

*Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council
June 14, 2011 Ontario, OR
Meeting Minutes*

RAC Attendees

CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
X	Mona Drake	X	Anne Hiller Clark		Chad Boyd
X	Dick Leever	X	Mike King	X	Craig Foster
X	Wannie Mackenzie		Vacant	X	Stan Shepardson
	Kevin Peterman	X	Diane Pinney		Vacant
	Jim Walls	X	Bill Renwick		Vacant

Quorum: No

RAC Federal Official Attendees:

AGENCY		MANAGER		AGENCY		MANAGER	
BLM Burns	X	Kenny McDaniel		BLM Lakeview	X	Carol Benkosky	
BLM Vale	X	Don Gonzalez		Fremont-Winema NF		Fred Way	
Malheur NF	X	Curt Qual (Acting)					

Visitors:

Chris Hansen, Larry Meyer, Scott Nichols, Pat Ryan, Jon Westfall, Philip Milburn, Matthew Shapiro, Loren Jalbert, Jim Knott, Dan Joyce, Dave Torell

Designated Federal Official: Don Gonzalez

RAC Chair: Bill Renwick

Notetaker: Pam Robbins

Facilitator: Tara Martinak

~~~~~

**Meeting Called to Order 8:30 a.m.**

Housekeeping, introductions and welcome agenda review

**Election of Officers**

Nominations and election held with Chad Boyd participating by teleconference.

Current slate re-nominated, and unanimously elected.

**Action Item Review**

All items completed or in process. The council affirmed the importance of posting meeting minutes as soon as approved.

## ***Update on the Neal Hot Springs Geothermal Project – Scott Nichols***

Scott is environmental lands and permitting specialist. A PowerPoint was used to explain the Neal Hot Springs project. There are varied methods of harnessing/using geothermal energy. U.S. Geothermal started in Raft River, Idaho, using binary technology – a low-temperature system – that uses a second fluid in a closed system heat-exchange process to drive turbines. The working fluid vaporizes, is then cooled back to liquid for continual use. The main risk in this energy generation process is retaining the balance between production wells and injection wells; it's essential to re-charge the water system. Idaho, Nevada and eastern Oregon provide best thermal resources. ORMAT produced the energy converters for the USG projects. Geothermal systems have been safely online for more than 25 years. Sites are on private and public lands at their sites.

Advantage of geothermal is that it's dispatchable; when it's needed, it's there. There is a very small footprint for the energy yield. It is extremely expensive for start-up, because you don't know what a site will yield until you've invested exploratory effort. At Neal, they're using a basic refrigerant as the geothermal fluid. The site is near the Jordan brickhouse, which was heated with hot water for generations. Test hole was drilled in 1986, and discovered a very hot pocket of water. Four production wells are complete; developing injection strategy now. Because water temperatures remain warm, it's surprising that each geothermal project has not added production greenhouses at the sites.

**Q:** How deep are these wells? Is the rock porous so that wells could interfere with each other?

**A:** Production wells are up to 2,000 feet or so; injections wells are deeper – up to 5,000 feet. Each well is \$2-3 million. These mudstone and siltstone areas are not porous – fractured flow – so they have to select sites carefully.

**Q:** How many megawatts (MW) will this site produce?

**A:** There is still no verdict on this. Hoping to have 15-22 MW.

**Q:** How big are the pipes that transport this water?

**A:** The pipes are typically about 8"; all above ground, because of the expansion required to transport hot water.

**Q:** How do you know if a well is successful?

**A:** With each well, they test that the system works. There are flow monitors at the outflow and the input sites. The ground water is a different aquifer from what the geothermal effort works in.

**Q:** Is there a buyer for the power generated from this site?

**A:** Yes. Idaho Power guaranteed purchase of this energy when it goes into production. Agreements are in place with adjoining property owners for transmission too.

## ***Large Mining Operations on the Vale District – Jon Westfall***

Jon is the geologist for the Vale District. He presented a summary of the mining operations within the purview of this RAC. There are three levels of mining activity on Federal lands: casual use, notice-level, and plan of operation type. Casual use is small. Notice level could use machinery with small surface disturbance, and up to 5000 \*. Plan of operations requires a NEPA process. Vale has two operations near Birch Creek Ranch, extracting Picture Jasper. It was excluded from the Blue Canyon WSA, as it was in place before the land use designation. There are five others, with 56 notice of intent to file a plan of operation. Vale has one Federal minerals/split estate

**Q:** Have you had a situation where a notice of intent was not approved?

**A:** No; it requires “undue and unnecessary disturbance of Federal lands,” and that is hard to document.

**Q:** Why doesn't Notice of Intent require NEPA review?

**A:** “Notice” is not an activity. The proponent has to have a reclamation bond in place before they can take any action on the land. Miner would still be governed by any/all county and state regulations.

DOGAMI is coordinating closely with the BLM on all active/proposed projects.

**Q:** The Eagle Pitcher mine is likely to be protested because of habitat issues. Are there any similar issues in the Vale District?

**A:** If someone comes in with an operations plan, habitat is sure to be reviewed in the clearance process. Most of the large companies do their assessments and know what they're likely to face.

**COMMENT:** Seems that Oregon's minerals potential is scattered enough that it doesn't provide significant revenue potential for larger scale mining operations.

**Q:** On Grassy Mountain, do they hold both surface and sub-surface patents?

**A:** Right. Permitting on that site would be through the State of Oregon, and for roads or other ground disturbance on federally-administered lands. There is a bond in place for the disturbance that's out there.

## ***Update on the Proposed Owyhee Pump Storage Project – Matthew Shapiro, Gridflex Energy***

Gridflex is an originator/early stage developer of energy storage projects. We are exploring the feasibility of about a dozen pumped storage sites across the US, to integrate intermittent/variable energy generation sources. Utilities need a stable balance between load and supply that is predictable. Renewables can fit into this schematic by shifting generation capacity between sources. There are 30 plants in operation in US, with a 120,000 MW capacity worldwide. It's not an energy resource, but a way to make better use of the energy that can be generated. Modern developments include tunnel boring

equipment, newer dam construction techniques, turbines that can pump and generate alternately, or ternary design if ultra-fast response is needed. Utilizing seawater or treated waste water as a dual purpose effort.

At Owyhee, they look at potential for 500 MW generating capacity. Preliminary assessments are done for the FERC licensing application, so initial set of parameters are developed. Storage potential for 12,500-15,500 MW storage, depending on the specs selected. Helms project in CA has a slightly taller head. The two options here are Owyhee Ridge and Long Draw. Ideal project includes a high head or shorter conduit length. There are potential routes to two power grids from this pumped storage project. It is sited completely on BLM land. Owyhee selected because of topography: high head site, short distance. Existing reservoir saves construction costs, wind generation already exists. Feasibility includes environmental impacts, current use impacts, land use compatibility, long-term water levels in the reservoir, mitigation strategies, geo/engineer, market value, OID benefits, interconnection

Concerns raised during the comment period include effect of fluctuations on irrigation pumping, invasive flora due to fluctuating water levels, temperature change effects on fish, displacement of grazing on upper reservoir site, displacement of 8200 acre-feet with evaporation loss. Depending on how it's used, mitigation would include a reduced project size, limits to pumping volumes during lowest water periods. These projects normally require a FERC license that gives applicant three years to study the potential before filing; that gives applicant a placeholder for priority to file a license to develop. The preliminary permit does not permit construction, but simply to study. BLM ROW will be needed to conduct on-site studies, and FERC is the lead for NEPA EIS.

Can this timeline be expedited? Some of these proposals have been more than 10 years in development, due to complexities. For Owyhee, if they file pre-app document, documents site study, geological, marketing, transmission, environmental and request fast-track, and if there are no "show-stoppers," the construction could begin in 2015. The Oregon Energy process goes parallel to this, so it's all complete when it finally gets approved. This site could be at the lower end of the cost range because of the topography and has an economic life of up to 50 years.

mshapiro@gridflexenergy.com

**Q:** On one of the maps, it shows a reservoir at the top of the Long Draw site. Is that accurate?

**A:** Yes. It's a stock pond.

**Q:** Would the reservoir be able to support recreation uses?

**A:** It would likely not, because the levels can fluctuate so there would be no fish stocking and limited size to support boating.

**Q:** Will this actually be able to trim the fluctuation of wind energy economically?

**A:** They need to assess the value between demand and capacity. The ability of pumped storage to store energy from other sources is in the mix. Focuses will be the market for it (key utilities) and show-

stoppers that make it feasible because it's remote. The lower capital costs might make this site useful to ease congestion on the lines, or provide other draws.

**Q:** Is it possible that the project could offset the financial impacts to others since they're saving construction costs (OPRD, OID, etc.)?

**A:** At this point, all considerations are on the table.

**Q:** Have any of the power companies set a price?

**A:** It's very early in the process. There is not a lot of experience with stored energy, so the different utilities are taking a wait-and-see stance.

**Q:** How would the purchase of that water take place?

**A:** Would have to work with OID, because they're water rights, and it would be the one-time fill, but water rights are ongoing.

**Q:** If the energy tax credit goes away, would the project proceed?

**A:** Tax credits have not been factored into their process at this point. If wind project credits expire, it might not affect the storage thing, because of how many variables there are.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:***

Chris Hansen spoke to the RAC to comment on the two projects discussed today. The pumped storage proposal and the uranium mining proposal are concerns to ONDA, because they're site-by-site instead of looking at overall landscape. These projects are in or adjoin WSAs or ACECs, and can affect values. The proximity is the largest concern to be sure that evaluation is done to the overall affect.

Dave Torell introduced the RMEF effort with stewardship partnerships. They're doing a landscape scale restoration on the Boise District as well to deal with invasive plants. Ungulate habitat correlates greatly with sage grouse habitat, so they're motivated to have a collaborative framework to restoring habitat on a larger scale. Have been working with Vale District and just began a project in the Baker RA. Landscape-scale stewardship restoration is working with NRCS and private landowners as well as Federal managers.

### ***SEORAC's Role on the BLM Vegetation EIS Step-down***

We are at the point now where Districts are doing separate scoping efforts. SEORAC will have three different step-down efforts within their jurisdiction. Is there a way to coordinate their participation so that the RAC's desire to be involved will not be burdensome to the RAC and subgroup members? The Districts timing may not be on the same timetable or identical focus.

**Q:** Can the Veg EIS statewide coordinator or the local weed coordinators provide a framework where the variations between each District effort are highlighted, so that the first one out gets a thorough review and the others are keyed to the areas needing input?

**A:** The chemicals will be the same and the weed populations would vary, but the RAC can ask for that type of framework, so that their energy is focused where it can be most useful.

**COMMENT:** Keeping in mind the efforts toward Integrated Pest Management (IPM), it's most important that that gets covered in the stepdown plans.

**\*\*\*ACTION ITEM:** Don G will contact Meagan Conry to request that she contact Chad Boyd to find out how the RAC input can be the most timely and useful for the Veg EIS, and assure that IPM is part of it.

**\*\*\*ACTION ITEM:** Craig Foster will look in his files for the initial comment letter for the Statewide plan, and send it to Chad to review.

**\*\*\*ACTION ITEM:** Chad will review the original letter to be sure all of the concern areas are addressed in the District level EIS.

**\*\*\*ACTION ITEM:** Each DM will get a sensing of the timetable for their EIS scoping and notify the RAC members about when they'll need specific input.

**\*\*\*ACTION ITEM:** Ask Meagan to attend the joint RAC meeting in September to give both RACs a status update and notify the schedule for what is needed and by which date it is required.

**Q:** What is the capacity for dealing with these weeds?

**A:** It is in the program of work with everything else. If the RAC wants to weigh in on the priorities for weed treatment or weeds vs. other project work, that input is welcome too.

**Q:** How much funding is available for treating weeds?

**A:** There is very little base funding, but there can be special funding for specific sites or partner efforts or other ways to leverage treating invasive. There is a concentrated effort between county weed boards, state highway department and others. Good successes in Lake and Malheur counties. The intent is to cover more acres with fewer chemicals

***Discussion of Potential Joint RAC Meeting:*** There are topics that both RACs have an interest in hearing about. The SEORAC dates will be September 7-8; JDS will be Sep 8-9. Agenda items will include transmission lines presentation, tri-Forest plans, veg EIS, sage grouse, status of Owyhee area issues, potential wind farm or NHOTIC tour.

### ***Scheduling 2012 Meeting Plan***

Potential dates: Jan 19-20, Burns; April 2-3, Lakeview; June 14-15, TBD; Sept 20-21, Ontario (tent.)

***Recap of the Veg EIS letter issues that did not appear in the final:*** Comments were largely to reinforce the need for any weed treatment process to be integrated with all other aspects of resource management. Also to stress how important it is to recognize that the threat of invasive plants and the treatment of them be linked to the vegetation associations of that landscape. Another item was the need for detailed monitoring protocols (an established control area) that can give a true measure of treatment effectiveness – not only the decline of invasive species, but the success of re-vegetation efforts. Wanted three elements of Alternative 5 included in Alternative 4 (preferred alternative). Each district plan that includes adaptive management areas will need specific guidelines for decision-making.

### ***Litigation and Energy Updates from Federal Officials:***

#### **Lakeview:**

Our last meeting was fairly recent, so there have not been major changes. The revisions to the LK and SE RMPs had to be reviewed to make sure they were in compliance with the wilderness characteristics guidance in the budget. This has pushed dates back to this fall for the draft EIS. Lakeview got a new geothermal proposal for the Sucker Creek area, and there are many associated issues to be explored. It is in an ACEC and largely in core habitat. It has wilderness characteristics and cultural resources. South Warner EA could be issued very soon, so restoration could begin on removing invasive juniper. Focus would be on Phase I and II juniper, as Phase III is less likely to succeed. We are holding off on dealing with acres that could provide biomass, as the plant is on hold. No big changes on Warner and Horseshoe issues. Quite busy on the Ruby Pipeline, and they expect to begin use by the end of July. No change on the wind development initiatives since last meeting.

#### **Burns:**

Most of the Burns fire crew is in AZ, with some in FL & GA. Burns season not likely to be busy till September. Moon Reservoir site renovation is finished and the reservation is full. The gunnery range proposed withdrawal would have been a full analysis, but the Nat'l Guard has w/d proposal. The Glass Buttes geothermal proposals are being explored. Met with Klamath Tribes and there are several items to work through.

North Steens settlement agreement was reached, but agreement was not signed; financial and other concerns. District would want to expedite the process to save a \$50,000 grant from OWEB, but ONDA has requested a TRO. Steens Travel Management plan remanded to IBLA to rule on issues that did not surface in initial case. North Steens Transmission EIS is in the hands of a contractor, and District cannot move until the financial agreement has been certified. Internal review is being done and the preferred alternative is the North route, proponent wants the West route. We will be holding a preliminary meeting in July on the Horizon Wind proposal. Kiger/Riddle gather will kick off on July 1, concluding on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Jackies Butte/ Three Fingers will be in August. The Barren Valley Complex will occur in September. Expect 900 horses through the corrals by the end of the year. Nevada will be removing about 1600 horses.

**Q:** Why is the agency gathering in the summer instead of the fall as is usually done?

**A:** Not sure why the change to the schedule. The gather schedule is set by the WO.

**Vale:**

We are working through the Jordan GMAs to modify where indicated by the findings on the Louse Canyon suit. B2H revised scoping report is now available. Mining activity includes Kenai, Calico, and a sand & gravel development. Horse gathers will bring the district within AML, so they won't need to gather again for two years.

**Q:** Who picks the horses that are turned out onto the range?

**A:** Selected by adoptability, desirable characteristics, etc.

**Q:** What's the holding capacity for the horses?

**A:** Can't speak to the long-term holding facilities, but Burns is nearing capacity right now.

**Malheur NF**

Forest Access & Travel Management Plan decision expected at the end of August. The Plan Revision for the three forests will guide management for the next 15 years. There will be one analysis, but three decisions and plans. The DEIS is set for release this summer. The collaboration effort continues with forest health/stewardship efforts on the Prairie City RD, Blue Mountain RD, and Emigrant Creek RD. Area Collaboratives proposal has been delayed until FY12, but the success of the prioritizing, grant-writing, and cost savings have been a great advantage to the Forest. They got a \$5 million grant in recovery funding that went to the Oregon Bus Development Grant, which went to Grant County for a pellet plant with Malheur Lumber. Plant has been in operation since August 2010, making bricks that release about six times the BTU generated by a normal stick of wood that size. Hospital is using some of it to supply their boilers. Forest has five outstanding legal situations, all related to grazing. Each is at a different stage in working toward resolution before the courts.

**Q:** Since 2002, has the same attorney been working on these cases or different ones?

**A:** Probably different ones, but in some cases, the same one.

**COMMENT:** Please think about themes the RAC would like to look at in 2012.

Adjourned @ 4:00 p.m.

*Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council  
June 15, 2011 Ontario, OR  
Meeting Minutes*

**RAC Attendees**

| CATEGORY 1 |                  | CATEGORY 2 |                   | CATEGORY 3 |                 |
|------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| X          | Mona Drake       | X          | Anne Hiller Clark |            | Chad Boyd       |
| X          | Dick Leever      | X          | Mike King         | X          | Craig Foster    |
| X          | Wannie Mackenzie |            | Vacant            | X          | Stan Shepardson |
|            | Kevin Peterman   | X          | Diane Pinney      |            | Vacant          |
|            | Jim Walls        | X          | Bill Renwick      |            | Vacant          |

**Quorum: \*\***

**RAC Federal Official Attendees:**

| AGENCY     |   | MANAGER            |  | AGENCY            |   | MANAGER        |  |
|------------|---|--------------------|--|-------------------|---|----------------|--|
| BLM Burns  | X | Kenny McDaniel     |  | BLM Lakeview      | X | Carol Benkosky |  |
| BLM Vale   | X | Don Gonzalez       |  | Fremont-Winema NF |   | Fred Way       |  |
| Malheur NF | X | Curt Qual (Acting) |  |                   |   |                |  |

**Visitors:**

**Larry Meyer, Pat Ryan, Carolyn Freeborn, Brent Grasty, Chris Hansen, Kevin Jensen, Jim Knott**

**Designated Federal Official: Don Gonzalez**

**RAC Chair: Bill Renwick**

**Notetaker: Pam Robbins**

**Facilitator: Tara Martinak**

~~~~~

Meeting Called to Order 8:05 a.m.

Housekeeping, introductions and agenda review.

Current Conditions in the Owyhee Canyon: Freeborn/Grasty

It's important to look at what conditions are in the Owyhee area, and what characteristics ONDA is specifically motivated to protect with a wilderness designation. The RAC will have an overview of the resources, area by area, to understand what impacts may be.

Today the RAC will look at the 1.5 million acres in the Jackies Butte and the Louse Canyon area east of Hwy 95. Key concerns for ONDA are the visual resource management (VRM) classes in varied categories. The GIS overlays show grazing allotments, VRMs . There are large allotments and shared-use allotments on the south end, and smaller blocks north of Jordan Valley. The areas were aggregated into larger blocks to simplify the analysis, but that process has met with some obstacles. The area has about 90,000 AUM, which is appropriately stocked. It has two good-sized herd management areas.

There is extensive habitat for sage grouse. Few large fires in this area, and the past few seasons have stayed fairly moist.

Q: With the grazing changes, is there a heightened concern for fire?

A: It has not been really dry there in recent seasons, so it's too early to tell.

Q: What is the availability for water sources when the cattle are out there?

A: There are some water sources, and cattle come off the range by August, so it has not been very water-limited to date. During trailing operations there may be brief movement into riparian areas.

Q: Is there a cooperative pipeline fund to help provide water sources?

A: No. This area does not have a similar arrangement that Burns has. Permittees on Burns pay a surcharge to fund pipeline maintenance by a BLM employee.

Q: Is the entire WSR fenced?

A: There is gap fencing, but there is no way to fence all of it. There are incursions from state land and from BLM permittees. Ranchers are very responsive in getting their cows out if some stray into riparian areas.

There are concerns about protection of cultural resources, and accumulation of tumble-mustard, Russian thistle and other noxious weed incursion. District is trying to balance protection of WSA qualities with protection of resources. Historic fire regime in the area shows Jackies Butte as a lightning magnet, so there is active work to provide fire breaks, eradicate cheatgrass, and provide rapid response when there are ignitions. The higher elevation areas have a much lower incidence of fire. There is Medusahead, white top, early spread of juniper, and now Tamarisk. There are some elk in this area, and pygmy rabbit is there but hard to inventory. At the edge of the caldera, it appears there is a high potential uranium deposit, but if that goes forward, it would have to be an open pit mine. Processing would be done in Nevada. One area has petrified wood; there is an old mercury mine in there too. Including all types of routes, there is some road density in the area, but major routes are limited. Inventory is underway to determine if the routes are primitive trails, minor ways, or roads. Clarifying definitions is essential.

Recreation in the area is primarily related to the river. Some hunting camps and OHV use, but that's about it. The tribal horses from Fort McDermitt trespasses across SE OR, SW ID and N NV and many of those horses have been impounded in the past. Boundary questions have made it ineffective to fence, and strains relationships, so parties are seeking some type of resolution.

There is testing along a couple of the ridges for potential wind energy. The whole area is criss-crossed with military flight training corridors, so projects have not really moved forward.

Q: If money was no object, what would the BLM do?

A: The weeds would be a huge focus, and added law enforcement for public safety and resource protection. Another factor is T&E Species, especially Lahontan cutthroat habitat. The area has drawn cartel-scale marijuana grows, which threatens many aspects of the ecosystem.

Q: Is there a fee or permit system for the Owyhee? A nominal fee might be appropriate.

A: The commercial operators have a base fee and other costs. Individual rafters are required to have a permit, but there is no charge. The District is contemplating use-limitations because of limited camp space and intensity of use degrading the experience. There is a prohibition for using native vegetation for firewood. Vale has only one rec planner at this point, who is focused on the RMP amendment. There is limited capacity to institute wholesale changes to the program. Most users are mindful of protecting the area and self-policing.

Q: Is the Owyhee at the point of needing to charge fees or place limits on use?

A: The District has been looking at the situation, but cannot move on any changes at this point.

Q: Are weeds an issue like they are along the Malheur River?

A: The primary concern is the white-top spreading down river from Rome. Not seeing a big invasion of problem vegetation.

Q: Is there a GIS layer for cultural resources?

A: Yes. That inventory has been completed and information relayed to OHIMS and SHPO. Traditional gathering areas and other tribal data is incomplete and closely held.

Diane Pinney the map was really helpful to visualize what, where, and how actions might impact other resources.

Dick Leever it would be helpful to have clearer legends/labels to comprehend what is being shown.

Anne Hiller-Clark liked the ability to see on the map as Carolyn described the topics.

Bill Renwick appreciates that the data is enterprise-wide and up-to-date.

Dick Leever how much of this is publically available? All that is approved for public disclosure is avail on BLM's public website

Stan Shepardson photos of sites would be helpful too, so people would have a context. Water is a focal piece for every aspect, so understanding challenges (weeds, wildlife, livestock, recreation, irrigation) would be helpful.

Carolyn Freeborn – likely have 2 projectors next time

Wannie Mackenzie could the BLM bring numbers of the campsites along the river and usage; long term on Birch Creek and it's sustainability for rafter use. Road inventories and roads recommended for

closure in that area. How does the BLM see a balance between all the users? Over the past 30 years, conditions have improved in the riparian areas.

Q: What would be the “timebomb” in limits to grazing?

A: The uplands are not being grazed, and if fire gets into that area, it will take out sage grouse leks and other essential habitat for a multiple-decade timeline. Huge limits on the success of re-seeding for sagebrush.

Craig Foster needs to have a broader idea of which part of the map we’re looking at before the explanation begins. Most useful info was the question about what the major issues confronting the agency are.

Mike King excellent presentation, but struggle with what the RAC does next. Helpful to have photos of the noxious weeds to help the RAC recognize plants, conditions,

Bill Renwick-In roundtable, we’ll discuss where we go from here. It would be helpful to know what characteristics were in those areas where they found wilderness designation warranted and where not. (that info is available on the public website)

Carol Benkosky -Need to define what the RAC wants to take on and what would be most helpful to the managers.

Stan Shepardson-Might be essential to have an on-the-ground view to really grasp what is possible and how to meet the needs

Mona Drake-BLM has some resources already available that discusses the weeds.

Dick Leever-Would like to see what man-made features are out there and

Diane Pinney-Can we get the web URL for this material?

Don G would like recommendations from the RAC about how the lands that have wilderness characteristics should be managed, once the inventory is complete (for SD direction).

Roundtable:

Bill Renwick: Top issues for him are sage grouse and the Owyhee proposal. ODFW has adopted their management plan for managing sage grouse, and local assessment teams have made their recommendations for any changes, and sent those to Salem for inclusion. Big issue is that this applies to private lands as well if the grouse gets listed. Private landowners can get **CCAA’s that will protect them if there is a “taking” if they’re doing a good job managing for this habitat. CCA’s are also available, but do not include assurances. In this region, many folks are reliant on public lands and are very concerned. Holding public meetings to help people understand what is happening and steps they can take. First round was very productive; June 24 is the next one, at the Community Center with a special session for OCA at the **Courthouse. Extension service is helping with this effort.

What the RAC wants to do about the Owyhee proposal: Response to Judge Dan Joyce, and letter to notify ONDA that the RAC would not be the appropriate venue for leading the effort, but would do outreach to interested constituencies to see if they would be willing to lead a collaborative exploration of options for that landscape. It is necessary to define what the collaborative process would focus on.

Craig Foster: The reason RAC members are here is to get their recommendations to managers in time for that input to be useful. All sage grouse local implementation teams have concluded their review of the ODFW plan. June 23, the statewide team will decide whether to adopt their edits for the core maps or request further action on specific topics. The draft letter for Meagan Conry has been prepared, and Craig will send it to Chad Boyd for final polishing before circulating to RAC and sending to Districts to advise the pre-scoping process.

Diane Pinney: No changes to WHB issues. Thought budget might impact gathers this year, and community still finds some access issues for gathers. The BLM has been holding public meetings to educate the public about the process and some folks are frustrated that they aren't getting enough lead time with info.

Dick Leever: Travel management plans have been before the RAC, but we haven't heard much lately. It would be useful to hear the status on WIN-FRE, MAL, and what issues they're running into if they're implementing already. The BLM is working on their strategy, but it would be nice to know where things stand now.

Mona Drake: Would like to see information about how many areas have been designated for Class II use, and if the agencies view this planning process as successful after the six-year process. Attended a meeting last week socio-economic and cultural Oregon lifestyle is dying out here: miners, loggers, recreationists.

Stan Shepardson: Would like us to do a better job of announcing meetings and getting minutes posted promptly. It could get better engagement with the varied interest groups and reinforce having a quorum.

Anne Hiller-Clark: It would be helpful to have a better sense of what the agencies are currently doing in the cultural resource program; it's field season.

Pam Robbins: Call for nominations closes on July 8, 2011

Mike King: Nothing to share.

Agenda items for next meeting: September 7-8, 2011 @ Baker City, OR

Owyhee proposal

Tour of NHOTIC or wind farm

Veg EIS Stepdown

Energy transmission lines

Travel management plans

Sage grouse concerns

Meeting Evaluation

Great job!

*****ACTION ITEM:** Tara will send letterhead to Mark W and Bill Renwick for letters to ONDA, Judge Joyce, and RAC constituencies.

*****ACTION ITEM:** Bill Renwick will make the revisions to the draft letter and circulate it to RAC members for input and concurrence.

*****ACTION ITEM:** Letters will be sent to ONDA with the RAC's decision on participation with the wilderness proposal, and to Judge Joyce thanking him for attending the Lakeview meeting.

*****ACTION ITEM:** RAC members will send contact information to Bill Renwick for people or groups that might have information to add or be willing to lead/participate in a collaborative process.

*****ACTION ITEM:** Mark Wilkening will request written copy of presentations from Scott Nichols, Matthew Shapiro, and Carolyn Freeborn for the RAC record.

*****ACTION ITEM:** Mark Wilkening will follow-up on travel reimbursements for RAC members from past meetings.

*****ACTION ITEM:** Tara Martinak will send the contact info for Meagan Conry to Craig for the Veg EIS input letter.

*****ACTION ITEM:** Request that Meagan Conry prepare a summary of the Veg EIS ahead of the bi-RAC meeting that shows the differences between Districts and the priority for weed treatments, so the RAC can review the first EA and "spot check" the others.

*****ACTION ITEM:** DMs will brainstorm potential tour options for future meetings.

*****ACTION ITEM:** All members will think about emphasis areas they would like to tackle in the 2012 program of work.

*****ACTION ITEM:** Pam will send the web links to BLM's social media and for the GIS database.

Adjourned @ 12:00 p.m.

/s/ Bill Renwick

RAC Chair

/s/ Donald N. Gonzalez

Designated Federal Officer