

**John Day Snake  
Resource Advisory Council  
Pendleton, OR  
Meeting Minutes  
April 30, 2010- Business Meeting**

***Business Meeting RAC Attendees: Patricia Gainsforth, Bill Lang, Art Waugh, Adriane Borgias, Berta Youtie, Craig Ely, Mike Hayward, Tim Unterwegner, Dan Forsea Terry Drever-Gee, Dave Riley, Pat Dunham, Ellen Bishop by telephone***

***RAC members not present: Mark Webb***

***Quorum: Yes***

***RAC Federal Official Attendees: Debbie Henderson-Norton, Don Gonzalez, Kevin Martin, Steve Ellis, John Gubel, Barry Imler, Don Gonzalez, Delanne Ferguson***

***Federal officials not present or represented:***

***Presenters: Katie Countryman, Mike Countryman, KeithGeorgeson, Mike Rassbach***

***Visitors: None***

***Designated Federal Official: Debbie Henderson-Norton***

***RAC Chair: Berta Youtie***

***Notetaker: Pam Robbins***

***Facilitator: Christina Lilienthal***

/////

***Meeting Called to Order/Agenda Review - Berta Youtie, Chairman***

***Agenda Review/Logistics/Travel voucher/Update Roster – Christina Lilienthal***

***Need to sign travel authorizations & vouchers & return to Christina, or mail to:***

***Bureau of Land Management***

***c/o Christina Lilienthal***

***3050 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street***

***Prineville, OR 97754***

***DFO Welcome***

Thankful for a successful first meeting getting the RAC re-started. Introductions were repeated so that people remember who everyone is and what interest areas they represent.

***Subcommittee Reports –***

***Weeds – Berta Youtie has the draft response ready for review, discussion, and decision on the RAC.***

***The subgroup members never received the draft EIS.***

***Mike Hayward moved for conditional adoption of the letter, Dave Riley seconded the motion. The RAC approved the letter with minor edits, subject to quorum requirement.***

Blue Mountain – Terry Drever-Gee reported that on today’s agenda a presentation will cover the update on the effort. She went to the public meeting, and decided it might be a good idea to have a full presentation to the RAC.

Energy – Adriane Borgias reported that Idaho Power will be presenting more in-depth information on the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) project this afternoon.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** The RAC would be helped by having a list of the energy projects and proposals. The agencies would not have that information compiled in a single report. Some had heard about the FAA weighing in on wind project issues.

Endangered Species – Dave Riley has talked with all who expressed an interest in serving on this subgroup if it was formed. Preliminary ideas about what a subgroup like this could/would do. He proposed an “ESA 101” training for the RAC, to give members the “tools” to discuss with their stakeholder groups. RAC members who are interested in this topic will gather at the end of the meeting to decide a course of action. All agencies are affected by this process and could benefit by a thorough understanding of how it fits together. Focus is to help everyone navigate through the process.

**Comment:** Communication is part of this issue too, as the general public doesn’t have a grasp of the complexity, so they simply get angry. If there was a functional way to help the public see the whole landscape, it would benefit everybody.

**Q:** Who would conduct the training?

**A:** The Forest Service (FS) said they would, as they’re an avenue of implementation; Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) people would also be part of it, to provide their insights. If an issue cannot be resolved without legal proceedings, the parties lose any flexibility in finding solutions. The law is very rigid and overrides all other considerations once something gets to court.

**Q:** What about remediation, recovery and Habitat Conservation Plan efforts? Would the group look at some recovery planning options?

**A:** That’s still a possibility, but the courts would need to be convinced of all parties’ willingness to find a solution.

**Comment:** Maybe use some of the Sage grouse agenda time to talk about possible efforts. RAC can decide this afternoon if this would be a worthwhile endeavor to broaden the Sage grouse group to look at other species issues too. If enough people understand the process, it can help inform the RACs deliberations as the agencies deal with wolves, pygmy rabbits, eagles and others. A presentation can be developed later by USFWS or NOAA personnel to assist in understanding the issues.

*Berta Youtie:* Asking managers if this would be helpful – some of these issues are not mature enough yet. The policy framework is not consistent among the agencies, but RAC members might be very helpful to the County committees that are dealing with these. Also, an education effort for permittees to understand their opportunities and obligations within the framework could be helpful.

*Patricia Gainsforth:* The Steelhead group in Oregon has progressed enough that they’re ready to form an implementation team. The effort is unfunded, so it will be the responsibility of the land-holder to meet the changes required on the ground.

*Mike Hayward:* Energy development impacts (primarily transmission lines) are an issue. One constituency's push is to site all of it on public lands; there is equally vehement sentiment to not spoil the public lands. Connectivity is the biggest issue for species and for infrastructure.

*Adriane Borgias:* Received Interior's Executive Order (EO) on climate change considerations just prior to the meeting. It orders the BLM to consider those impacts in all planning efforts, and included potential for carbon sequestration. Public lands do not simply represent carbon footprints or numbers, but can be considered holistically.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Would like the EO to be sent to all RAC members, along with Forest Service direction on the subject. She'll draft a revised letter with those items taken into account, and forward to RAC members.

**Comment:** Berta Youtie attended a session on this issue in the Great Basin.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Would like to have a presentation on Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) for an upcoming RAC. Bozeman is the HQ for this effort (Greg Hughes from tri-cities area and Gary Miller, from LaGrande— could speak to the ESA subject as well).

### ***Blue Mountain Forest Plan (BMFP) Revision Update – Katie/Bruce Countryman***

The RAC had a short briefing at a previous meeting, and team members have worked with the subcommittee on the plan revision. Katie handed out a briefing paper, and will review the powerpoint with the RAC. Bruce works with the timber aspect of the plan, the rest of the team is out working on other things. The many planning rule shifts due to court actions have left the Forests working with the 1982 Planning rules for now. Rule formulation comments are still being taken on the national website. Forests are back to a standard of *species viability* instead of *sustainability* – now the Forest contributes to the species overall being sustained, rather than requiring FS lands to sustain all species; Forests still must do an EIS analysis, ASQ; and indicator Species. The Regional Forester is now the deciding official.

Several drafts of this plan have been produced as the Forests have been refining it. Scoping is during April/May 2010

Developing issues & alternatives analysis will be from June-December, 2010; Draft EIS for 90 day review in March 2011; Final EIS in March 2012; Objection/appeals period in March 2012; Implementation at end of 2012.

There is a single plan that will have three different decisions, by zone. Plans guide the overall activity, and then each project-level analysis will be done within that framework.

The proposed action will replace the current Forest Plans. Analysis is not part of this. It will be in a different format from the current plans. It will be more integrated, rather than sections for each topic. All aspects are part of the whole, with emphasis on Desired Conditions. The plan is broken into three parts: vision, strategies, and design criteria:

**The Vision** has broad goal statements from which objectives are derived, background, and desired condition.

**The Strategy** is how and where to focus activities to be most effective in managing the resource. It will guide suitable uses and activities to achieve desired conditions. Management Areas are mapped to display and communicate plan management intent. They have similar desired conditions, guidelines, and suitable uses. Specially designated areas include Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR), National Trails & Areas, Resource Natural Areas, Experimental Forests & Special interest areas.

**The Objectives** are estimates of the measurable planned results in managing or achieving desired condition – not targets; not guarantees. The monitoring portion is what is required by this planning rule. Expect this section to expand as they go through alternatives development.

Design criteria Standards & Guidelines (S&G), for example: restrict human activity in elk-calving habitat

Focus on the big picture; take into consideration current laws and regulations. The Forest will read all comments; those could be used to develop issues.

Alternatives will have the same plan components; differences will occur in the desired conditions, management area lines, suitability, objectives, monitoring and S&G.

May 28 is the deadline for comments.

They have held 10 public meetings on the plan, with moderate interest. Topics are mainly wilderness (from both ends of the spectrum), access (snowmobile especially), old forest areas, wildfire concerns (hazard, cost, prescribed fire), mining community, local economy considerations, and snowmobilers.

**Q.** Was there a strong sentiment for harvest of big trees? Now there is a limited capacity to process that size class.

**A.** There is still a market for that, and industry does not want that option closed out completely. There is discussion about changing from 21" to another measure, but it might be arbitrary without some scientific basis. They've had some requests to change to age class vs. size class.

**Q.** What provision is there to line out what would really be needed to meet desired condition?

**A.** There is not an "unlimited budget" alternative, so they may need to recognize the reality that the Forests will not meet the desirable outcome given the budgetary realities and other shifts. A revision might be required if the ASQ standard shifts.

**Q.** Is the BLM limited in the same way on their budget allocations?

**A.** For the most part yes. The appropriations are an act of Congress with specific direction on what activities are funded. On occasion there can be co-mingling for a landscape-wide effort.

**Comment:** Surprise expressed at how small the road management budget is for that large road network within the Blue Mountain Forest Planning boundaries.

The Project is asking that the RAC continue to participate in formulating the plan alternatives. Initial scoping ends May 28, so the timeline is short. The team is happy to respond to questions and work with the RAC in whatever capacity.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Subgroup conference call followed by a full-RAC one to prepare a consensus RAC comment on the plan.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** BMFP Team can give an update at the July meeting as the alternatives are being drafted, and get the RAC's input.

**Q.** What would the agency tell Congress about how the planning process works?

**A.** The plan procedure is getting slower. Some of the process could be streamlined.

### ***Agency and Planning Updates***

#### ***Vale District BLM – Don Gonzalez***

Handout referenced: Harney County is looking to assist them in road inventory, to prepare for the Southeast Oregon RMP. BLM OR/WA is also considering developing a statewide EIS that addresses climate change

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Get the appropriate sub-committee on the mailing list for the climate change EIS

**Q.** Will including climate change in NEPA delay things further?

**A.** The thought is that it will maybe speed things up, as the current plans don't discuss climate change, so it becomes an easy target. If there is a specific way to demonstrate that those issues have been considered, it might actually help pass court scrutiny.

***Prineville District BLM – Debbie Henderson-Norton***

Handout referenced: Agreements are being established with the Counties to complete ARRA weed treatments, work on the ground is progressing well. Spring Basin Wilderness will require several land exchanges prior to starting the wilderness plan, so that process is underway. The John Day RMP will address interim guidance for the wilderness area pending completion of the exchange package. Grazing permit renewals are nearly complete. ESA consultation requirements for the JD RMP and grazing in the JD basin is progressing. The Prineville District used the climate change language from Western Oregon Plan Revision effort to incorporate into the JD RMP. Final review of the RMP from the Washington Office is underway, the Final EIS (FEIS) is scheduled to go out to the public in July with the Record of Decision to be published later in the year. There will be a series of public meetings when the district releases the FEIS. Rudio Mountain Environmental Analysis (EA) is a new project initiated by the district evaluating both fuels and forest health objectives. The John Day River Study EA are being worked on in cooperation with the JD Core Team. The purpose for the EA is to ensure the recreation use on the river protects the resource values as defined in the Wild and Scenic River designation. The District hopes to have out for public review later this summer.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Send e-mail to RAC notifying them when the comment period for JDB RMP opens.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Notify them of public meetings on JDB Plan

**Q.** Will the Palomar project affect the District?

**A.** Yes. It has been held up with some other processes, but would cross two rivers. FERC is the lead agency.

**Q.** Was the grazing matrix dropped?

**A.** There is a grazing decision tree in the RMP that should make it simpler for those who want to relinquish a permit. The new framework makes it possible to implement the permit requirements. The checkerboard land patterns complicate management of those allotments. There will be a presentation on the grazing decision tree at the next RAC meeting in John Day.

***Umatilla NF – Kevin Martin***

The handout referenced Boardman to Hemingway Power line project and the North End Allotment will be the topic of a briefing later today. The Forest's Integrated Vegetation Management includes a fuels target of 17,500 and includes an array of project types. Motor Vehicle Use maps are now available to the public. They clarify what is open for vehicle use and what is not. They're also available online, but users need to follow the directions carefully to get a useable map. There were safety concerns raised by analysis of some road types – that surprised some users, so the Forest is working with people to find remedies. It may have been better to get some of those users involved before the plan was in place, so they wouldn't have to wait a year to have access. The maps will be updated yearly, and the map is the official way to tell if a route is open or closed. Some signage is in place, but not everywhere. Umatilla is the first Forest to go to implementation of their Travel Management System.

**Q.** Did the Forest get Pilot funding to be the first to complete the travel plan?

**A.** No. They'll continue to discover things like "mixed use analysis" and share those lessons learned with all the other Forest managers.

**Q.** Is there a thought process on how the Forest will re-designate routes as the public discovers places they've always gone to that are closed now?

**A.** The District Rangers and field personnel will get that input and will consider them each year as the need arises. Safety will govern all choices.

The Forest got \$1.5 million ARRA funding for stewardship/fuels work, and it's all completed. Got \$400,000 for deferred maintenance, and working on Tollgate to Troy road. Got \$3 million for trail work, so bridges, heavy treadwork, and trails are in the labor plan. They'll be hiring 50 kids this year and next year for this work, and NW Youth Corps has done local recruitment. Youth will be hired by the Forests, and they're excited. \$1.7 million for recreation facilities: campgrounds, cabins, sanitation units, and \$1 million for pre-commercial thinning on forest.

Invasive Species EIS may be signed before the next meeting.

The Youth & community engagement effort is still doing good things. Many avenues for outreach and involvement. Fire/Fuels Career Camp is being broadened to include a larger picture of natural resources. Several of the graduates have applied for summer jobs at FS, BLM or ODOF. The Chief's Office recognized this camp program with a national award. The Forest is working with Spokane BLM and Washington resource agencies for outreach to youth. They have an upcoming session for all-female crew from Kennewick School District. Others are focusing on the neighboring districts in the Tri-Cities.

#### ***Wallowa-Whitman NF – Steve Ellis***

The handout references the Idaho Power transmission line (B2H), which will be a topic this afternoon. ARRA projects have begun in Hell's Canyon. Biological Opinion is going to regulatory agencies in early July, so it could be winter before there is a final decision on travel access. It would be next year before anything is implemented. The Invasive Plants EIS was signed April 2, and expands their approved herbicide types to 10. The Forest is on track to meet their timber program targets.

#### ***Malheur NF – John Gubel***

One route for B2H could go through Grant County. The big part of the Malheur work program this year is ARRA. They got about \$23 million for a variety of projects: administrative and facility upgrades and repair; roadwork, chip seal, fuels reduction, pre-commercial thinning, etc. They expect to have the majority of the funding obligated by June 1. The pellet plant grant (\$5 million) went to Malheur Lumber Co to locate in John Day. They hope to have it operational by late summer. Forest has hired 52 seasonals above normal number for youth employment. Getting ready to start their travel management effort in early fall. Focus will be cross-country use, and they don't expect big changes about what will be open or closed. It's just getting started, so they can't be certain. Winter was mild, so there has been thinning work going on along natural or structural fuels breaks. Have about 6,000 acres of prescribed fire for the Emigrant Ranger District. Watershed and riparian efforts are just getting started too. Hope to have half of it done by end of 2011. In 2010, several restoration projects are planned, including culvert replacement for fish passage. Soils inventories are being done in many locations so that they have the data for future vegetation and fuels projects. County Road 18 fuels break includes about 4000 acres of treatment. It should offer about 2 mmbf. Galena project in

middle-fork John Day ought to be at a decision point by mid-fall (20-30 mmbf). Blue Mountain Forest Collaborative effort on Damon Mtn. Received two objections that they're working to resolve. Starr project is another Healthy Forest Restoration Act effort with collaborators, with a very localized collaborative group. Its aim is to yield timber and biomass.

There is a big effort in the range program; using Title II funding for water developments and fencing. The Forest has tied closely with the Watershed Associations to contract that work out. They will complete monitoring prior to turn-out for grazing and during the season.

**Q.** Did the Forest do a horse roundup, and what were the results?

**A.** The FS conducted one in September and the yield was about 70. There was another one in the winter with local wranglers that got 23 horses. Another aerial gather is planned for this year.

## ***Roundtable***

***Patricia Gainsforth*** – Excited about the work with the next generation of resource workers, and the instruction involved. Also appreciates the community collaboration aspect. Really inspiring.

***Aaron Kilgore*** – The weed control efforts by all agencies is really great to see. Not sure that local landowners are aware of what we're doing and if we could share that information, it might build even more partnership and intense work.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Maybe we could do some sort of outreach to share accomplishments with others.

***Pat Dunham*** – Continues to be impressed with the agency leaders and their efforts

***John Gubel*** – He's been at the District for four months, and appreciates the efforts toward collaboration and the involvement in all areas. It's very beneficial to the agencies.

***Barry Imler*** – Nothing

***Steve Ellis*** – Nothing

***Mike Hayward*** – Energy efforts – big one in Union County near Craig Mountain, through Horizon Wind. The viewshed makes it a concern. Several others have expressed interest in stand-alone biomass projects.

***Kevin Martin*** – Blue Mountain Lumber Co has a pellet plant in town that they're looking to expand. ZiaChem is looking at potential biomass supply. Pendleton has a "solarize Pendleton" effort underway, and Blue Mountain Community College hopes to put up a 10-acre solar farm behind the campus.

***Adriane Borgias*** – Nothing

***Debbie Henderson-Norton*** – West Butte Wind Power right of way out soon for comment.

***Berta Youtie*** – Wonders if there's an update on the Arayan Nations interest in land near John Day.

***Tim Unterwegner*** – Comments made after an Idaho Power public meeting made a negative impression on local people. Expressed appreciation for FS

***Don Gonzalez*** – Nothing

***Dan Forsea*** – Appreciates gaining the perspective that the RAC gives. Helps him inform his contacts with neighbors, stakeholders. The information really helps. Glad to see the youth involvement, because it helps them be more aware of agriculture and the land ethic. The role of the natural world in their lives tends to get lost with all the other input they have. Fencing areas might be more effective if absentee landowners incorporate help from those who know the land.

**Terri Drever-Gee** – Kudos on youth emphasis. It might be nice to pull in miners and ranchers to show young people those occupational fields too. Randy got his permit OKed by the BLM in Vale on a wind project. Some miners are feeling more contentious about operating plan issues – it might be useful to have a workshop or something where specialists can work with them to resolve issues and get the plan application complete.

**Art Waugh** – Brought an article on the abandoned car retrieval program on Eugene District which ran in the Albany newspaper. The 4WD Association has been very involved with youth outreach. A poster contest for 5<sup>th</sup> graders helps educate the public and get kids tuned into outdoor recreation. Clubs are willing to do cleanup help on public lands. Some solar energy efforts are underway around Christmas Valley.

**Comment:** The Geo-communicator website can give you a look at any map area, mining claims, public lands, energy, etc.

**Pam Robbins** – NW Passage, and RAC Recruitment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**No Visitors.**

### **Idaho Power Presentation – Keith Georgeson**

Idaho Power (IP) is meeting with groups across the region. Contact info:

[kgeorgeson@idahopower.com](mailto:kgeorgeson@idahopower.com), (208) 388-2034

B2H is the proposed 500 kilovolt (KV) line. Half of our power is hydro-generated. This project will transmit energy from where it's generated to where it's needed. No lines like this have been built for more than 20 years. The connect point is a substation outside of Melba, ID. Big voltage going long distances.

**Q.** Is this an AC line?

**A.** Yes. Don't know why they haven't looked at DC

A new Grasslands substation is to-be-constructed east of Boardman. The preferred structure is taller, meaning fewer needed towers (140-190 ft. vs. 100-150 ft.).

Payette County is considering a nuclear plant that could tie in as well.

**Q.** That interchange of power wheeled to other power grids was part of the Enron fiasco. Who controls where the power goes, or are there controls to prevent misuse?

**A.** There are controls and FERC oversees the distribution and compliance.

This process was initiated in 2008, with a Notice of Intent (NOI) published by the BLM and application to the State of Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). There was low attendance at public meetings, and opposition was increasing, so they opted to back up and initiate a Community Advisory Process. That has just concluded, and they have a list of the community issues and concerns. IP will develop a range of possible routes that meet community criteria. Project Advisory Teams (PATs) have met six times and will recommend proposed and alternate routes, then IP will re-initiate NEPA & EFSC reviews, with new public involvement. PATs will stay involved in the process as the plans go forward. EFSC has 16 criteria, and if you don't meet them, routing request is denied.

**Q.** When does public involvement end?

**A.** The public is involved throughout the process.

**Q.** Is the Northwest Power Planning Council involved?

**A.** They're aware of what IP is trying to do.

IP started with 47 different routes through the citizen panels, then TetraTech whittled it down based on likely criteria, and the end result were the three identified route alternatives. The proposed route has two options at Morrow County, at the NHOTIC, and near a lek site at Brogan.

**Q.** Why is Hemingway one of the termini?

**A.** That site allows them to tie into the PacifiCorp 500 KV line.

Next steps: NOI in summer/fall 2010, DEIS in winter 2010, FEIS will end public comment

IP will re-submit the SF-299 to begin new NEPA next month, which will include a proposed route and alternatives. The EFSC has more major steps, but IP will try to consolidate the processes as much as possible. The EFSC NOI is expected to be filed in July 2010.

**Q.** Does Oregon have a required timeline on EFSC procedures?

**A.** It will probably be about two years to complete the whole process.

**Q.** Will the website have details on wildlife, showing what the surveys discover, etc.?

**A.** Not sure, but Keith will check.

**Q.** Is there a financial advantage to the County government?

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Some questions that have arisen over the public hearings relate to using existing rights of ways. Why aren't those being used?

**A.** Two lines together count as one line, so that if one fails, there is a likelihood that the other would too. Need a network backup to retain the integrity of the power grid.

**Q.** This project is primarily designed to benefit Portland and Boise. What is the benefit to the communities that these lines go through, or how do you communicate that?

**A.** These lines tie into Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) grid, so this power feeds their network.

**Q.** Doesn't this energy transmission line still leave small communities underpowered if new industries want to locate in rural areas?

**A.** The new capacity gives BPA the opportunity to send power through the 500 KV line, expanding potential use of the existing 230 KV lines for local needs.

### ***North End Allotment – Mike Rassbach***

Mike is District Ranger at Walla Walla Ranger District. The sheep allotment is on the North End Umatilla. Specialists (Brad & Holly) were unable to be here, but Mike will get back to folks with any questions he can't field. The primary issue on this allotment is the contact between domestic sheep

and bighorn sheep in that area. The permittee on that allotment has worked with the agency constructively, though there are some points of concern. Lots of telemetry work has been done to identify the herds and their locations, and to assist any decision making process. Much of the focus is on the potential for spread of disease. Big horn and domestic sheep are attracted to each other, and the domestic herds can share disease and bacteria that are deadly to bighorn sheep. There is often a sudden die-off, but the disease persists within the herd for a decade or more.

It is a pneumonia epizootic or other respiratory disorder, and causes 86% of stillborn lambs. The last allotment plan was done in 1986; it's a large allotment (132,000 acres divided into six units), which gives some flexibility in managing the allotment with a rest/rotation strategy.

Management recommends separating bighorn sheep from domestic sheep; develop strategies appropriate for the complexities of the management situation; develop site-specific program for each specific herd.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and the Forest have been looking at marking and counting lambs, a communication method for when there are stray bighorn, and then ODFW will deal with relocating the stray.

The EIS proposed action has been released for public comment – dealing with effects to bighorn, and management feasibility. The Forest already negotiated moving the boundary in on north end of the allotment, giving an 8-mile buffer between the herds.

Potential alternatives:

Reduce the allotment by a big portion, so adaptive management is required on what's left.

Expand south into former Goodman allotment,

Reduce the allotment by 1-2 bands to allow for expansion of bighorn herd.

**Q.** Are there other avenues to prevent contact (fire, etc)?

**A.** Yes. There is some dense vegetation which the bighorn do not like.

EIS Timeline: Draft EIS is being prepared. Scoping is complete. Expect public review in mid-May into June, with 45-day window for response. Decision hopefully in place by Fall 2010.

**Q.** What level of controversy could be expected?

**A.** There could be a couple perspectives that would conflict: the bighorn enthusiasts and the sheep ranching community. The research is not universally accepted, so that could prompt some discussion.

If the RAC wants to have a role, the Forest would appreciate that. It would be helpful for the Forest to have the RAC's input for next steps, so the July meeting would be appropriate timing for input.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Rassbach (UMA) will send draft of the plan to special subgroup for review.

**\*\*\*ACTION:** Subgroup will present recommended response to the RAC at the July meeting.

Working group includes Mike Hayward, Dave Riley, Patricia Gainsforth, and Art Waugh.

### ***Sage grouse Implications – Dave Riley***

There are about 250 animals that are “warranted but not listed”. These species have no required protection actions; voluntary efforts are the only actions taking place. The Sage grouse decision is already being appealed, and that could revise the priority of whether this candidate species gets moved up the list.

**Q.** Is there any action the RAC can decide to do that would help?

**A.** It's hard to say what would help right now. Each county in the state has different guidelines if there are guides in place at all. Listing could be limited by specific habitat area, specific populations, etc.

**Q.** Wasn't there a subgroup that prepared specific policy guidelines?

**A.** Yes. They developed state guidance, but that doesn't apply to private lands.

**Comment:** There is some funding in Federal budget this year for these habitat issues.

***ADJOURNED BUSINESS MEETING at 3:55 pm***

***\*\*\*ACTION ITEM: (STATE WHAT & WHO)***

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Debbie will ask Tim Barnes to send the energy project database info to Adriane.

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Pam will send application info on Recreation RAC to Art Waugh

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Christina will send the Climate Change Exec Order to all RAC members, and the FS direction too.

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Adriane will verify whether there are any items left over from the climate scientist's presentation that agency guidance does not cover, and give a status update at the July meeting

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Kevin Martin will arrange for a presentation on Landscape Conservation Cooperatives for the September RAC. Bozeman is the HQ for this effort (Greg Hughes from tri-cities area and Gary Miller). Those speakers could probably address the ESA topic as well.

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Subgroup conference call May 17 at 7:00 pm, and a full-RAC one on May 25, 7:pm on Blue Mountain Forest Plan.

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Subgroup will send their input to Mike Hayward by May 14 for compilation into a draft letter for the RAC to review

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Christina will submit FR Notice announcing the full RAC conference call for May 25, 7:00 pm. Pam will reserve conference call line.

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Blue Mountain Team can give an update at the July meeting as the alternatives are being drafted and get the RAC's input.

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Christina will ask the BLM climate change EIS people to add RAC members to their mailing list for the climate change EIS

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** Mike Rassbach (UMA) will send draft of the North End Umatilla plan in June to special subgroup for review.

***\*\*\*ACTION:*** UMA N.End Umatilla Sheep plan will be reviewed and presentation with recommended response to the RAC at the July meeting. Working group to review plan includes Mike Hayward, Dave Riley, Patricia Gainsforth, and Art Waugh.

*Approved as written:*

*/s/  
Berta Youtie*

*RAC Chair*

*/s/  
Debbie Norton*

*Designated Federal Officer*