

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC) Meeting  
Minutes February 27, 2006  
Burns, Oregon**

<b>RAC Members</b>	<b>Group Number</b>	<b>Federal Officials</b>
<b>Present</b>		Dana Shuford Burns District BLM
<b>Tom Harris</b>	1	Pam McAlpin, Burns District
<b>Dick Leever</b>	1	Dave Henderson, Vale BLM
<b>Jill Workman</b>	2	Jim Kenna, Oregon State Office BLM
<b>Diane Pinney</b>	2	Miles Brown, Oregon State Office BLM
<b>Dave Vandenberg</b>	2	Tom Rasmusson, Lakeview BLM for Shirley Gammon
<b>Bob Kindschy</b>	2	Tara Wilson, Facilitator,
<b>Pete Mehringher</b>	2	Sally Nelson, Recorder
<b>Chad Boyd</b>	3	
<b>Walt Van Dyke PM</b>	3	
<b>Chuck Graham</b>	3	
		<b>Guests</b>
<b>Malheur NF</b>		Jennifer Harris - Presenter
<b>Absent</b>		Chad Karges – Wildlife Refuge Presenter
<b>Vacant - Minerals</b>	1	Teri Hesling – Presenter
Jane O’Keeffe	3	Marty Suter – Natural resource and soil conservation Presenter
Dennis Hitt	1	
Mark Ferns??	1	
Lee Fledderjohann	1	
John Bishop	2	
Brenda Sam	3	

**Tara Wilson, RAC Facilitator**

- Welcome and agenda reviews
  - Minor changes to the agenda were made.
- Housekeeping
- Review of Packet contents.

**Jill Workman, RAC Chairperson**

- No quorum.
- Departure comments for Chad Boyd.
- Decision letter issued by Elaine Brong not to combine the RACs.

**Tabled items**

- Minutes November 6, 2005, Klamath Falls. No quorum.
- Election of Officers – Chair and vice-chair are needed. Tabled due to no quorum.
- Request to change meeting date in May.

**Federal Official Update**

**Dana Shuford, Burns District Manager**

- Personnel changes at Burns District consist of: Margaret Bailey, Emigrant Creek District Ranger, as acting Associate District Manager. Both field managers, Joan Suther and

Karla Bird, have gone back to Washington DC in Detail positions. Pam McAlpin is a leadership academy recipient and the current FMO for the state of Arizona, detailed into Karla Bird's position. Carolyn Freeborn is in a detail at ECRD as District Ranger. Fred McDonald is detailed into Carolyn's position. As workforce planning continues, this will remain undecided.

- Fire management has been working with the court and has CWPP?? finished and waiting for signature on the contract. The next steps will be prioritization for projects and submission for grants so projects can begin in the Urban Interface.
- The hospital has also been competing for grant monies with their interest in the use of bio-mass energy.
- North Steens EIS is out for public review. It closes on March 27, 2006. This will be a 20 year implementation plan. There were two public meetings. Burns had no attendees and Diamond had quiet a few that came out to support the plan.
- Steens CMPA Act called for a Western Juniper Management Area to be established in the Steens research and demonstration projects to show how Western Juniper benefits the land. The NEPA process will help with laying out these plots. Interpretive paths would be included so the public could see the range health. Questions about funding were raised.
- The CMPA area travel management plan has been in the works. There is a lot of interest and some controversy. Concerns are with accuracy in the inventory of roads. The County Court would like to help us with this so we have slowed down the NEPA process. The objective is a citizen based proposal to use with the NEPA process.
- Dana attended a FACA training in Phoenix, AZ.
- Dana will review the RAC charter and RAC goals to assist in moving the RAC forward.\*\*\*\*

## **Questions and Comments**

### **Travel Plan**

- Discussion and comments were made in the process of inventorying all the roads for the transportation plan. Tips and tools were offered forward by members.

### **Juniper Program**

- Goals were clarified that the program is for demonstration not just recovery. Concerns were raised in the recognition old growth areas and the ability to maintain an archival information system that is easily retrievable. Dana stated he would research and obtain a contact name on previous research completed.

## **Jim Kenna, Associate State Director for OR/WA State Office**

- Decisions on work assignments for the RAC focused on the following items:
  - Keeping the current structure of the RACS.
  - Greater cooperative effort towards significant work.
  - Establishing a common map for transportation..
  - Reviewing what common tools exist amongst various agencies.
  - Accomplishing State Director's Vision by working with BLM on strategies and making resolutions for issues systematic.

- Sage Grouse trends are no longer looking at endangered species listing. Localized working groups will build conservation actions based on specific areas presenting a more cooperative approach. Working groups will do most of the detail work by working with land owners and federal agencies. The SEO RAC will have a key role in building these relationships with different interest groups. There will be one working group per group district with the exception of Vale having two. Prineville already has some meetings scheduled. Concerns with how to track the data trends within an easy retrievable system was raised. Discussion and suggestions were made on monitoring and restoration with limited funding.
- Recreation RAC is being formed independently of the other RACs to meet specific needs. Liaisons will need to be formed to close any communication gaps and the possibility of dual roles was brought forward. Questions on the application process, and specific scope of the REC RAC were discussed. The Recreation RAC needs to be up and running this summer.

**Break 9:25-9:45**

**Information Sharing:**

**High Desert Partnership Presentation – Chad Karges, Assistant Refuge Manager, Marty Suter, Soil and Water Conservation District Manager.**

Chad K. – Briefed SEO RAC on local social economic and ecological need.

Board of Directors – High Desert Partnership

Gary Marshall – had another commitment so was not able to attend.

Chad Karges – Presenting today

Mike Bentz – absent

Marty Suter – Presenting today

Erin Maupin – absent

Jack Southworth – absent

Chad K. and Marty Suter gave a power presentation reviewing the Blackfoot Project. (Power Point available upon request) Comments and discussion occurred on membership and how the SEO RAC could be involved if at all. A lot of interest has been generated but the focus at this time has remained local. Positive results have been seen in other counties as well and currently the High Desert Partnership does not have a defined geographical area. The partnership is also exploring a variety of topics and funding sources. The goal is to utilize channels through legal means without having to go to court by bringing forward common values with the understanding of differences in opinions. They will be going down to Lake County on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month.

**Jill Workman, RAC Chairperson**

- The list of sub-committees was reviewed.

**Public Comment – none at this time.**

Walt Van Dyke arrived.

**Miles Brown, Branch Chief of Rangeland Resources.**

- Update on West Wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS. Industry has proposed various corridors and how they fit or do not fit. Miles referenced a map pointing out approximate areas of the utility corridors and proposed corridors. Anticipated draft EIS this year. Skip Renschler, Lands and Realty, stated that blue lines on the map will be the synthesized version. The scoping had some common ground but the map has local perspective. Discussion on the type of Energy and the width the corridors will be in order to support needs. Concerns were raised on creating a weed highway. MOUs were being created to work with various agencies. For more info you can visit the website - [corridoreis.anl.gov](http://corridoreis.anl.gov).
- The National Programmatic EIS had comments from John Day/Snake RAC. The EIS deals with the use of herbicides, the risks assessments to humans and the range. Four new ones have been proposed. The National Office and Regional Office are working on getting the injunction lifted in the mean time. Todd Thompson is the contact for the weed program working with all district coordinators. All questions should be directed to him.
  - Concerns were raised about when new risk assessments were being completed with new chemicals and the follow up management of their use. BLM's has been involved indirectly with this process but utilize current and historical information from EPA.

**Lunch Break 11:30-1:00**

**Miles Brown, Branch Chief of Rangeland Resources.**

- OHV use and management –Ron Pryse, retired, will continue to be involved as a State employee. His vacancy at the BLM is pending. A strategy team is being formed. SEO RAC involvement is desired. The Objective is to look at are how we will work together on OHV issues.

**Teri Heflin, Idaho BLM Transportation Planner**

- Reviewed commonalities in OHV use and management over Eastern Oregon and Idaho. Expressed the common sense of including these strategies into the transportation plans being created. Shared the cause and effect of various factors changing trends in OHV use. Power Point Presentation attached. Reviewed when to consider an open designation vs. a closed designation and special areas that may have exceptions to the general rule. The comprehensive travel management definition broadens the horizon and does not just address OHV use, appropriate uses and the appropriate settings. Consider the following:
  - consistency

- primary travelers
- objectives for allowing travel in the areas
- setting
- primary means of travel allowed accomplishing objectives and maintaining setting characteristics.

Steens is a good example of looking at all the needs. An interdisciplinary approach is needed to obtain adequate representation of the areas in effect and is challenging.

Think very carefully before placing limitations to areas. A power point presentation was given.

- Keith Gunther, a former federal employee who works with range country and range issues has some sensible approaches to the management of roads and lists seven design principles. Money is limited so we need to take an approach where we can look at better quality for the people.
- There was discussion on open classification in Oregon and other states, how OHV and ATV use get blurred, consistent definitions on what each are, funding, Service First, and changing trends occurring with all age groups. Concerns with community tolerance and cultural influences.

**Jennifer Harris, Malheur National Forest Public Affairs Officer**

- National Forest is focusing on motorized access (OHV use). This provides framework for local planning and participation. Mapping has been a challenge. No inventory will be presented, so non-system roads or trails will need to be presented to us by the public before they will be addressed. Primitive roads are either listed as unauthorized trail or road. We will have some designation on every acre of road or trail in our system, but we have different categories. Various categories will be reviewed. Bicycles and snowmobiles are not included. Coordination with BLM will ensure consistency with a deadline of Fall/Winter of 2009. Specific designations in planning areas will be applied later to avoid need for updates. See hand out for specific time line goals.
- Questions and discussion occurred around maintenance of roads, resource damage, and clear definitions of labels (trails vs. primitive roads) amongst the agencies, enforcement for violations, and wildlife solitude. Suggestions were made for outreach on OHV use. Concern on how the disabilities act will apply to all the changes. It was suggested that a map comparing the differences in new and old roads would be helpful. Miles – Will have the new staff work on this.\*\*\*\* Would like to form sub-committee to begin the map process. Other suggestions were to have a town hall meeting for public input ensuring a balance of equal interest parties, with a report back to the SEO RAC prior to making a decision. Communication will be critical to limit any misunderstandings.
- Preliminary motion to form an OHV Transportation sub-committee with Tom Harris (chair), Dave Vandenberg, and Walt Van Dyke. The purpose is initial development of a strategy to develop the plan. \*\*\*\*Dana/Jill/Tara will work on notifying JD/Snake.

**Break**

## **Summary of Days Events/Sub-Committee Needs**

### **Jill Workman, RAC Chairperson**

- Wild Horse & Burro – Diane, Pete, Tom, will be on this committee. March 14. It was determined the need for this committee still exists for water resource issues and any heightened national issues that may surface.
  - Sage Grouse – Agreed that the committee is still needed but will have to make a decision with Chard departing.
  - Owyhee Below the Dam – Still a need but is currently in a lull period.
- Lakeview Restoration Plan – This is on hold until Gretchen gets the plan out. Tom, Dick, Jane, and Brenda are on this committee.

Forest Health- Jane, Chuck, Lee, are on the committee and it has not met. There is high need for this committee and a review of minutes will help bring everyone back to the table on specific issues.

- Lakeview RMP – Implementation. Chad, Jill, Dave V. and Tom (he has dropped off) are on the committee. The Plan has projects going on for the next three years. A big strategy is obtaining partners for funding.

**Meeting adjourned 3:35PM**

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC) Meeting  
Minutes February 28, 2006  
Burns, Oregon**

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<b>Present</b>		Dana Shuford Burns District BLM
<b>Tom Harris</b>	1	Dave Henderson, Vale BLM
<b>Dick Leever</b>	1	Tom Rasmusson, Lakeview BLM for Shirley Gammon
<b>Jill Workman</b>	2	Tara Wilson, Facilitator,
<b>Diane Pinney</b>	2	Sally Nelson, Recorder
<b>Dave Vandenberg</b>	2	Doug Spaeth – Wildlife Biologist Burns District BLM
<b>Bob Kindschy</b>	2	Roger Williams – Malheur National Forest
<b>Pete Mehringer</b>	2	
<b>Chad Boyd</b>	3	
<b>Walt Van Dyke</b>	3	
<b>Chuck Graham</b>	3	
		<b>Guests</b>
<b>Malheur NF</b>		Christian Hagen- ODFW
<b>Absent</b>		George Buckner – OR/WA BLM wildlife biologist
<b>Vacant - Minerals</b>	1	
Jane O’Keeffe	3	
Dennis Hitt	1	
Mark Ferns	1	
Lee Fledderjohann	1	
John Bishop	2	
Brenda Sam	3	

**Tara Wilson, RAC Facilitator**

- Welcome and agenda reviews

**Jill Workman, RAC Chairperson**

- Due to no quorum there will not be a review of the minutes or choosing of officers.
- Round table will follow presentation.
- Discussion on Sage Grouse.
- Breaks only 10 minutes
- Open for Public comment.
- Establish agenda for the next meeting.
- Dick Haines will speak on collaboration.
- Early Departure.
- We need to revisit the schedule for May since others may not be able to attend. Re-scheduling for May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Ontario.

**Round Table**

**Dave Henderson, Vale District Manager**

- Three field manager vacancies to be filled by the end of next week.
- Re-licensing on Hells Canyon Dam is coming up. It affects Klamath. Energy Policy Act hearings and alternatives are built into this act. The process is in place where a hearing could be

requested before a judge. Time frames of 90 days to go through the entire process and receive a decision from the judge. This entire process is new to us. The alternatives process says that the applicant can file the ?? They can accept the alternatives for less money. The company filed alternatives to all 19. Klamath will go through the same process just behind Vale. Alternatives are outside the hearings process. The FERC decides whether to take the BLM terms or the alternatives. With the hearings the judge makes a decision on the facts. You can only list the facts. No background information is discussed. We will have a busy 90 days preparing witnesses.

- Litigation on the Vale SEO RMP in Owyhee Canyon.
- Draft EA on the N Fork GMA on Malheur anticipated shortly.
- A public meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> for the Trout Creek GMA.
- Completed the Ameda Ranch on the North Fork of the Owyhee. Private conservation companies came forth with the monies. We were able to show this during the exchange that there would be net gain for the County. This is right at Three Forks. It is part of the wild and scenic river plan. We still have some left on the Grande Ronde and the Owyhee.

#### **Tom Rasmussen, for Shirley Gammon Lakeview District**

- The Back Scatter Site or Poverty Basin is being looked at by the National Guard and Air Guard. There have been no commitments. This will not affect the sage grouse.
- East W Gulch – This is going to federal court for an oral argument soon. April 17, 2006. ONDA has withdrawn their appeal. They have also withdrawn their appeal on overall management plan over Judge Switzer.
- Beatty Butte – Fence and permit renewals are on track. We will have them all complete by 2008.
- Fuels reduction – We have completed Chew-Au-Can project on the watershed. We hoping for local support with the use of O-Web grants to cut juniper and OY grants to burn.
- Deep Creek has 8000 acres with a lot of private. We will also have them apply for some local grants.
- N Recreation Plan – Gretchen is still working on this.
- Road Inventory – is complete 800,000 acres.
- Continued interest in wind development. Generating Systems applied for 30,000 acres of land near WSA areas. We currently have anemometers at Coyote Hills for testing. Tomorrow meeting they have a meeting at Adel for 4500 acres under lease at this time. Horizon Wind is looking at Juniper Mountain, Beatty Butte, and Cognin Hills. No data has been seen for the past two years. The group discussed various potential bio mass studies that may occur.

#### **Roger Williams, Malheur National Forest**

- Accepted a position in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Currently engaging workforce planning to be established by FY' 07. We will begin to look at objectives to draw funds to Fuels, Aquatics, and ?? The County judge has announced he will not be seeking reelection so the dynamics will change.
- Litigation – There are currently two grazing lawsuits. A rescission bill gave permission to not use NEPA. We prevailed through last year and this helped us out not having to use NEPA on every single allotment.
- Several salvage lawsuits from 2002.
- Revision working on their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Target date is to be done by September 2007. We should have a proposed draft forest plan by this fall.

#### **Liason Reports**

#### **Chuck Graham, Group 3 Public at Large**

- Focus on forest health. Fremont NF is restructuring the organization to fit budgets for FY 07. They have combined four ranger districts into two. Two rangers over see the forest health and fire protection for the Chew-Au-Can system. 40,000 acres in a stewardship plan. Currently working on 20,000 acres being put into small stewardship contracts, pine needle damage, fire proofing campgrounds, roadless area in Buck Creek, hydrological recovery and forest health activity to allow for a fire buffer. Slide Mountain is bright red and a lot of white fir is dying and dead. There will be a removal project. She-Wa-Can has beetle infestation and are trying to take out and fire proof the remaining live stands. They have been working with the nature conservancy and the tribe. The marshes are depleting rapidly with timber removal and prescribed fire. They are trying to remove the large woody debris so that they will have the first native runs back into the Chew-Au-Can. The ?? is in place and ready to turn the water loose with the fish ladder. Grazing plan will move permittees around so they will better work with other projects.

**Tom Harris, Group 1 Commercial Recreation**

- Joan Suther is back from Washington DC and is working on the Andrews RMP litigation from ONDA.

**Pete Meringher, Group 2 Archaeological and Historical**

- Comment on being able to support the SMAC with overlapping issues.

**Chad Boyd, Group 3 Academician**

- Diane Pinney will attend meetings in her geological jurisdiction until position is filled.

**Dick Leever, Group 1 Transportation and Right-of-Way**

- Klamath RMP on western part is meeting March 14 in Klamath.

**Dana Shuford, Federal Official Burns District Manager**

- Recognized individuals for their expertise and positions on the RAC and discussed the history of forming SMAC.

**Dave Hendersen, Federal Official Vale District Manager**

- A public meeting on Trout Creek is being held at the Vale office on Friday March 10, 2006.

**Diane Pinney, Group 2 Wild Horse and Burro**

- Kiger mustangs will be in Albany on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> for a demonstration. One of the horses works on a cattle ranch, 4-H, promotion, model for breeding cards etc.

**Bob Kindschy, Group 2 National/Regional Environmental**

- Has a picture of Owyhee for everyone to look at. See attached

**George Buckner, OR/WA BLM Wildlife Biologist**

- Sage Grouse – Christian Hagen will give an update with implementation and what he sees coming out. There are two different processes. Then Dana and I will let you know how the RACs should be involved.

**Christian Hagen, Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator ODFW**

- Power Point Presentation –Numerous federal and private entities are involved. This process started in 2001. In 2004 they had a scoping meeting with general input from the public, an

informational meeting, eight public comment meetings and then a blind peer review from a botanist, range, and a consultant. We separated the data out from the Baker Resource Area because the birds differ and the area has the most private land. BLM evaluates what part of the plan that they can use for guidance. Used population estimates from 2003 were the most consistent data. Questions on the criteria for the population baseline.

*Looking at the large landscapes* in general we have kept 70% of sagebrush, 30% of grassland. If we could maintain this landscape then we should be able to maintain losses of sage grouse. Implementation needs to be done at the local level. A decision making tool to assist with implementation teams prioritize and identify projects re: sage grouse. A graph was displayed showing the trends and wild fluctuations. Objective will be shown with photos of the sage brush classes 3, 4, and 5. The sage grouse will be in various age classes and diverse communities. 30% are in crested wheat, naturally limited areas, and areas of sagebrush loss. Each region has their own boundaries and limitations. We utilized GIS and 160 acre blocks. Lakeview and Burns had EIS data. Prineville and Vale are in the EIS process. There are four categories: High – Maintain, Moderate – Manage for enhancement restoration, Low – Major restoration, Negligible – not much can be done – private land, etc. Question and discussion on effects of a monoculture.

*Mapping of category areas.* Map near Wagontire showing what vegetation exists.

*Monitoring effectiveness.* We are looking at an annual rate of change. The total number of birds counted and then re-count the same lek equals the rate of change annually.

*Implementation.* A general framework chart. Each has been given their targets but then freedom is given on how they will accomplish that goal. Processes for the public are different from processes on private ground. We do not want to bog down the private owners so that we can move forward. We are only through the second meeting at this time. We will continue to add and flush out details for the best implementation with in the next year. Federal and private entities are involved in this group to help with the common ground rules. Discussion on implementation on public and private land and the impact that will occur.

## **Questions and Comments**

### **Sage Grouse**

- Question and discussion on geographical areas of studies and whom the information is shared with (regional or national), project priorities and funding available for implementation. It was shared that the RAC would benefit by providing letters of support on various project, networking with individuals to assist with funding and data, review consolidated data annually and streamlining the process. Local recommendations are recommended for site specific information. Other topics discussed were, wind energy, grazing, weeds, OHV, fire, restoration management and the need for non-technical tools for public use. Use of other data studies will continue to be important along with the support of local landowners. Chris will approach the state team before approaching the RAC.\*\*\*\*\*

## **Break**

## **Development of Agenda Items**

- Update on Sage Grouse Implementation
- Update on Transportation Plan and sub-committee development with JD/Snake RAC
- Update on Wild Horse HMA water development EA
- Possible Field Trip – Methodology of rangeland monitoring at Bully Creek

- Briefing on Rangeland Health Assessments
- Recreation RAC discussion
- Update on wind energy

**Boundaries and Jurisdiction Maps**

Map was provided for reference. The new boundary line is black and the old one is in yellow. Pam Keller from GIS was present for discussion on discrepancies in the boundary description and interpretation within the GIS system. Pam emphasized that the yellow line is an inaccurate capture of what the written definition is. Information will need to be clarified with the Washington Office regarding the description wording.

**Public Comment – none at this time.**

**Dick Haines, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Retired**

- Collaboration – Presented a power point titled “The Pay-Off Collaboration”. The presentation focused on How to avoid litigation?, What is and is not collaboration?, and What is community based collaboration and who does it work for? People can get better at communicating and learn to speak a common language.

**Public Comments**

- It took us a week to get through to a lot of people in the classroom that were not there and you could not do anything if you were not present. Concerns are that we are just trying to get along and it is about getting things done. Not position but values and build from there. The last man standing where my position is right and I will show you. I find this to be a more effective way of getting things done.
- You have to focus internally and externally to get things done.
- Sometimes the only stumbling block is your own agency, sitting in a room and listen but we will do what we want is not collaboration.
- Dick H - Service first was not there before I retired but I hope by passing on to my colleagues that it will still get done. I made sure that I modeled this. When contention and debate occurs that is when a manager needs to lead. It needs to be administered, balanced, sincere, and in the field and when an “environmentalist (is)saying I think you could thin more” than this gives a different process. There has to be a better way. I believe in collaboration. Change many times occurs from the ground up. If you can demonstrate collaboration and success you will have more followers. Sometimes it is with grudging acceptance that acceptance occurs. It is risk taking.

**Adjourned 11:58**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**TOM HARRIS** – Provide copies of 30 minutes maps to utilize in inventorying roads for travel plan.

**DANA SHUFORD** – Provide a name to Pete regarding the juniper program.  
Review RAC Charter and current issues to establish plan to assist forward movement of committee.

**MILES BROWN-**

Have new staff work on a document outlining the items for FS and BLM so they can compare the differences.

**DANA SHUFORD/JILL WORKMAN/TARA WILSON-**

Notify John Day/Snake River RAC of OHV/Transportation Sub committee.

**WALT VAN DYKE-**

Interface with ODFW group on sage grouse issues and involvement of the RAC.