

Coast PAC Meeting

April 19, 2007

Recorder: Joni Quarnstrom, Siuslaw FS PAO

Attendees: Aaron Horton, Trish Hogervorst, Bryan van Bargaen, Rennie Ferris, Bill Hatton, Ginnie Grilley, Annabelle Jarramillo, Ron Phillips, Bill Hall, Jose Linares, Johnny Sundstrom, Betty Jean Keele, Mike Wilson, Mike Kennedy, Dick Prather, Joni Quarnstrom,

Welcome! Annabelle Jarramillo shared the history of the Bezell property and restored barn/education center. The property was donated to Benton County for continued stewardship management. Restoration occurred on the barn to provide a beautiful meeting and education center. Lunch graciously provided by Annabelle Jaramillo and the Benton County Board of Commissioners

Round Robin:

Aaron Horton, District Manager, Salem BLM:

- Background – Forester who has worked with BLM, Forest Service and Peace Corps in Latin America. Most recently spent 3 years in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as a field manager.
- Happy to be here.

Jose Linares, Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest:

- New district ranger at Central Coast Ranger District, Pam Gardner from the Unitia National Forest, will arrive the end of May.
- Recreation Niche Workshop – will provide guiding vision for the forest to focus priority on recreation facility prioritization. Jose doesn't see the Siuslaw closing any large facilities, but will look closely at smaller sites.
- Budget – Final budget provided \$1.3 -1.5 million extra to the Siuslaw budget. This will help the Forest with restoration work. This year the Siuslaw will thin 39 mmbf and 50 mmbf in FY08. Our practices won't change – we will continue with thinning and watershed restoration.
- Central Coast Ranger District - The District is still in the process of transitioning from Florence to Waldport. We will maintain a small office in Florence. We are working with Waldport city and emergency officials to collocate. This area is right on Highway 101 and out of the tsunami zone.
- Heritage Tree Dedication – Giant Spruce tree at Cape Perpetua. Dedication Saturday, September 15 at 1 p.m. at the Yachats Commons.

Bill Hall, Lincoln County Commissioner:

- Budget process. Impact of loss of secure rural schools. Losing \$350,000 in the general fund. \$3 million hit to road department. We are not counting on new legislation. We have about 11 vacant positions that we will not fill, including some potential layoffs.
- Yaquina Head – rededication of the restored lighthouse Friday, April 20.

Ron Phillips, Motorized Recreation:

- Happy to see the Waldport office will remain.
- Happy to see thinning harvest numbers increase.
- Am distressed with lack of budget and continual need to improve recreation opportunities. Glad we are doing the things we are doing.

Annabelle Jarramillo, Benton County Commissioner:

- Bi-annual budget process to work with State payments. We are the only county to have a bi-annual budget. \$2.3 million hit to general fund. \$200,000 to road fund. County has been anticipating for a year, anticipating downward trend. Not filling 30 vacant positions. We will not factor in federal legislation. It is not sustainable over the long run.
- Beazell, is a self-sustaining facility—Benton County's prize possession.
- Annabelle is working with ODF forest management advisory committee, appointed by Governor Kulingkoski. The group is looking at state lands and how they are affected by federal forest management. We need to look at climate change – it is a very compelling argument. We will look at new and creative strategies.

Ginney Grilley, District Manager, Eugene BLM:

- Eugene BLM is back up to full speed with field managers. Bill O'Sullivan is field manager for BLM lands on east side of I-5. Bill Hatton is field manager for BLM lands west of I-5

Bill Hatton, Field Manager, Eugene BLM:

- Temporary bridge at Camp Creek and will replace culvert to provide fish passage. Windy Creek has similar situation.
- Gearing up for fire season with employees taking physical fitness tests.
- Hired recreation staff for the summer – two major camp areas to manage.
- Large range for marbled murrelets – staffing for that.
- BLM is also ramping up for NWFP – 48 mmbf.

Rennie Ferris, Public at Large, Ferris Nursery:

- Noxious weed concern – heavy around the Yachats area. Escaped clematis. Hopefully some KV funds from timber thinning can be used to help eradicate clematis.

Bryan van Barga, Army Corps of Engineers:

- Sitting in for Eric Peterson. Corps is spread out over the Willamette Valley. We do cooperative work with other agencies for noxious weeds.
- ESA work to do.
- Recreation work is just starting; opening campgrounds.
- COE cooperates with Forest Service on lakes, i.e., Detroit Lake.
- A busy time for water management and filling lakes. Discuss what to do with extra water, and demand for extra flow to support Chinook and steelhead.

- Willamette River Keepers has given notice for intent to sue – for COE not responding to NOAA. We are writing our response to the biological opinion.
- The Willamette Valley picks up most of our water in the spring, through first part of May – more so than relying on snow pack.

Trish Hogervorst, Salem BLM Public Affairs, for Salem DM Aaron Horton:

- New District Manager, Aaron Horton.
- Yaquina Head Lighthouse Rededication – Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21. New Yaquina Head poster will be unveiled.
- Salem BLM employees are preparing for fire.
- Lots going on with the Western Oregon Plan
- Sharing administrative work between Eugene and Salem.

Mike Kennedy: Confederated Tribes of the Siletz

- Involved in Alsea Stewardship Group. Two sales are sold so we will work with local funding for restoration work on private lands.

Mike Wilson: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

- Has been bouncing around in various jobs with Grand Ronde and is now the Natural Resource Manager on a permanent basis. (yea, Mike!) Will be able to stay with the Coast PAC
- Seeded lands coordinator recently filled by one of Mike's foresters.
- Gearing up for fire season.
- Report to council on Yamhill basin culvert this afternoon.
- Discussion of counties and loss of rural school funding is affecting reduction of sheriff patrols on Grand Ronde land.
- Grand Ronde is holding a career fair next week.

Betty Jean Keele, Recreation, Equestrian

- Volunteer Week in Willamette Valley – volunteering to learn how to maintain trails. Many people taking proper training.
- Pre-SOLV beach clean up so we can get out and clean where the snowy plovers live. Eighteen horses and mules and 23 people. We cleared 1,100 pounds of garbage in three hours.
- Met with Chris Alder of Eugene BLM on a project that both the Forest Service and BLM will work on together.
- Personally Betty Jean is doing trail clearing. She always brings a saw with her to clear trees/branches when she is riding her horse.

Johnny Sundstrom, Public, Siuslaw Institute

- Pathways to Resilience Session – scientific presentations on salmon and communities. Johnny was the banquet speaker. The idea of resilience is becoming interesting and popular; it's a sequel to restoration. What do you need to preserve, protect and restore for long-term disturbances. What is your bottom line for resilience in all this?

- Johnny has done a couple presentations at ODF on stewardship contracting, and contracting activity in the Siuslaw.
- Five Mile Bell - an old homestead that the Forest Service purchased with legacy and fish habitat funding. The Forest Service put out a request for proposals and the Ecotrust and Siuslaw Basin Partnership responded – the only ones that did respond. Their idea is to take stewardship money to do three things. 1) restoration of aquatics, 2) maintain and operate a productive aspect, hay, crops, whatever to show you can have both, 3) institute or study to convert barn into education center. (Bezell is an inspiration). It needs NEPA work and other things. The community wants to do NEPA. We just learned that stewardship money can be used to contract out NEPA work. This will be interesting if you can contract out this type of work. This is a whole new arena for the public and agencies.
- Several up coming field trips in the Siuslaw – state legislature, regional review team of OWEB, regional leadership team in June.

Public Comment Period:

Randy Rasmussen, National Hiking Society

Trails – focused on hiking, equestrian, and protection of trails. He is looking to work with agencies, trail users, wanting their voices to be heard in the planning process. He is very impressed with OHV management on Eugene BLM. It's a good model to follow.

Question: Is this Coast PAC getting rechartered? Yes, we see this as a very active group with good attendance and both agencies have big planning issues in the upcoming years. We value the input from our PAC.

Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR)

Dick Prather

- The WOPR is a little like the NWFP – which amended Forest Service plans and gave guidance to finish BLM plans. There will be an individual record of decision for each district.

So what is WOPR?

- BLM wants to gain efficiencies.
- We've been working at this for a little over two years now. Started with scoping.
- We are now writing a draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. It's been a long process. The draft will be on the street July 20, 2007. The notice of availability begins the 90 day public comment period.

Why are we doing this? Why are we revising our plans and the Forest Service is not? BLM is different than the Forest Service, particularly with the O&C Act.

Act says:

- Provide timber
- Offer no more than capable of sustaining

- Under NWFP we've never been able to achieve annual timber production, so BLM has not met the obligation of O&C Act.

The WOPR is contingent on funding and needs to be complete by December 2008.

Alternatives:

- No Action Alternative – take no action that would change what you are doing today.
- Alternative One – Keep late successional reserves identified. Change riparian reserves.
- Alternative Two – took rules and science that spotted owl recovery is based on and looked at BLM land ownership. BLM came up with spotted owl strategy. 25 feet from perennial or fish bearing stream – do nothing. 35 – 50 feet – 80% nothing; 60 – 100 feet 50% canopy closure.
- If there is a fire, we will salvage for economic value
- Alternative Three – Minimize land use allocations and manage for big trees. Extend harvest rotation. All age management in Southern Oregon.

BLM regulations require us to select an alternative. We may be able to take a look at all the components of alternatives and develop a completely new and preferred alternative.

Daylight Decisions, Inc. Public Involvement

PAC role – help us collaborate with this.

Comment: If we are just information conduits, that's fine. However if there is another role, please let us know.

Showed film – History of the O&C Lands.

Showed film - Comments from the environmental view

Cary Fox/Ginny Grilley kicked off the afternoon
 Asked members how they would like to be involved

Bryan-Army Corps
 Would like to be involved from the Army Corps perspective-informed and consult.

Rennie- Coast PAC education of issues has been very useful in my outreach with other groups. As a charter member there have been instances where I felt very involved, other times I've been tremendously frustrated. Not many public members here. This really concerns me.

Bill Hatton-I think we can work at the consult level.

Annabelle- Consult level—concerned about competing interests. We have responsibility to the same constituents but different expectations.

Ron Phillips-I'm not picking up on controversy. Public has recognized that the NWFP has gone too far, but they want to keep certain values. I want to be kept in the loop.

Ginny: The WOPR decision will cause controversy. We will have to do more regen harvesting. We will run out of thinning within 6 years. Regen brings controversy.

Bill Hall-I want to be informed and consult. The majority of the folks will want a middle ground. There are still those on both ends.

Jose: We in FS are a cooperator, and want to help in any way we can.

Aaron: The PAC will need to develop some common ground if you want to be heard. When you see the preferred alt come out, like Ginny said, that is NOT the final. If you are looking for an issue to grasp, this is it. We are looking for meaningful comments. The extremists are still out there.

Betty Jean: I joined the PAC in the beginning to be an advisor as the name states. I truly think the PAC needs to be involved in some manner. I realize there is diverging interest within the PAC. Recommends a majority AND a minority report because a unified approach is hard to achieve. Inform and consult.

Dick Powell: Ideally PAC should be informed. Consult is a good sounding board. Involve – Promises have been broken (NWFP) Lawyers stop what will be achieved. Come to solutions legislatively.

Carrie: How does group want to engage? Definitely want to be informed and consult. Involve is harder to achieve.

Discussed politics affecting all efforts.

Define "consult" How many people can give the time to consult. How much time is involved?

Ginny/Bill—Will involve lots of homework.

Ron P—Since I haven't seen your plan, I can't respond to it. We need to take action by coming up with a position. You (feds) are hired to manage the forests-DO IT! Eventually the lawsuits will be resolved.

Dick Prather. 3 meetings and considerable homework in between. Would like to get it on the website so you can start reading it. Timeline: June-Oct.

Rennie: There has to be some likelihood that these proposed PAC efforts will have some effect. Some past extensive PAC efforts have gotten us nowhere. Will BLM try and get the most out of our PAC efforts. Can this group be effective?

Is the PAC heterogeneous enough? Or have we become homogeneous?
I would push for divergent views.

Ginny: Some issues like revenues to counties is an example of something I would be very interested in having your response to.

Aaron: We are going to be collecting comments from anyone out there who wants to comment. I would hope this group could come up with some consensus in commenting on the plan, and when we get to the implementation part, that the group could stay together to help with that.

Dick Prather: I think there is some real value in you as an advisory group commenting on this.

Who wants to be involved?

Betty Jean yes

Dick Powell yes

Randy Rassmussen As a nonmember yes

Aaron: yes PAC should come up with feedback to BLM

Jose yes

Bill yes

Ron yes

Annabelle yes

Ginnie yes

Bill H yes

Renee yes

Bryan yes

Jose offered with Aaron and Ginny to contact missing PAC members to encourage them to be involved.

Betty Jean: We could use July and Oct meetings to work on it.

Comparison of alts on July 19 mtg?

Discussed representation:

Missing: FWS, State Forestry, State Fish & Wildlife, (Renee) Tillamook Co
Comm (Hatton) ODF, Env person (Jose), Contact nonattenders, Industry reps (Powell)
Mid Coast Watershed Chair (Phillips)

Ginny: Areas we could really use feedback: Spec status species, socio economic,
Some areas like fisheries-isn't much difference.

Annabelle: Would like to see someone come in to talk about climate change.

Rennie: Court cases –basic laws

Carrie – wanting to not compromise but give most satisfaction to both parties.
Understand the underlying issue of both parties.

Web Site:

Use map to give comments on BLM recreation/use
Daylightdecision.com/wopr or Google “wopr blm

Carrie: Web site is written in an accurate way and does not talk down to you. Links allow you to drill down to more detail.

Coast PAC members have the opportunity to review WOPR page and give feedback to Carrie. It’s a trail.

Map page:

- What level of interest do you think there is for having a discussion in your community? You can respond and list a specific place to have a meeting.

The Vibe:

- What are things that really matter in the alternatives? Things were different when the public weighed in on this question, compared to BLM. Through pull-down menu, people can let BLM know what is important to them. At the end of the summer, these will be reviewed. The public will get instant feedback on the decision space for BLM.

The Jolt:

- After inputting values, someone can see what Alternative best fits with their values/concerns.

There is also a section that shows, day by day, input from people on what they feel strongly about on the WOPR.

Next Meeting Schedule –

- July 19 - Ginnie will arrange for thorough briefing on what is in WOPR – alternatives, critical components we need your input. Also things that PAC members want to give input on. Ginnie and Aaron to take lead on inviting speakers and arranging agenda. Location: Newport, place TBA.
- August 22 - WOPR alternative
- September 13 – WOPR alternative
- October 18 – Regular meeting