

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC) Meeting  
Final Minutes August 8, 2005  
Lakeview, Oregon  
Conference Call 10:00 am Pacific Time**

<b>RAC Members</b>	<b>Group Number</b>	<b>Federal Officials</b>
<b>Present</b>		<b>Shirley Gammon/Joe Tague, Lakeview BLM</b>
<b>Tom Harris</b>	1	<b>Dave Henderson, Vale BLM</b>
<b>Dick Leever</b>	1	<b>Karen Shimamoto/Rick Ragan, Fremont-Winema NFs</b>
<b>Lee Fledderjohann</b>	1	
<b>Dennis Hitt</b>	1	
<b>Mark Ferns</b>	1	
<b>Jill Workman</b>	2	<b>Lisa Swinney, Facilitator</b>
	2	<b>Pam Talbott, Recorder</b>
<b>John Bishop</b>	2	
<b>Dave Vandenberg</b>	2	
<b>Bob Kindschy</b>	2	<b>Guests</b>
<b>Chad Boyd</b>	3	
<b>Jane O’Keeffe</b>	3	
<b>Walt Van Dyke</b>	3	
<b>Absent</b>		
Burns BLM		
Malheur NF		
Chuck Graham	3	
Pete Mehringer	2	
Brenda Sam	3	

**Jill Workman, RAC Chairperson**

- We have a quorum to conduct business today.
- Minutes from the Lakeview, May 5-6, 2005 meeting were approved.

**Review of actions since last meeting**

- Wild Horse and Burro Issues  
Craig MacKinnon’s report on the Wild Horse and Burro issues did not mention the number of sanctuaries or if the BLM is still going to develop more.  
The public still is not aware of the large cost of maintaining the animals in the sanctuaries.

\*\*\*Ask Craig for numbers of Sanctuaries and update; e-mail to members.

- Grazing Rule changes  
The new Grazing Rule has not been released. It was due out in mid August then there is a 30 day comment period before it will be final. We will e-mail notice when it is out for review.
- Recreation Regulations  
Recreation RAC  
Congress has determined that Recreation should have RAC to cover issues.  
The makeup of members is very different from the existing RACs, heavy with recreation people advising about recreation.  
This would be a regional BLM/FS RAC that other RACs would respond to.

This could be done by the existing RACs and save money and people resources.

This is creating a large expense for more meetings.

\*\*\*Asked for copies of this legislation to be e-mailed so members can comment.

### **No public comment**

**TRI RAC meeting** was a conference call earlier today including

Facilities

Agenda Items

Individual RAC meetings Sunday afternoon

General session all day Monday and half day Tuesday

New member orientation

Funding using outside money and volunteering

RAC restructure presentation

Annual Work Plan

BLM/FS working better together

Lawsuits on public lands

Congressional updates

National update including roads and trails information.

How to trade information within groups

Discussion of value of TRI RAC meetings

**Information reports** can be e-mailed or mailed out whenever necessary.

- Would like update on Fires  
Vale update – Change the no Fire on the report.  
Vale – type II team on fire but so far not effecting sage grouse habitat area.  
New fire near Vale

Lakeview Fires- 2300 acres burned north of Klamath Falls primarily on private lands.

BLM had a 250 acre fire near Ft Rock

Rick Ragan – 13 fires in Lakeview – 600 strikes all small.

- Oregon sage grouse plan officially adopted and now final.  
Sage grouse coordinator is being sought to drive implementation of plan  
Christian Hager has a list of people who helped to write the plan and wants them to sign it. It is a working plan and will be updated as needed.

\*\*\*Chad will sign the plan for the SEORAC.

Is the Arouga moth that is killing sagebrush effecting the sage grouse populations?

Presently it is killing older sagebrush and not effecting the environment for sage grouse.

Oregon got more money to keep inventorying and working on implementation of the plan

**RAC Restructuring**-Everyone got a copy of the letter Elaine sent to the RAC chair. The RACs have been asked to comment back to Elaine by October 15th

Combine both Oregon RACs only as Washington has different issues.

The two RACs have overlapping issues and could better utilize their time and efforts.

Jill asked to poll all the members that were present

Dennis Hitt

-Why is the Klamath Falls area not in the SEORAC? [Charter revision request asks to add Klamath Falls to the SEORAC area. Per Dave Henderson, this area is under the PAC because it's under the NW Forest Plan.]

Lee Fledderjohann

-Sounds good, hopefully not just more overhead.

Mark Ferns

-If the combination reduces overhead and helps the quorum issue it will be good. Subcommittees would be necessary to success.

Tom Harris

-Would like to be careful about merging. The subject of subcommittees, and how they will be used is an issue that we need more information on and the structure of subcommittees. We don't need more RACs such as the new Recreation RAC. This RAC could handle the recreation issue and save time and money.

Dick Leever

-It would be nice to increase efficiencies, but a larger body may need to be restructured.

John Bishop

-One RAC would be OK.

Dave Vandenberg

-Poor idea, the RAC was designed for local input, combining might lose local input. Work on solutions to RAC troubles and keep all RACs. Hard to represent all groups from such dispersed areas. Dave would like more information on the new structure of the RAC.

[Dave Henderson-recruitment would stay the same-DFO and RAC chair would have a lot of influence. Subgroup process must be addressed. The Charter would be for 15 members, melded down from 30. \$15,000 annually for each RAC for travel of members only, real expenses are much higher when BLM and FS travel, staff time, and other related costs are included.]

Bob Kindschy

-Have other states done this? Some have only one state RAC. Time frame? Decision before Oct 15<sup>th</sup>? Is the answer coming at the All RAC meeting in November? Lots of questions.

Jill Workman

-Good idea for cutting costs and improving recruitment – it's often difficult to get two or more people to apply for each position. Use subcommittees to report to the main body. Combining can be more efficient, especially where there are overlapping issues.

Chad Boyd

-Skeptical. This appears to be done for administrative issues not resource issues. Respect that the money is short but could meet less or have more conference calls. Chad is worried about representing the local areas. [Dave Henderson- the highest priority is recommendations on work load from state. We only need to have recommendations to Elaine by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. We will talk at the TRI RAC. You can add to the comments that this group wants to discuss the issues with other RAC in November.]

Jane O'Keeffe

-What does the BLM want from the RACs? If BLM wants good local input not just updates, then we should keep both RACs.

Walt Van Dyke

-Puts confidence in DFO, State Director and Regional Forester. Is worried about diverse representation on the new RAC. Would be more consistent on larger issues such as ORVs and sage grouse.

\*\*\*Pam will e-mail all comments this week. **Please respond by August 19<sup>th</sup>** with comments and/or additions, to Pam. Pam and Jill will write the draft the letter, by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, combining all the comments.

The SEORAC recommends that all RACs visit and discuss this at the November meeting before a final decision is made.

Agenda Items for November SEORAC meeting on Sunday afternoon-

Roads and Trails discussion;-target dates for plan implementation--TRI RAC and both.

Discussion of work plan for 2006

New grazing regulations

Margaret Bailey--TRI RAC on agenda with conflict resolution and avoiding lawsuits

Back Scatter site update-from Tom Rasmussen

Oregon National Guard

Energy, and others

Update on Forest Planning and Management Planning-- TRI RAC

Adjourn.