

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC) Meeting  
Final Minutes May 8, 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	Craig McKenna Oregon State Office BLM
<b>Dick Leever</b>	1	Pat Ryan Vale BLM for Dave Henderson
<b>Jill Workman</b>	2	<b>Shirley Gammon Lakeview BLM</b>
<b>Diane Pinney</b>	2	Karen Shimamoto, Fremont-Winema NFs
<b>Bob Kindschy</b>	2	Tara Wilson, Facilitator,
<b>Pete Mehringer</b>	2	Sally Nelson, Recorder
<b>Jane O’Keeffe</b>	3	
<b>Walt Van Dyke PM</b>	3	
<b>Chuck Graham</b>	3	
<b>Absent</b>		
Malheur NF		
Vacant - Minerals	1	
Dennis Hitt	1	
Mark Ferns	1	
Lee Fledderjohann	1	
Dave Vandenberg	2	
John Bishop	2	
Brenda Sam	3	
Vacant – Acadamia	3	

**8:00 a.m.**

**Tara Wilson, RAC Facilitator**

- Welcome and agenda reviews
- Review of e-mail contents.
- No quorum to conduct business.
  - Correction in previous minutes-spelling of Chew Au Can.

**Craig MacKinnon, Rangeland Assessments and Range Tools, Oregon State Office BLM**

- Craig reviewed the history of renewing permits and reminded members of the 2009 deadline to have permits renewed. Currently only 50% are complete. New policy will be formed to provide expedited procedures and prioritizing dollars (available around June 30, 2006).
- Grazing Rule –Anticipated rule finalization will be June. Comments have already been received. After the Federal Register notice has been published there will be time for public comments and a high chance for litigation. The Babbit rule would be most likely have to be re-written. There are some parts that will have concerns for the public. Manuals and field texts may need to be updated and the process has already begun.
- Suggestion to establish standards and guidelines for the planning process.

## **Round Table:**

### **Bob Kindschy, Group 2**

- Update on the Owyhee below the dam. Issues raised with road maintenance.

### **Diane Pinney, Group 2**

- Update that water allotments discussed at the Scoping meeting.
- The sage grouse meeting received information about RACs interest to be involved. A decision will be made during the August meeting.
- There was discussion and concern with the Nature Conservancy on a joint project competing for monies and the need to work in a complimentary method instead of competitive.

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Diane Pinney, Group 2**

- Informed the group on private horse housing facilities and the approximate cost being used in Oklahoma.

## **Federal Official Update**

### **Dana Shuford, Burns District Manager**

- Burns District is currently working with attorneys on a law suit from Oregon National Desert Association (ONDA) to provide an Administrative Record (AR) by July 26. Deadlines proposed to have AR to contractor for digitization by June 8. In the future we will have a schedule to file briefs and set up time frames for response.
- Wild Horse Update –Two more gathers for FY 2006. Objectives are to gather 200 head from Three Fingers and 200 head from Warm Springs. Four gathers scheduled for 2007 for approximately 393 horses. 2007 will be a light gather year so we can reconstruct the corral facilities with better drainage and be in compliance with state requirements. In 2008 we will have a higher number of gathers. Our goal is to adopt out 100 horses this year and should be able to hit our goal by September. We have had adoptions in Spokane, Halfway, Monroe, Redmond, and scheduled this fall one in Burns and in Vancouver late in September. Information will be sent out regarding the 2007 Riddle/Kiger Herd gather. Volunteers have played an important role in the success of the adoption events with 2000 volunteer hours currently. There is an adoption and education event coming up in May and one in Vancouver in September.
- Recreation RAC – Oregon/Washington has a charter going through review.
- Nominations for vacancies on the SEO RAC have been received and are being reviewed. There is one nomination for each vacancy. Please continue to bring forth any other interested parties.

### **Shirley Gammon, Lakeview District BLM**

### **Karen Shimamoto, Fremont-Winema NFs**

- Fremont-Winema awarded a revenue generating contract. This will generate cash from a timber sale and funds will be placed in restoration and suppression/fuels funding. It has not moved into the stewardship part.

- 2010 workforce planning is still moving forward. There is a Forest Leadership Team for seven forests and we remain committed. We are beginning to share personnel, moving four to five forests under one ranger, moving recreation positions and forming partnerships with the nature conservancy to deal with the watershed, vegetation, fuels, tribes, etc.
- Biomass opportunities are being looked at in fuels and other service contracts although there is not much money to provide.
- SOPA projects are ready to go into NEPA process. Data is still being collected for baseline information and should be available by the end of the fiscal year. Malheur National Forest inventories were not available at this time.
- SHPO is raising issues on the Malheur and are beginning to arise in Fremont/Winema.

### **Shirley Gammon, Lakeview District BLM**

- The Back Scatter site leadership has been taken over by the air guard and it has been slow moving.
- North Recreation Plan – Inventory will be available on Wednesday. Shirley will speak with Tom Harris and how the RAC can be involved. The draft EA will be available for public review in July/August and the final should be available in August. After Wednesday we will have a better idea for the RAC's input.
- The Horse Enhancement EA does involve all areas, water development in the herd management areas and wilderness study areas. There is encouraged distribution of horses to reduce death and keep them out of riparian areas. Teresa is leading this development. The EA will be out for comment this winter.

### **Pat Ryan, Vale District BLM for Dave Hendersen**

- Owyhee Below the Dam implementation has begun. Placement of Porta Potties, clean up of the fence lines, unauthorized vehicles, parking, etc. will continue until the planned EA is finalized.
- Sage Grouse working group – Sadowski update is in the initial stages. Private land owners have indicated that they would like to be involved.
- Tom Harris wanted to make comment that he visited Virtue Flats (OHV use area near Baker City, OR) and appreciated the efforts made there.

### **Wind Energy**

#### **Dana Shuford, Burns District Manager**

- Interest has picked up on the Burns District. Horizon Wind Energy in the Pueblos asking for a permit to perform studies. Disgen Operator?? in the Stinkingwater area applied for a one year extension for their right of ways to continue their studies.
- Questions were raised on specific location in the Pueblos. A map will be produced for the next meeting.

#### **Shirley Gammon, Lakeview District BLM**

- Horizon Wind Energy has contacted Lakeview. Disgen Operator is working for the city. Three sites on Coyote Hills. Decisions are pending resolution on issues involving the tribe and sage

grouse. Wind Management has sites on Coyote Hills and Warner Rim and are continuing their right of way.

### **Transportation Planning**

#### **Dana Shuford, Burns District Manager**

- John Day individuals are interested in participating on the joint committee.
- Development and strategy plan state wide was assigned to Chris Kanoff (Oregon State Office) and sub committees as priority workload until the end of May/June.
- Concerns were raised about outreach on this issue.
- Public meeting

### **No Public Comment**

- Public meeting Wednesday night 7 to 9 PM at the county Court House for public comment. ONDA, Public land owners, Sierra Club and others have been invited. There has been a lot of interest from public land owners, ONDA, Sierra Club, and the county. The county is in cooperation to produce a map with the road inventory.
- Concerns raised on sufficient outreach opportunities.

### **Agenda Items for August**

- Location: Ontario, OR
- Field Trip: Bully Creek
- Approval of minutes for the past several meetings.
- Range Improvements – Craig Mackinna
- Follow up of Transportation Planning
- SEO RAC Boundaries
- Update on Malheur National Forest Plan and possible RAC involvement.
- Plan for a full day and a half day.
- Subcommittees will meet or provide comment on North Lake Plan.
- Grazing Plan changes.

**Meeting adjourned 9:28 a.m.**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**TARA WILSON** – Send out current information regarding the 2007 Riddle/Kiger Herd Gather information.

**SHIRLEY GAMMON** - Meet with Tom Harris to discuss how the RAC can be involved with the North Recreation Plan.

**DANA SHUFORD** - Have Pueblo Mtn. wind energy areas mapped.

**DANA SHUFORD** -

Talk with Dave Henderson to finalize map of SEO RAC boundaries and bring to August Meeting. (3 location questions)

**DANA SHUFORD** -

Invite Stan Bennice from Malheur National Forest to participate in SEO RAC meeting in Ontario,OR.