

Coast PAC
Socioeconomic Subcommittee
June 10, 2004

Attendees: Rennie Ferris, Alan Henning, Joni Quarnstrom

Alan Henning participated in the Stewardship planning meeting in Eugene. It convinced him that as a PAC purpose, working on stewardship is not applicable. PAC's role is to support and identify a group that could participate. PAC is more of a wheel-greaser and help work through the process; not the implementation of a stewardship project.

Our subcommittee needs to find or identify another project within the scope of time committee members have. If we can't find something, then the socioeconomic subcommittee disbands. Committee is hopeful to find something that can assist rural communities economically.

Possible roles for subcommittee:

Fire planning in the Coast Range. Are other PAC's working on fire issues? Is there a need for the Coast PAC to get engaged with fire? Outreach and education, primarily occurs with SW PAC. Fire prevention and socioeconomic related. Try to meet with Carl West the same day the subcommittee meets with Denis and Dick. (see below)

Reviewing Resource Management Plan Revision– Yes, it would be important to stay involved. There will be money spent locally, some how. The subcommittee has concern about bringing local people in to work as much as feasible. Make a connection with group now and work with the process within the next few years. How do we set up the structure?

Can Dick Prather sit down with subcommittee and focus on communication/feedback for BLM. Do we need some kind of formalized structure with BLM and the PAC?

Subcommittee would like to arrange for a meeting with Denis Williamson and Dick Prather to discuss this concept and prepare for PAC presentation. July 1 or 7 as a potential date. Rennie prefers July 7. Afternoon 1 p.m. start is best. Morning, as early as we want to make it.

Send this concept out to subcommittee members to get their thoughts and commitment with this idea. Keep agency managers up-to-date, also.

Special forest products: Opportunity for community socioeconomic gain. Greenery is a big product now. Mushroom, matsutake, transplants – significant money from permits. Not sure of what the subcommittee role is now, but would like to explore this.

Noxious weeds – a serious, major issue. Some money is becoming more available. Significant support within the RAC's for proposal's that address these. Get an understanding from agencies -- identifying problems, slowing the spread, and getting control. Can the PAC serve as an outreach component for noxious weeds? Is there a need? There are already groups formed that the PAC could attach them to.

Grant-finding training session – Course offered through Boise State University, Environmental Finance Center that offers a computer program that assists people in finding grants. The tool shows you how to identify what your needs are and then keys you into grant opportunities. Plan2Fund. Is there a need to put on a workshop for folks in the Coast Range?

Coast PAC partners with local watershed councils to host a community training session, using Plan2Fund, a free disk with program. Work through Alan Henning and EPA to organize. This focuses on funding opportunities versus how to write a grant.

This is a way to expand the role of the PAC and bring opportunities to local communities.

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