

Coast PAC Meeting January 17, 2008

Attending: Betty Jean Keele, Ron Phillips, Rosemary Furfey, Bernie Gyant, Aaron Horton, Ginnie Grilley, Rennie Ferris, Mike Wilson, Bill Hatton, Brad Keller, Mike Harvey, Annabelle Jaramillo, Bob Progulski, Randy Rasmussen, Joni Quarnstrom, Trish Hogervorst

WOPR Update: Aaron Horton/Ginny Grilley
Comment period closed last Friday. Thank you PAC members for your hard work in submitting comments. The 17 Cooperators submitted comments last Thursday. Twenty six thousand comments came in. We will be working on responding to these comments over the next few months.

There will be some changes to the preferred alternative. Exactly what it will look like is still up in the air. Unknowns: FWS N. Spotted Owl Recovery Plan to be completed in April and the Marbled Murrelet plan. Final edits to the plan will be made in June. As a Cooperator, the Governor has an opportunity to review it during June-Aug 2008. Sept-Oct 2008 will be the protest period after which BLM will finalize the plan.

Travel Mgmt: Frank Davis/Mike Harvey
Two handouts: 1) Scoping letter (maps on FS website)
2) Background & current info sheet

Travel Mgmt, adopted in 2005, involves unmanaged recreation use, especially motorized use. Each national forest is developing a Travel Mgmt Plan, to be published in 2009, stating where on the Forest motorized use is allowed. A map will show where motorized use is allowed. All other areas are closed. Public involvement was done in 2007, asking people where on the Forest they use motors. (FS is looking for areas they might not be aware of. Very little input received—It has been speculated that people did not want to disclose their personal riding areas.

In 2008 FS will go through the decision process and NEPA and present the public with a proposal. FS hopes to publish the plan in early 2009.

Open houses are planned for: Jan 30 and four in Feb 2008—an informal discussion of the maps will take place. Will use comment cards and info sheets.

Based on public input—may look at other things. Forest Supervisor will decide what to consider.

Will leave Sand Lake and Dunes alone. Keep current decisions for these two areas.

Identified 600 miles of “key roads” Other roads are “non key roads”

Some roads identified for closure. Roads closed to motor vehicles traffic will also be closed to ATV traffic.

Oregon ATV user guide—Can’t ride ATV on a paved road. *Referred to maps around the room. (Brought up website on the screen)*

Roads in green will be available for both street legal vehicles and ATVs

Roads in purple-closed and decommissioned. (kelly-humped (bermed) water barred etc)

Not available for ATVs (Still open to non motorized use such as hiking and horseback riding) Roads would be designated on motor vehicle map.

Rider refers to map to know where to go.--The members had many questions.

Roads in brown-will be closed and/or decommissioned.

Issue: BLM/FS mgmt consistency,

BLM's Joshua Lane-ACEC-closed to ATVs—borders FS open land.

BLM's Collered Lake—no legal access.

FS will close to be consistent w/ BLM mgmt in these two areas.

Ginny would like to have Coast PAC involvement in working on problems in these areas.

Rennie: Will be significant challenge if BLM and FS are not consistent in management of ATV access.

Ron Phillips: You are not reaching ATV community with this. You are not meeting their needs (with exception of the dunes)

Aaron: What about potential future development?

Frank: ATVers need to make proposals, however this plan is not the process to propose/build new areas.

Barnie—We are having a hard enough time managing what we currently have. Our focus is on the two dune areas. We don't have the resources to build new areas.

Annabelle: What is your expectation of county law enforcement?

Expectation is that the FS law enforcement officers will enforce this...not county.

Mike Kennedy: Siuslaw NF borders Grand Ronde lands. Your plan will affect tribal lands.

Randy—This is a good effort, needs to be done. What about big game retrieval?

Frank-R6 decided game retrieval will not be allowed on closed roads.

Rennie: Public meetings don't attract many people.

For success- YOU need to go to the key publics!

Focus on key groups educating/policing themselves!

Annabelle has some key groups that should receive presentations on this issue.

TIMELINE: Draft EA out-Sept 2008. -30 day time period.

Completed plan out: Dec 2008

Will continue to entertain comments throughout the process.

Barnie: Next Coast PAC meeting 3rd Thurs, April 17.

Need Coast PAC comments by May 19.

Recreation Facility Analysis-Overview Mike Harvey

1 hand out: RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS

Pg 2-overview

Pg 3-4 –focus on Siuslaw NF facilities

What is the niche Siuslaw will provide in the coming years?

Can't cover all the bases. ½ million \$s in user fees have helped support Siuslaw facilities.

Pg 10-ranking of Siuslaw facilities.

Pg 16-18-proposed program of work.

Mike would like Coast PAC to provide feedback on proposed ranking, program of work, what has been missed?

Deadline for Coast PAC comments: July 30, 2008

April 17 Coast PAC mtg-Focus on Travel Mgmt

Include 1 hour working on Facility Analysis
Ginny—Eugene BLM is going to mimic this report as a pilot project for OR/WA BLM.
Budget Assumptions:
Will continue to have Rec Fee Program and that the collection will be about the same.
Siuslaw FS budgets will remain flat. (42% of national Forest Service budget goes to fire)

Monitoring-

Does the Coast PAC want to take a Monitoring Field Trip?
Some group members felt it was a very positive experience to see on-the-ground projects.

2008-Expectations for the coming year:

FWS & NIIMS-Oct meeting-Lots of new info on designation of critical habitat for listed species—spotted owl, marbled murrelet, poss listed coho in Coast Range.

Aaron-We are not getting the cross section this committee is suppose to provide.
Discussed recruiting new members in the missing categories.
Trish and Joni will check with “missing members” as to their status, then they will let the PAC know which slots are open. PAC members will help recruit for open positions.

2008 Coast PAC Dates:

April 17	Newport--FWS Coastal Refuge Headquarters (in the Hatfield Complex)
July 17	Spirit Mt: ?Mike Wilson?
Summer Field Trip ??? –	Bring suggestions to April mtg.
October 16	Siuslaw NF
January 15, 09	Siuslaw NF

Round Robin:

Bob Progulske

FWS involved in 4 processes:
WOPR, Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Rule, Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat Rule, Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan

Draft Spotted Owl Recovery Plan - 7 independent reviewers said the plan was inadequate.

FWS contracted with Sustainable Ecosystems Institute (SEI) to review spotted owl science and science issues. SEI plans to issue a report by end of Feb.08

Final plan by end of April.

Barred owls are increasingly becoming a bigger issue. Looking at experimental removal of barred owls to ascertain effects on spotted owls.

Plans are to finalize spotted owl critical habitat rule by June 1, 2008 and marbled murrelet critical habitat by March 1, 2008.

Betty Jean Keele:

Wilderness training workshop has been set in W. Fir. Training for saw cert. and trail clearing for those volunteering on trails. 100 people came last year.

Working on Emergency Wilderness Evac Plan. 911 can't locate you in the wilderness. High Cascades riding area received heavy wind damage. Will be a huge problem to get those trails open again. Mostly cleared with volunteers.

Ron Phillips:

Seek out and show key publics using the public lands what you are doing.
Builds relationships.

I support WOPR Alt 2 if it brings in more money for recreation.

Barnie Gyant-

Rec'd \$300,000 from OWEB for restoration

Next few months-Rural Development in Tangent will join the Siuslaw NF office (their lease is not being renewed)

In 2 years, FS will be running in the red with just fixed costs.

Have to look at ways to cut costs.

Hebo RD lands hit hard by fall storms.

Pixie Land on the Siuslaw-story in next Sunday's Oregonian

Aaron Horton:

Have our TS plan-52 million MMBF for 2008

New lead rec planner Wayne Judy coming on board

Molalla Corridor and Sandy River Corridor Planning

AWP- anticipate it arriving in March-1.5 recession built in and a pay increase

We wonder where coho listing is going

Inquiry to build a mt.bike type ski lift in Polk County

Laying new carpet in Salem District Office.—Sept/Oct?

YHONA business plan has been approved-will be talking to county commissioners.

Tillamook flooding did not cause much damage on BLM lands.

Our maint employees helped Tillamook County with their flood damage.

Our IT, procurement, HR is being centralized in Denver.

Randy Rasmussen

Am Hiking Society –we can help the agencies and the nonprofits. I'm here as a resource.

Just submitted a proposal for the Shotgun OHV area.

Also working with OSU's McDonald Dunn Forest .

Ginny Grilley

RAC money going away at end of year. RAC money helps pay for law enforcement patrols. BLM Dir Jim Caswell is here this week. Tomorrow at Assoc of Oregon Loggers at Valley River Center. Will also meet with Eugene District employees.

Bill Hatton:

Replaced rotting culverts along Siuslaw River at Camp Creek etc

April 16-OR/WA BLM PAO staff will be at Florence Haceta Dunes site.-Look at from a PAO perspective.

Blow down salvage sale –Oregon Wild protested sale.

Clay Creek CG-REI worked with BLM to construct a kid's climbing rock

Brad Keller:

Wind power development –have had inquiries from companies-will become more and more in the news. Will be very competitive. Energy development on BLM lands is a national priority.

FWS has 2-3 people working on that alone.

Renee Ferris:

Renewable energy should be a suitable subject for the PAC in the future.

Can the Coast PAC lobby for budgets?

Federal agencies CANNOT lobby. PAC members as private citizens can contact their Congressional delegation with their views/issues.

Rosemary Furfey:

NIIMS staff have been participating in the WOPR negotiations.

Potential listing of Oregon Coast coho salmon. In Feb 2007-decided not to list it.

In Nov a panel of judges ruled against NIIMS decision. Feb 6, 2008 will be the final determination.

Sec 7 consultation would go in place, as well as recovery plan.

Would work closely with the State of Oregon.

NEXT COAST PAC MEETING: April 17, 2008
FWS Coastal Refuge Headquarters
(in the Hatfield Complex)