersoll and American Land and Leisure.

Flooding-
Prelimnary report of flood damage: lots of roads we can't get too yet. So far, its looking good with small slides and trees across roads. The highways look worse, right now. We can collectively declare an emergency with the county.
Benton County has two major landslides affecting residential areas and numerous roads closed due to flooding.

Next Meeting: May, 2012