

## **Coast PAC Meeting Notes January 22, 2009**

**Attending:** Rod Shepard, Rennie Ferris, Ron Phillips, Bill Hall, Bill Hatton, George Buckingham, Trish Wilson, Ginnie Grilley, Mike Pond, Bernie Gyant, Frank DeWeese, Randy Rasmussen, Mike Wilson, Aaron Horton, Steve Gravelle, Alan Henning, Bob Progulske, Brendan White, Joni Quarnstrom, Trish Hogervorst

**Absent:** Rosemary Furfey, Jim Morgan, Mike Kennedy, Barry Wulff, Annabelle Jaramillo, Johnny Sundstrom, Betty Jean Keele

### **Introductions: Visitors\new members**

Rod Shepherd, Forest Capitol, land sales manager for NW/SW Oregon  
Steve Gravelle, Plum Creek

### **Round Robin:**

#### **Bob Progulske, USFWS**

The presentation on the agenda will cover most of what is happening with USFWS. No new direction from the new administration yet. The new DOI Secretary Ken Salazar spoke to all Interior employees this morning.

#### **Alan Henning, EPA**

Elin Miller, the Administrator for Region 10 left this week. Assistant Regional Administrator Michele Pirzadeh is acting. Lisa Richardson of New Jersey is being considered for head of EPA. With the change in administration, EPA will focus on climate change, toxics (such as perchlorate in Oregon), drinking water standards, water quality protection, and our enforcement programs may become more engaged. Stimulus package: EPA may receive \$15 billion dollars. Of that total, a substantial amount will be going to the Clean Water State Revolving Funding Process. If the stimulus package does happen, it is likely that the State of Oregon will receive \$70 million tied to infrastructure construction for water and waste water treatment plants. However, some of this money can be used for addressing non-point sources related issues. EPA recently received a notice of intent to sue. A year ago EPA and NOAA partially approved Oregon's Coastal Zone Management Program (CZARA program). Suite says EPA did not have authority for partially approving CZARA. It could impact the amount of Section 319 dollars for restoration projects such as culvert replacement, riparian plantings and stream-side protection.

#### **Steve Gravelle, Plum Creek Timber**

Represent industry. The housing market is down significantly from a year ago. A lot less housing starts. Many facilities, such as mills, are taking down time. 2009 will be a struggle. We hope 2010 picks up.

#### **Aaron Horton, Salem BLM, District Mgr.**

The new Secretary of Interior is Ken Salazar. I think we'll see a balanced approach to resource management. Ron Wenker is acting BLM Director in Wash DC. Mike Nedd is

acting Deputy Director until everything shakes out. There will probably be some changes in BLM state directors in the months to come. We are poised to respond to the Stimulus Bill. We in Salem have a lot of projects ready to go. Salem Secure Schools projects are due Feb 13. The Salem RAC is meeting April 15-16 at the Salem District office. Salem BLM's timber sale target for 2009 is 59 MBF. Our current manager at Yaquina Head is leaving for Washington DC. On Dec 30, six new Records of Decision for Western Oregon BLM were signed. Eight lawsuits have been filed to date. Fishermen's Bend and Wildwood Recreation Sites have a lot of trees down. DOI is under a Continuing Resolution. The number of positions at Salem BLM will remain fairly stable.

**Mike Wilson, Grand Ronde Tribe**

We are holding off on our timber sale program. We continue to work on our plank house at Valley Junction at Ft. Yamhill. We are still looking for cedar to side it with. Does anyone have any cedar they want to donate? Just came through a difficult budgeting period. We managed to hang on to all our staff. Not filling a couple of positions. The Reservation took a beating from the storm. We have been opening main roads to date. A lot of work to do. Have done quite a bit of culvert work in past years, they all held. Our fish weir has had about 200+ coho come through so far. We have a lamprey tracking project going. Had to rescue several receiver stations. Law enforcement has been busy. People moving out to the forest, setting up camp and doing illegal activities.

**Randy Rasmussen, American Hiking Society**

Anticipating significant budget increases with agencies due to Stimulus Package. Hope some of the dollars go to repair degraded roads and trails. Have support from DeFazio and Norm Dicks. BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)—Bill in Congress looks like it will pass. Would like to elevate NLCS profile with members of Congress. American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations to repair trails has been successful. In Oregon, Steens Mountain is always popular. Would like submissions for future volunteer vacation proposals. There is a new trail group in Oregon called Trail Keepers. They already have agreements with Columbia Scenic Area and the Mt. Hood NF. See: [TrailkeepersofOregon.org](http://TrailkeepersofOregon.org). Randy is closely following Travel Management and anything to do with trails for both BLM and Forest Service. He is trying to coordinate a grass roots response.

**Frank DeWeese, Oregon Equestrian Trails:**

Oregon Equestrian Trails continues to work with BLM and Forest Service. Volunteers are a bigger part of budget than ever before. OET has adopted 4 horse camps in the Cascades to keep them from being closed. Ie: Big Meadow, Looking at what future OET focus should be.

**Barnie Gyant, Forest Supv. Siuslaw NF.**

Have been busy with the relisting of Coastal Coho. Worked really hard to get several projects through. Siuslaw NF. Will collocate with PNW on OSU Campus in 2011. Siuslaw NF has 150 employees vs 400 a few years ago. We share a lot of duties with other Forests. We rely heavily on our Grants and Agreements Program. Our WO FS Chief, Gail Kimbal has been asked to stay on. Sally Collins will head Ecosystems Svcs.,

Mary Wagner is the new Region 6 Chief. The Stimulus Package is still an unknown. We are in the process of rebuilding our staff. Have a NRS staff position vacant. Will have acting in it for a while. First acting will be Scott Peets, then Kami Ellingson. There is a deputy district ranger job vacant on the Central Coast.

**Michael Pond, BIA**

Involved in planning effort for 274 acre timber sale at Cow Creek. Working on NEPA and sale layout. Just finished a fire review. Went fairly successful. Not a lot of timber being sold because of the down market. Mike Kennedy could not be here today  
From Mike: Feels Coast PAC is a very useful tool for communications among agencies.

**Ginnie Grilley, BLM Eugene, District Mgr.**

Eugene BLM is moving in with the National Guard, Navy and Marine Reserves and Willamette National Forest in May/June. The new office is located in Springfield, just north of Kingsford Charcoal Plant. The building is occupied 24/7. It has one of the highest environmental classifications in Oregon. Will provide for many Service First opportunities. Our timber program for 2009 is 53 million board feet. Eugene held a timber sale in November. Offered 3 timber sales but didn't sell any of them. We are reevaluating our sales. There is lots of supply on the market. Will reoffer the sales later this year. Lane County Law Enforcement—the commissioners are discussing where to spend Secure Schools dollars. Have reduced previous RAC dollars for 6 law enforcement officers down to 0. We are seeing a lot more illicit activities in the woods especially on the west side of Eugene. The Eugene Wetlands has had lots of vandalism. Stimulus bill dollars remain to be seen. Looking at projects to have ready to put on the ground.

**Trish Wilson, Salem BLM, Marys Peak Field Mgr.**

What new RMP means to Marys Peak: Most of our Late Successional Reserves became Late Successional Mgmt areas. Our cut level doubles in thinning--very labor intensive. We are looking at more contracts. We struggle with maintaining our recreation sites. Looking at how we can reduce our maintenance costs.

**George Buckingham, Siuslaw NF, Hebo District Ranger**

Still digging out from winter storms. The ice storm centered around Little Nestucca. Sheared off alders everywhere. Most roads blocked by trees. Opened up a few core roads. Siuslaw focuses on year-round recreation. A number of folks working closely with people on Salmon River Estuary System-reconnecting fresh water with salt water. We continue to emphasize our thinning program. Hebo does planning by watershed basin. Had two helicopter sales. Placed materials in streams. Have a new wildlife biologist and new silviculturist. Have sold 1,100 cords of firewood on the Hebo District.

**Bill Hatton, Eugene BLM, Field Mgr.**

Will fill an outdoor recreation planner position by late spring/early summer. Have identified our next planning effort in Longtom Watershed. Working with Randy on Holt Pond Trailhead. Three timber sales for 560 acres/9 MBF went no bid. Reoffering them

in March. Working with Oregon Watershed Enhancement, Weyerhaeuser et al to do fish restoration on Swamp Creek. Lots of trash dumping—working to put in a gate. Pulled 55 vehicles and tons of trash off Eugene BLM lands this past year. W. Eugene Wetlands—met with John Mercier on an ethno botany project to plant historical plants such as camas.

**Bill Hall, Lincoln County Commissioner:**

Budgets are tough. We reduced the Lincoln County Road Dept from 50 to 30 employees. The RAC scope of allowable uses for Title 3 were significantly narrowed. This was a disappointment. We no longer can hire a forest education leader, fund the Summer Youth Resource Program and the Lincoln Land Legacy Program of conservation easements.

**Ron Phillips, Public at Large**

Unemployment going up. Have experienced 33% unemployment in Newport area during the John Kennedy era. My focus is on people. I am a trail advocate. The one good thing to the economic downturn is that it will refocus people's attention back to the economic infrastructure. Use the forest to contribute to "my people."

**Renne Ferris, Public at Large**

Went fishing yesterday. Years ago lots of floating garbage seen while ocean fishing. That doesn't happen much anymore like back then—much less marine trash. I'm a real believer in collaborative processes. Maybe we can reduce trash on land as well. It is heartening to me to see so many people show up today. Welcome to new members! Hope new people will see the value. There have been some really positive things this PAC has contributed. We have a long future of continuing that.

**Rod Shepard, Forest Capitol**

I really appreciate the opportunity to say my piece. We are in complete survival mode right now. Our company president is very active in keeping the timber industry involved in the weak market. We have an obligation to our investors. Have been very active working with conservation groups on putting land into conservation. Barely making enough to pay wages. We are actively keeping up our road maintenance.... replacing culverts.

**Future of Coast PAC and Meeting Schedule:**

Ginnie: Coast PAC was created in 1994. Mike Wilson, Mike Kennedy, Rennie Ferris, and Ron Philips were involved early on. Out of that was created the Province Interagency Executive Committee. The PIEC Committee (PIEC) is still very active. Approximately 5 PACs are left.

Barnie: Ginnie, Aaron and I have been discussing--what is going on at a forest level that this group is interested in. What part of things does the PAC want to take on? I don't like to meet just to meet. We've been asking, in what are we asking the group to participate. New administration—don't know where we are going yet.

Aaron: I'm very encouraged by the turnout. Biggest turnout in a long time.

Rennie: Few members are truly public. Many participants are agency folks. Considerable time goes into process of putting together meeting. How reflective are the PAC public participants of the public in general? Is this group worthwhile? Have had prior discussions. Wanted to be involved in more policy things than project specific issues. The input from this group has been extremely valuable.

Frank DeWeese: I first became involved with the Trails Subcommittee. I am involved with lots of volunteers. How do we get a voice and an ear to the policies of public access. I'd like to see us work on public involvement and public access policies. Talked about gates and access easements to public land behind gates...ie Trask Mt area. Four gates keep me from getting to a fire lookout on Trask Mt. How do we get to those pieces of public lands behind gates?

Mike Wilson: Asked about Adaptive Mgmt Areas

Ginnie: AMAs no longer exist on BLM lands, but are still present on Forest Service lands—but not using the AMA principal of the Forest Plan. PIEC still meets. Made up of federal members of the PAC. Mike Pond, BIA attended last PIEC meeting.

Randy Rasmussen: Is there another forum to be involved in access and travel management with the agencies? What resources are available to manage a robust travel system on public lands?

Mike Wilson: Could there be a notification of issues of interest to members of the Coast PAC as issues arrive?

Barnie: We had four open houses on Travel Mgmt. One in Albany and 3 on the Coast. It is one of the tools we use to get in touch with members of the public.

Ron Phillips: I've been impressed to have the various agencies at the table. I felt we helped with the WOPR. I like to think in these discussions we are helping you. We can say what we want to the political leadership. We can be political advocates for you.

Rod Shepard: The timber companies have gates because of the cost involved in picking up trash and paying for law enforcement!

Steve Gravelle: The Stimulus Package is one place the PAC could help. I would like to have an impact in helping the agencies against litigation.

Rennie

The gates provide opportunities for the public to have access to untouched land by biking, hiking etc.,

Alan Henning: Has served on 3 PACs. Coast Range is only one left. Other two had mostly federal representation. It is important that if this PAC survives, that members of the public are present. Lots of changes in the works....W. Oregon Plan...I support the life of the Coast PAC but it is dependent on the presence of the public members.

Frank DeWeese: Would like to work on invasive species issues.

Mike Wilson: Appreciate managers being open. PAC members have been very dedicated to helping this PAC survive. WO has not been as supportive—ie long lengths of time to get PAC rechartered.

**DECISION:**

Barnie: We propose to continue on with the PAC. Keep meeting once a year in January and schedule a second date during the year when topics come up. If there is a need to assemble the group more often for upcoming issues, we will do so. We will give a month advance notice when there is a need to meet.

Renne: Would like to discuss 1) trash and 2) access to public lands

Ron Phillips: Would like to see a land and water management trail mgmt plan.

**NEXT TENTATIVE COAST PAC MEETING DATE: JUNE 18  
LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**

Aaron Horton handed out a list of watershed councils in Oregon and a list of Salem RAC members to give PAC members ideas of where to get involved.

**US Forest Service Travel Mgmt update (Frank Davis and Michael Harvey)**

Frank Davis: Held 4 public meetings in the last year. (Corvallis, Albany, Beaver, Coos Bay) Visitation was low

Went to meetings with proposal: Use OHVs on non-key roads, (Not on key roads)

Based on public comments, concluded that 3 key roads needed to stay open in the Hebo area near BLM OHV areas. Access is often needed to reach dispersed camping sites.

Will go out to the public with the preliminary analysis by the end of February.

All trails identified in the process will have to be marked on the ground.

Motorized access: Forest is closed unless designated open.

Two open sand areas caused the most controversy: Near Joshua Lane west of Hwy 101 (near Florence)-have to cross a BLM ACEC and nearby Collared Lake. Neither area has official Forest Service access.

Timeframe: Motor vehicle use map printed by Dec 2009

Mike Wilson offered to have maps available at Grand Ronde Tribal offices.

Ron Phillips: Dunes is a national treasure. Forest Service has done a good job.

In Yaquina Basin there is a 35 mile loop for OHV riders. Would like to see similar trail in the Alsea and Siuslaw Basins. OHVs have a million dollars to spend. Give us a plan and we'll come up with 80% of the cost. Can be used for horses, hikers and OHVs.

Visit Siuslaw NF website. Click Travel Mgmt button on the right side of the page.

Mike Harvey: 10C Area

Will be sorting out the many routes in the Oregon Dune motorized areas where designated routes are needed...which ones will be kept, which will be discontinued. Will be using a facilitated session to reach unaffiliated users, State ATV program, outfitter guides, adjacent communities, mushroom pickers, fish and wildlife advocates, environmentalists.

## **Spotted Owl Recovery Plan**

**(Brendan White, Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, Bob Progulski)**

Brendan presented a power point on the N. Spotted Owl recovery plan. Started in late April 2006. Worked off existing info. Produced draft plan Sept 2006 and April 2007. *See link to power point.*

Recovery Plan was agreed upon at 2003 Settlement Agreement.  
FWS currently being sued by both timber industry and environmentalists.

Presently there is a Phd student studying spotted and barred owl relationships west of Eugene. Have tagged 25 spotted and 25 barred owls. Barred owls are not dependant on old growth.

## **Western Oregon Plan (Ginnie Grilley, Aaron Horton)**

Ginnie presented a power point.

BLM manages 2.5 million acres in W. Oregon

O&C lands: 2.1 million acres-managed primarily for timber-50% of receipts to counties.

Public Domain lands: 400,000 acres

22,000 comments on W. Oregon Plan

Major Land Use Areas include:

- LSMA-Late Successional Management Areas

- RMA- Riparian Mgmt Areas

- TMA-Timber Mgmt Areas

- Deferred TMA

- Uneven-Age TMA

Much more detailed analysis of the land on this plan than NWFP

We described our analysis—didn't happen with NWFP

New ROD land breakdown:

- 30% of W.Oregon BLM lands are managed for nontimber objectives

- 30% not available for timber harvest (rec sites etc)

- 40% of lands managed for timber production

Doubled timber harvest (203 MBF under NWFP to 502 MBF under new ROD)

Met conservation needs of spotted owl

Increase habitat for marbled murrelet

Maintain water quality

Improve habitat for fish

Revenue: Harvest 500 MBF and 86 nonASQ under new ROD- very sustainable

Payments to Counties: BLM PRMP will provide \$77 million when fully implemented.

Eugene: Treating 2%/year in first decade (296,000 acres total forest land)

Harvest land base 143,000 acres

15,000 acres regen. in first decade/thinning 33,000 acres/decade

LSMA Thin 11,000, RM Thin 5,000

Plans are signed. Each district has a new plan. Ramp up expected to take 4 years.

Conditional on funding. Next two years tiered to the NW Forest Plan

Objective of new plan is to be a guide.

Public has opportunities for public involvement on individual projects.

See chapter 2 for rec. revenue info. Rec development left up to individual districts.

Access will be managed at the district level.

Public Comment Period: No public present

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM