

Coast PAC Meeting
(unofficial-charter has expired)
Salem District Lobby Level Conference Room
Minutes
July 15, 2010

Attending:

Aaron Horton, DM, Salem BLM, Jerry Ingersoll, Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw NF, Ginnie Grilley, DM, Eugene BLM, Michael Pond, BIA, Betty Jean Keele, Trails/Recreation, Alan Henning, EPA., Steve Small, Tillamook Field Manager, Michael Kennedy, Siletz Tribe, Rebecca Bourson, Grand Ronde Tribe, Ron Phillips, Public at Large, Rennie Ferris, Public at Large,

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

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:

Aaron Horton, Ginnie Grilley, Jerry Ingersoll

Aaron: The Salem District has several ARRA Projects going on. The roads at Yaquina Head have been coated with a slurry seal. There are several weatherization projects starting soon at the Salem District. Things will be chaotic during the projects. We are on track to sell 65 million board feet of timber this year. We had one unsold sale, but there is lots of interest in the resale offering. New District Manager Miles Brown will start August 8. Aaron retires August 5. We have some interesting fisheries projects going on. We are putting 80 trees into the Sandy River for fish habitat. We have lots of timber sales operational right now. We've received 7 requests for timber sale extensions. This has dropped to 5 requests. The extension request is on hold until January 2011. We are in negotiations with the purchasers. WOPR was rescinded one year ago (July 16, 2009). The task force report is expected to be released any day now. Survey and Manage is back. We have to look for red tree voles and slugs if we are doing a timber sale. There has been a shift in timber cutting from the Medford, Roseburg and Coos Bay to Eugene and Salem. We will receive our first look at the 2011 budget next week. We are expecting to take a hit. When the Secretary cancelled the Western Oregon Plan (WOPR), we went back to the NW Forest Plan...one of the things affected was OHVs.

Ginny: Several lawsuits are still pending in relation to the WOPR. Oregon BLM's objective is to sell as much timber as we can to help the counties as the Secure Schools legislation comes to a close in 2012.

We've taken the easy timber areas, and are now moving into harder to reach areas. Even though the money is shifting north, Eugene's budget is still down 1.5 million. Staffing levels are affected. Discretionary projects will decrease. What funding we have will be focused on our primary mission of timber production. Hopefully we'll be able to provide some help to watershed councils. The Joshua Creek area just north of Florence, which is managed side by side by USFS/BLM, will be closed to OHV use. Eugene BLM is raising fees on Clay Creek and Whitaker Creek Recreation Sites. There was an O&C management meeting in Eugene last Friday. Congressman DeFazio convened a meeting of conservation groups and timber industry reps. in Ginny's office to discuss where to go. He has requested a meeting with the Secretary of Interior to discuss this topic. The Jerry

Franklin and Norm Johnson report of eight months ago—says thinning on O&C lands is not sustainable. The US Fish & Wildlife is on a very fast track to release a Draft Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan—It is due out this month.

Jerry: Since the last PAC meeting, I've learned the interagency nature of everything we do. There are lots of landowners and management goals. Jerry will provide a presentation on the role that Siuslaw sees itself playing. Jerry passed out the 2009 Annual Report. There is a bill before Congress to designate 30,000 acres of wilderness east of Reedsport near the Umpqua River. Some BLM Coos Bay lands are included. This would double Siuslaw's wilderness acreage.

Siuslaw State of the Forest:

Jerry Ingersoll,

Everyone received a copy of a letter of response from Siuslaw NF to Ron Phillips' question at the April 1 PAC meeting.

Jerry showed a power point on the State of the Siuslaw National Forest:

Siuslaw manages 630,000 acres. Established in 1908, the Siuslaw has some of the most productive lands in the county. There are 150 permanent employees. Siuslaw lands are managed for restoration, recreation and partnerships. Jerry gave a 100 year history. Post World War 2 (1949-1990) Siuslaw entered into the big timber era. Big timber mechanization. More than 300 million board feet (MMBF) harvested per year. Revenue was shared with the counties. The Multiple Use/Sustained Yield Act passed in 1960. This involved intensive management. In 1990s, employee numbers dropped from 400 to 200. The NW Forest Plan allocated most of the Siuslaw to Late Successional Reserves. In the last 20 years the focus has changed to restoration, recreation and partnerships, watershed councils, \$8 million in Recovery Act funding, 40 MMBF timber harvest from thinnings, 1.8 million recreation visits (\$1.6 million receipts).

Projects engaged in: Salmon River Estuary Restoration-Pixieland and Tamara Quays, stewardship groups and contracting, thinning harvest for species habitat creation, Oregon Dunes Off Highway Vehicle Designated Route Planning,

Recovery funding is being spent on: deferred road maintenance-repair of roads and ridges, upgrades of culverts and decommissioning roads, fisheries and wildlife restoration to improve habitat for western snowy plover, Oregon silver spot butterfly and northern spotted owl, coastal facilities restoration-upgrade visitor centers, campgrounds trails and boating facilities on Hwy 101.

Secure Rural Schools: Approximately \$1.5 million/year spent on restoration projects. Where are we going in the future?

Challenges: Climate change: Siuslaw identified as one of the forests that is a carbon bank. Invasive species: European beach grass, Moving the forest headquarters to OSU campus- will be nearer to researchers.

Northwest Forest Plan stretches from Canadian border to California. Siuslaw is just one part of a bigger picture. Federal lands would play a conservation role so that the private lands didn't have to. Siuslaw has very little matrix land.

In answer to: What would it take to change the land management allocations on the Siuslaw?. Siuslaw is part of a much bigger allocation throughout Washington, Oregon, N. Calif. If Siuslaw changes, everyone else would have to change.

Ron Phillips: The NW Forest Plan is a poor plan which has a poor foundation. The Siuslaw has been standing back and doing nothing.

Jerry Ingersol: There are people on both sides as to whether the NWFP was a good or bad plan. We've been thinning pretty aggressively rather than letting these heavily logged lands grow unmanaged. We can continue to debate the NWFP...but let's also have a conversation on what the Siuslaw has done in the past 20 years and what we will do tomorrow. We believe we can sustain our thinning program for 30 years, but in the long run thinning is not a long term sustainable program. We have 200,000 acres of plantations.

Ron Phillips: Lincoln County is at 20% unemployment. Many people have given up looking for work. The Siuslaw is not meeting the needs of the public!

Ginnie: It is going to take Congressional intervention and won't happen for 5 years.

Ron: We should be out in front with a sensible plan when the political climate changes.

Ginnie: We have to have a spotted owl plan from USFW before we can move forward.

Betty Jean: Many areas were heavily over-logged. The current timber prices are way down. Selling timber at a low price doesn't make sense to me. Things change and we have to grow.

Jerry: Where do we want to go in the future? Change takes place through Congress, the Administration ... way above me.

Rennie Ferris provided history and activities of the mid Coast Watershed Council.

Ron: I would like to see us proceed on a 5 year plan to change the Siuslaw NF Late Succession Reserve designation. The late successional reserve designation is something the people of Oregon don't want.

Rennie recommended viewing the Lloyd Palmer piece on donkey logging.

Joni showed Siuslaw Centennial DVD.

Round Robin:

Rebecca: The Grand Ronde is preparing for wildfire season. Just started 4 youth crews (44 teens) Two active timber sales going. A culvert crew is working with BLM and Yamhill County. On Aug 3 there will be a meeting between the tribe and the Siuslaw National Forest on an MOU.

Ron Phillips: I founded the Mt. Baylor ORV club (1,100 riders). We have a 35 mile route out of Eddyville. I am very interested in the Dunes and I work with your Dunes Council. The Council feels areas are being taken away for riding. The Dunes ORV area generates a large portion of the recreation fees. The biggest recreation group that uses the Siuslaw Forest is #1: mom and pop sightseeing. #2: the ORVs. What are you going to do to expand to meet the needs of the Dunes OHV users?

Jerry: We are starting conversations on how to push back the beach grass.

Betty Jean: We are starting work on clearing the Pacific Crest Trail. Our horse group packs supplies into the Cascade wildernesses.

Alan Henning: EPA has been in discussion on the State's Coastal Zone Management Plan. We are still working on coming to agreement on 3 points. Settlement discussions are leading to DEQ maybe in a role to cite nonpoint problems on State and private lands under the Clean Water Act.

EPA is engaged with DEQ on the development of the Mid Coast TMDL. It is going very well. The Pitchfork Rebellion met with EPA and did a tour of areas where aerial herbicide application had taken place. Local area folks presented their health impacts from the herbicide application. The Pitchfork group hired a representative who has been in the chemical application business for 30 years. He presented a very creditable argument for aerial spray. There are ongoing meetings to continue to evaluate the situation. EPA's focus is on the labeling of herbicides for aerial application. Are the Coast Range conditions different from the areas tested in the application of the aerial sprays?

Rennie Ferris: The problem lies with the blanket labeling of all herbicides as being in the same boat and applicator error. Using isolated incidents to label all herbicides as bad. I look at so many thousands of acres of public lands lost to invasive species because of the total ban of herbicides. I have been pulling European beach grass since age 15. I can understand people's anti herbicide sentiment, but we need herbicides to fight beach grass and knotweed.

Steve Small: Tillamook's efforts in partnerships and collaboration. We are actively coordinating. We have a lot of stream and upland restoration going. We are focusing on employing youth in our restoration work. We use the Tillamook Youth Crew made up of Nestucca and Tillamook High School students and funded by Secure Schools dollars. We are employing two graduates of the program in our office this summer.

Mike Kennedy: The tribe has acquired 42,0004,200 acres as mitigation for marbled murrelets. There are 3,6003,800 acres in the Cedar Creek drainage. It is former Boise Cascade Forest Capital, and Plum Creek, and Capitol land. We are just about done with creating a management plan. The goal is protection of murrelet habitat. The conservation easement goal is to double murrelet habitat. We are looking at creating large

diameter trees with large limbs ~~and thinning to 15 trees/acre~~. The remaining third of the land is open to timber revenue production. Last fall we were able to get an OWEB grant for stream enhancement on 7 miles of ~~the Siletz Cedar Creek~~. We recently purchased 6,500 acres in Douglas County. We now own most of the eastern shore of Tahkenitch Lake. This area will be added to the timber base.
Mike invited everyone to the annual powwow Aug 13-15 in Siletz.

Michael Pond: Been working with the Grand Ronde, Cow~~;~~ Creek~~,~~ Coos and ~~Coquelle~~ Coquille on planning. A 21 MMBD timber sale will be completed by the end of August. BIA is working on 3 housing projects using ARRA stimulus dollars. Appraisal actions are pending.

Ginnie: I'd like to honor Aaron Horton who is retiring in the next couple weeks.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2010 at the BLM Eugene Office in Springfield