

# Coast PAC Meeting Minutes

## June 18, 2009

### **Attending:**

Mike Wilson, Conf. Tribes Grand Ronde, Aaron Horton, Salem BLM, Bernie Gyant, Siuslaw NF, Bill Hatton, Eugene BLM, Randy Rasmussen, Am. Hiking Society, John Herbst, Conf. Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw, Betty Jean Keele, Trish Wilson, Salem BLM, Mike Pond, BIA, Ron Phillips, Renne Ferris

Facilitator: Joni Quarnstrom, Siuslaw NF,  
Notes: Trish Hogervorst, Salem BLM

Mike Wilson welcomed everyone to the Grand Ronde facilities.

Joni recognized John Herbst as a new member.

Welcome from Aaron and Bernie and Bill Hatton (representing Eugene BLM)

Bill: This week Eugene BLM is moving to Springfield to join the Willamette National Forest and the National Guard at their new Springfield offices.

### **Stimulus Project Update:**

Barnie: Siuslaw has 3 projects funded with stimulus dollars—many partners involved. The intent is to get the dollars out to the community through the partners.

1) Coho salmon habitat improvement - \$1.5 million dollars.

Looked at projects which had NEPA done and would put lots of local folks to work.

2) Oregon Dunes Restoration Project - \$1.5 million dollars

3) Roads Package - \$600,000 went to Siuslaw NF

Region 6 received lion's share of stimulus money for the Forest Service. Our folks are actively moving forward. Advertisement of local jobs will be done through our partners....watershed councils etc. USFS has set up contract centers around the country to help facilitate the process.

Aaron:

BLM took a different approach, based on Secretary of Interior guidance.

We pulled together projects amounting to about \$25 million in proposed projects per district. No fuels projects were accepted in Oregon/WA.

The Salem District received \$7 million for energy efficiency projects. At the Salem District office this includes: energy efficient windows, new hot water boilers and water system replacement at the major recreation sites. We are looking at biomass usage, security upgrades at Yaquina Head and the Salem District and at Yaquina, we are resealing the roads and trails. The money needs to be obligated before Sept 2010. Some projects, such as the solar project contracts, take longer to prepare.

Bill Hatton:

Eugene BLM received \$3.5 million for replacing the water system at Shotgun Rec. Site

\$300,000 for culvert replacement on the ROW River Trail and for Shotgun OHV trail improvement. \$1.4 million for district-wide culvert replacement. \$100,000 to upgrade the communication system at Huckleberry Mountain. Installation of a parking lot lighting system at the new office. This year is mostly engineering design work. Next year, shovels turning dirt.

**Secure Rural Schools update:**

Bill Hatton:

Eugene held a RAC meeting last week. The second meeting will be held in Sept.

The RAC approved 9 projects for a total of \$1.2 million.

The projects included culvert replacement projects, putting youth to work, noxious weed removal, abandoned car removal project.

Aaron Horton:

Salem works with 11 counties. Salem District held a RAC meeting in April and spread two years of money. 1.7 million for 2008 and 1.5 million in 2009 dollars were obligated. Funds are decreasing yearly. The RAC will meet in April 2010 to determine 2010 projects. A variety of projects were approved...law enforcement funding, youth projects, noxious weed removal, roadside brushing, culvert replacement. Aaron handed out a RAC projects spread sheet.

Barnie:

Handed out RAC projects spreadsheet.

RAC met in April to determine which of 54 projects would be funded with 2008 funds.

Will meet again in Sept to select 2009 projects.

**Travel Management Update:**

Barnie: We have concluded the planning process. Held 6 public meetings. We are now in the appeal period (ends June 29). The Dunes Mgmt Plan has generated active public discussion. We will be hiring an outside facilitator to help with the process. Nationwide, all the national forests are expected to have a Travel Mgmt Map ready for the public by Dec 2009.

Ron Phillips:

Ron read an ATV parody on "This Land is Your Land"

Ron proposes the Siuslaw set in motion a 10 year trails development plan in coord with Aaron and Bill. Ron would like to see a priority construction list and a 10 year time table.

Randy-I think Siuslaw is paving the way in Travel Mgmt and doing a really good job.

Bill Hatton-Barnie I really appreciate all the work you did on Travel Mgmt.

**Spotted Owl Plan Update:**

Bob Progulske by phone from Eugene:

Am in Eugene. We are currently discussing controlled removal of barred owls. FWS has hired a nationally known bioethicist to help us through this process. The Humane

Society, Ross Mickey w/ AFRC and Doug Heiken with Oregon Wild are here. There are about 30 people here. We are listing concerns from all parties.

Signed Spotted Owl Recovery Plan in May 2008, we were litigated in August 2008. On one side AFRC, on the other side 18 environmental groups saying we didn't use the best science. Some discussion of undue political influence by Julie McDonald in Wash DC. On March 31, FWS announced it would request a voluntary remand of the Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and critical habitat rule. FWS would like to take another look at the Recovery Plan for the owl. The FWS would like to continue on with the parts of the Recovery Plan that there is general agreement on such as barred owl, but further work on other more controversial parts such as reserve system (Managed Owl Conservation Areas (MOCAs). Working with BLM on FWS issues tied to WOPR. Still up to the judge on how he wants it to proceed. Judge is in DC District Court. New 5 year review on marbled murrelet which concluded that the murrelet should remain a threatened species. Very polarized groups on each side.

Ron Philips: Barred owl is obviously a better competitor than the spotted owl. Do you really think you can have impact on the barred owl by removal.

Bob: We are discussing that today. We have to do an experiment that is scientifically designed in the next two years. Removing hundreds of barred owls in a 10,000 acre area—how does that affect the landscape? We would have to remove a certain number of barred owls per year to jump start the spotted owls in the coming years.

Ron: Tell your people they are trying to save the Neanderthal people.

Bob: We need to look at the ecosystem effect of the barred owl. We have a Phd student studying the effect of barred owls. We have found that barred owls hammer crayfish during certain times of year. Other species also depend on crayfish. How are they affected by the barred owls eating large numbers of crayfish? It would be easy to shoot the owls, they are territorial, but we need to look at other options for barred owl removal. How humane is it if they were caged and flown to the East Coast and released where there are already a large number of owls with their own territories? In B.C. they have removed spotted owls into captivity and have been shooting barred owls in buffer areas to help spotted owls.

**Round Robin:**

**Michael Pond:** Our office is looking to hire a new superintendent and a social services person.

**Aaron Horton:** Bob Abby is being considered for BLM Director. It is the first time we have a career BLM person taking the lead position. We continue going through our new FBMS budget system which has been a challenge. We are in the final stages of hiring a YHONA Mgr. Should have a name pretty soon. Funding looks good for BLM for the coming year, but after that things don't look so good. Will be going through some workforce planning efforts for BLM.

**Trish Wilson:** On June 24, Rickerts Creek TS is being offered for sale...first regen sale in a while. We have one protest from Oregon Wild. We have a Green Peak Density Mgmt sale coming up leaving 40-120 trees per acre in 5 units.  
At Alsea Rec Site, Benton County and Alsea youth coming out to work in the park.

Mike Wilson to Aaron: Are you comfortable with fire protection for the Salem District?

Aaron: The ODF protects BLM land on the Westside. We are concerned about ODF layoffs and how that will affect us.

**Renne:** Senate passed marine reserve bill. Terry Thompson said...good news Newport will receive marine mammal institute but money came from Oregon State Univ. bldg Renne asked PAC to help recommend him for the Marine Reserves study group.

**Betty Jean:** Backcountry Horseman volunteer hours 9,000+. Annual total value \$220,150 of volunteer hours. Our project this summer that our local group is working on is a blow down on Foley Ridge. This trail is important to us because it allows us to enter into the Sisters Wilderness from the west without going over passes. Forest Service received stimulus dollars to help clear the trail. Betty Jean's horse group will help FS on this trail. Also worked on Baker Beach cleanup the weekend before the Plover closure. Most of debris come from the ocean.

**John Herbst:** I work for Confederated Tribe of Coos, Umpqua and Lower Siuslaw. We are a small natural resource group operating off EPA grants.

**Randy Rasmussen:** First weekend in June was National Trails Day. Started 17 years ago. "Get outdoors month" Dozens of registered events in Oregon. Thousands nationwide. Randy attended event on the BLM Molalla River Rec Corridor. Great example of folks working together. Cong Wyden introduced Molalla W&S River legislation last week. Just spent time with Trish W and Traci in Alsea Falls area discussing extending area trails. Europeans contact Randy about hiking old growth trail on OSU forest. They are eager to hike old growth trails. Corvallis to Sea Trail plan still alive. Working with private land owners. On national scale working with FS and BLM on FY 2010 appropriations.

Aaron: We have completed the Sandy River Plan and are now starting the Molalla River Plan. The folks in the Molalla area have been very patient with us.

**Bill Hatton:**

Want to thank Aaron for Wade Judy, who was the Salem District Rec. Planner and recently moved to Eugene BLM. Working on a district aquatic restoration plan. Holt Dam is one of the top ten high risk dams in the US. Will be holding a meeting to work through a scenario if Holt Dam burst. BLM acquired the dam through Bohemia.

Shooters leave a mess at shooting ranges...computers, TVs etc. Bill was contacted by a group who volunteered to pick up trash at a shooting range. They picked up five and a half cubic yards of trash.

**Mike Wilson:**

Doing owl surveys. Not finding spotted owls but have found some barred owls. Also doing a black tailed deer study. Have observed deer populations are way down. We are preparing our fire crews. We have a youth crew. We hope to work on the Tillamook Trail. Met with Siuslaw NF and BLM regarding putting together a MOU on roads. Working on putting out a timber sale to putting our budget in a healthier condition.

**Ron Philips:** I've already said most of what I was going to say earlier.

Seven years ago I was a founder of the Mt.Tabor RV club which now has 1,100 members. Mt Tabor loop is 35 miles on 5 land owners' properties. We maintain the trail which includes picking up garbage. We can "trespass freely" as long as we don't improve anything. If we do, the landowner becomes liable for injuries.

**Barnie Gyant:** We are collocating with PNW on OSU Campus. Working on design work now. Will be moved by 2012. Will get us out of a 1/2 million dollar lease. PNW owns their property. FS has a new chief. Tom Tidwell replaces Gail Kimball who retired

Joni: A handful of NFs are signed up for Twitter. Siuslaw is available at [Twitter.com](http://Twitter.com)

On Willamette, they have pulled the cert on Dallas's job.

**WOPR Update:**

On May 15 our lawyers signed an agreement with the plaintiffs for the WOPR not to go forward before July 20. BLM will not doing anything NOT under NWFP before July 20. In Salem, everything for us through Jan 2011 complies with NWFP. Because all the planning starts complied with the NWFP. Trish W signed off on a timber sale fully compliant with NWFP, but now the plaintiff are saying no "planning" not under NWFP. We can't do anything that doesn't comply with NWFP. We had two very successful timber sales last month. One sale was bid up 5 times low bid and the other went for 30% more than minimum bid. We are currently in a holding pattern until July 20.

Waiting on FWS. We aligned closely with FWS in our W. Oregon Planning effort. Recovery Action 32 in the Spotted Owl Recovery Plan...deferred harvest....160 years and older...plays big into where BLM is at now. We had some stuff in the pipeline but because of the Recovery Plan (ie Cherry Mill)...FWS told us stop...don't work in that area even though we were already in progress on Cherry Mill sale. Recovery Action 32 is a debate between BLM and FWS right now.

**Discussion:**

Renne: Where are we going as a PAC.?

Betty Jean: Perhaps get some new members? Haven't seen some people on list.

Randy: Would like to be more advisory. Would like to work on another WOPR type project.

Renne: Could let Coast PAC members know when we are doing a field trip so they can join in. Group discussed Coast PAC members tapping into field trips done by the agencies.

Bill Hatton: **Forests Today and Forever field trip on July 9.** Looking at stands and stopping at Tyrel Seed Orchard. Show up at Ray's Market at Veneta. Bill will send out more info.

FS Stewardship Field Trip coming up.

**Our next meeting: January 21, 2010 in Corvallis at the Siuslaw NF.**