

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 12 & 13, 2010
Frenchglen, OR

Thursday, August 12, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Hardy, Chair, Dispensed Recreation, Bend, OR
William Renwick, Environmental Representative, Burns, OR
David Bilyeu, Environmental Representative Statewide, Bend, OR
Fred Otley, Private Landowner, Diamond, OR
Richard Angstrom, No Financial Interest, Salem, OR
Paul Bradley, Wild Horse Specialist, Hines, OR
Stacy Davies, Grazing Permit-tee, Frenchglen, OR
Richard Jenkins, Recreational Permit Holder, Diamond, OR
Daniel Haak, Mechanized Consumption Recreation, Burns, OR
Tom Davis, Fish & Recreational Fishing, Sisters, OR
Hoyt Wilson, Grazing Permit-tee, Princeton, OR (Fri day only)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Hoyt Wilson, Grazing Permit-tee, Princeton, OR (Thursday only)

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL (DFO)

Kenny McDaniel, District Manager, BLM, Hines, OR

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL ASSISTANTS

Christi West, SMAC Coordinator, BLM, Hines, OR
Sheryl Drushella, Records Management Assistant, BLM, Hines, OR

FACILITATOR

Terry Morton, Klamath Falls, OR

PRESENTERS

Joan Suther, BLM, Hines, OR	Mike Kelly, BLM, Hines, OR
Michelle Franulovich, BLM, Hines, OR	Rhonda Karges, BLM, Hines, OR
Jon Reponen, BLM, Hines, OR	Skip Renschler, BLM, Hines, OR
Breelyn Van Fleet, BLM, Hines, OR	Holly Orr, BLM, Hines, OR

COMMENTING PUBLIC

Charlie Otley, Landowner, Diamond, OR
Linda Johnson, Burns, OR
Susan Hammond, Landowner, Diamond, OR
Dan Jordan, Landowner, Burns, OR
Chad Karges, USFWS, Princeton, OR

Erik Peterson, EPA, Seattle, WA
Devon Comstock, ONDA, Bend, OR
Karen Moon, Water Shed Developer

OTHERS PRESENT

Pauline Brayman, Burns, OR
Micheline Hooker, Burns, OR

Jayshika Ramrakha, EPA, Seattle, WA
Cindy Witzel, Landowner, Frenchglen, OR

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, HOUSEKEEPING AND AGENDA REVIEW:

Terry Morton, facilitator, opened the meeting, self introductions were made, housekeeping items were addressed and the agenda was reviewed.

Stacy Davies was asked to provide a brief history on how the Steens Act was established;

As President Clinton's term was coming to an end he began searching for land to designate as a national monument through the Antiquities Act. He sought to leave an environmental legacy, and one way to do so was to create national monuments. In August 1998 Secretary Babbitt came to Oregon to look at Steens Mountain & Soda Mountain as potential designated areas. A group of interested parties Governor Kitzhaber, (Secretary Babbitt, Senator Wyden, Doc and Connie Hatfield, Judge Grasty, members of the press, State Director, National Deputy Director and a couple of members from Senator Wyden's and Secretary Babbitt's staff) were in attendance. Additionally, with the work Roaring Springs had done on the conservation agreement with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Stacy Davies, Ranch manager, was able to participate. The message that the landowners wanted Stacy to convey at the meeting was historical landscape management on the mountain allowed the mountain to be what it is today. The mountain was managed as a landscape in that you could not distinguish between public and private land. At that time, ownership was 40% private and 60% BLM. The private land included all the creeks, mountain meadows, and the aspen groves, which had extremely high recreational value and were highly used. If a monument was declared and fences were built, the nature of the land would significantly change.

The process was given to the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC). They came back with a recommendation of "no designation". This recommendation was unsatisfactory to the administration. A working group was created in which Stacy served. The group worked together for several months and was unable to come to a consensus. As a result, they formed a minority report with three options. A recommendation was presented to the Secretary who found it unacceptable. Congressman Walden said that this property was unique and a decision needed to be made or the Steens would be designated as a National Monument. With the alternative that was presented and the uniqueness of the mountain, the committee felt it was necessary to come to a collaborative recommendation. The committee made revisions to the plan and in turn it was supported by the

governor. It successfully moved through Congress and in October 2000, President Clinton signed the legislation into law.

An additional element is the name - Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area. Protection meaning to keep the mountain as it is.

Break

Comprehensive Recreation Plan

Michelle Franulovich

The Comprehensive Recreation Plan (draft) was presented. Michelle asked the committee for their comments and suggestions on issues that were identified in the scoping process.

- ✓ Disbursed Recreation – What are the areas that are important?
- ✓ How do we want to develop/manage campsites and view points?
- ✓ Riddle Brothers Ranch – Do we want interpretive programs?
- ✓ Back County and Winter Recreation.
- ✓ Do we want to encourage motorized vehicles?
- ✓ Interpretative trails – Do we want to add more?
- ✓ Special Recreation Permits – Do we want to issue more?
- ✓ OHV and mountain bike use – Do we want to designate specific trails for this type of use?
- ✓ Wild and Scenic River use – Do we want to develop any rivers?
- ✓ Safety Concerns – Conflicts with shared uses.
- ✓ Construct a safe approach to view points that are accessible for the aging population and people with disabilities.
- ✓ Should we create additional equestrian campgrounds?
 - Develop additional campsites within the campground at Fish Lake?
 - Develop a site near Penland Road or Wildhorse Canyon?
 - Mr. Jordan is open to the idea of developing his property at Pate Lake.
 - Maintain the current site at the South Steens Campground?
 - Develop an area on the north loop road, more specifically around the Moon Hill or Jackman Park area?

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODF&W) owns Fish Lake. The BLM developed and maintains this camp site. At this time, ODFW is not in support of allowing equestrian use at Fish Lake.

Suggestions from committee members:

- a. Keep the mountain as natural as possible. Do not want the impression of a National Park.
- b. Keep signs/brochures to a minimum. Information can be obtained at the BLM office, Frenchglen, Diamond, and Fields.
- c. Need to create the Comprehensive Recreational Plan (CRP) as a living document.
- d. Develop safe trails and viewing area (older generation and people with disabilities) and expand the parking area at Kiger Overlook and East Rim Overlook.

- e. There seems to be issues with the water quality at Fish Lake.
- f. The process must have alternatives and the draft must have public input.
- g. Trails should be maintained/developed for a shared use.
- h. Develop an equestrian site or a looped trail in the Ankle Creek Basin area.

A request was made by Daniel Haak to review data showing the traffic counts, specific campground usage, and trends over the last few years.

LUNCH

Michelle asked for specific recommendations for:

Kiger Gorge -

- Gravel trails vs. paved boardwalk vs. hard natural-looking surface
- Development of larger parking area/turn-around area
- Placement of picnic tables
- Seasonal or permanent Porta-potties
- Handicap accessibility
- Boulder placement at the edge of the cliff

Note: The parking lot below Kiger Gorge overlook is within the Wilderness Study Area.

SMAC MOTION

Fred Otley moved for the SMAC to approve the following improvements at the Kiger Gorge overlook: 1) Boulder placement at the top for safety. 2) Widen the trail with a hardening substance. 3) Develop a slope to alleviate watershed issues.

Pam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee made a recommendation of: Widening the road at the junction to allow for turnaround access for large vehicles/motor homes. 2) Place a small cautionary sign at the Kiger spur.

This was a general discussion regarding the road. However, there was no official recommendation.

Campgrounds -

- Are the existing campgrounds adequate?
- Can we improve the quality/quantity of the sites?
- Are they placed adequately throughout the CMPA?
- Should we develop Mann Lake into a campground?
- Consider changing Jackman Park to a tent only site.
- Should we add additional Porta-Potties?
- Dan Jordan's property at Pate Lake - Mr. Jordan has agreed to 5 semi-developed sites to include: picnic tables, fire rings, and 1 Porta-potty.
- Potential overflow camping at Lily Lake, Moon Hill, Pike Creek, and Stonehouse.

Comments from the committee;

- a. Members were divided with the proposal of adding additional Porta-potties along the Loop Road.
- b. All members were opposed to the development of an amphitheater at Page Springs.
- c. Everyone was in agreement to table the proposal of converting Jackman Park and/or Fish Lake Campgrounds to “tent only” sites.
- d. Need to have further discussion with regards to safety and the development of additional sites and trails for equestrian use.

At this time, the demand is not there to increase the number of campsites. Michelle anticipates that within the next 5-10 years the campgrounds will be at 80% capacity during July through September for at least half the weekends.

SMAC Motion

Pam Hardy moved that the BLM and interested parties identify a handful of overflow sites and submit the findings/recommendations to the committee for further discussion.

This was a general discussion regarding overflow sites. This was seconded. However, there was no official recommendation.

Rich requested additional information as to how the BLM defines development and development within the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The Act has a particular section that the committee should familiarize themselves with. It would be beneficial to the SMAC if the solicitors could attend the September meeting to provide their interpretation of this specific section.

RIDDLE BROS RANCH FIELD TRIP

Jon Reponen and Breelyn Van Fleet:

The field trip was cancelled due to a plane crash the day before.

Breelyn gave a brief overview of the Riddle Bros. Ranch –The BLM acquired the ranch in 1986. It was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The reason for the fuels reduction request is the Walt Riddle cabin burned to the ground in 1994.

The Fuels Reduction Management Project is part of the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project (North Steens Project). The North Steens Project area covers over 300,000 acres, which specifically covers fuels and landscape management treatments. This area was analyzed specifically within the EIS. This project was developed for the safety of the firefighters and protection of the existing historical ranch buildings. Fuels management is critical with the landscape and surroundings of this particular location. The BLM is not requesting any recommendations. The BLM is simply sharing information.

- The cabins at Riddle Brothers Ranch are unique and the BLM must be proactive to preserve and protect them.
- Phase 1 is around the structures.

- Phase 2 would expand out to the roads.
- The trees along the road, the trees with birdhouses in them, and the old growth trees will be left as-is.
- The proposal is to cut and hand pile less than 12" diameter trees. The larger pieces may be used for firewood or hauled out. We will make this determination at a later date.
- No equipment will be used for this project. No ATV use on the north side and limited use on the south side.
- May leave piles sporadically for habitat.
- Flagging/marking will be the least possible to minimize the visual characteristics.
- Estimated production is 4 acres per day.

BURNT CAR ROAD

- The SMAC discussed current litigation, closing of Tombstone Road, and trust issues.
- The BLM thought it was in their best interest to give up a section of Tombstone Road in return for access to Burnt Car Road.
- Burnt Car Road is incredibly important to permit-tee's, contractors and administration use.
- Kenny felt it was imperative to go through the EA process in order to give the public the opportunity to comment.
- Several members' terms had expired and there was not a quorum to assist with the decision making process. Therefore, BLM had to move forward with the NEPA process.
- Some committee members felt they should have been included in the closing of Tombstone Road and the negotiating process with regards to the lawsuit.
- The BLM heard comments concerning soil erosion and will work to ensure minimal erosion occurs on road projects.
- The BLM will concentrate on keeping water off the road, crown specific areas, install water bars, and add seeding, where necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Everyone was invited to dinner at the Roaring Springs Ranch at 6:00 PM

Friday, August 13, 2010

Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping and Agenda:

Facilitator Terry Morton opened the meeting. Housekeeping items were covered and the agenda was reviewed.

Designated Federal Official Update

Kenny McDaniel
Litigation Update

- ❖ *Steens Travel Management Plan*
 - Moving forward in District Court. ONDA submitted their initial briefing last week.
 - The BLM will reply to their briefing around the end of August.
 - No mediation for the Travel Management Plan.
- ❖ *Andrew/Steens Resource Management Plan*
 - July 12^t a hearing was held before the 9th Circuit Court. Waiting for a ruling.
 - May 14^t a formal mediation session regarding Burnt Car was held in Eugene. There were a few items that the parties were unable to settle.
 - A decision was issued last month. There is approximately a week to go before the appeal process expires.
- ❖ *EIS on Steens Transmission line*
 - We extended the comment period for an additional 2 weeks. Sept 17 is the deadline.
 - Copies of the EIS were made available to the public for comment.
- ❖ *Stinkingwater wild horse gather*
 - Scheduled for next week.
 - Anticipating on gathering 100 horses.
 - The BLM has received letters of opposition.
 - Public viewing day is scheduled for Thursday, August 19th. Expecting a minimal turnout.
 - Anyone interested in attending the gather will need to contact Tara Martinak.
 - A public viewing day at Cold Springs gather was held in Vale. One person attended.
- ❖ *Five Creeks Restoration Project*
 - Includes removal of juniper, sagebrush, forbes, and grasses.
 - Last year we burned 17,000 acres. This year we are planning on burning an additional 15,000 acres.
- ❖ *Other Projects*
 - a. Otis Mtn. – ARRA project to include juniper removal and ponderosa pine restoration.
 - b. The BLM received grant money from the Oregon Marine Board for the renovation at Moon Reservoir.
 - Repair the launch ramp.
 - Improve parking facility.
 - EA has been completed and should be moving forward with the contract.
 - c. The proposed Sage Grouse Conservation plan is available at ODFW's website.
 - a. They're accepting comments through the end of September.
 - b. Comments will be addressed at the October meeting.
 - c. SMAC may want to provide a group comment.
 - d. BLM manages approximately 75% of the sage grouse habitat.
 - e. ODFW located core areas are:
 - Category 1:
 - ✓ No disturbance or development in specific areas.
 - ✓ Includes a portion of the proposed transmission line.
 - Category 2:

- ✓ Ability to develop within particular guidelines.
- ✓ Includes the Echanis project.
- f. SMAC should review core habitat
 - What does “no disturbance” really mean?
 - What type of flexibility is available if:
 - ✓ There’s a fire?
 - ✓ A transmission line that goes through a corner of the core area?
 - How would this affect the wind energy project?
 - How would this affect grazing?
 - How would this affect recreation?
 - Are there seasonal restrictions?

Fred expressed that he has notified ODFW that they no longer have access to his private property for any reason. This decision was due to sage grouse.

Kenny made a recommendation of:

1. Form a sub-committee to review the plan.
2. Gather comments for the September meeting.
3. Invite Christian Hagen from Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to discuss the plan.

FIELD MANAGER’S REPORT

Joan Suther

- North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project EIS
 - Currently working with Brent (ONDA) to pursue a settlement.
 - Anticipating the final settlement stage will be within a couple of weeks.
- Travel Management Plan (TMP)
 - Mark Sherbourne is currently assisting solicitors on this project
- Holly Orr discussed Tom Davis Livestock’s application for a ditch/canal right of way (*Informational only*).
 - ✓ Parcel of BLM land outside CMPA which connects public access from Penland Road to the wilderness.
 - ✓ Parcel was acquired in 1991 by land exchange with Land and Water Conservation Funds; therefore, the BLM is not allowed to transfer it out of federal ownership.
 - ✓ Applicant has existing rights for ditches/canals prior to 1991.
 - ✓ Research shows ditch/canal has carried water prior to the 1950’s (prior to FLPMA).
 - ✓ Applicant has applied for a right of way to access the top portion.
 - ✓ Hydrologist will be here the end of August to determine proper placement.
 - ✓ Field Manager will determine if a CX or EA is needed based on scoping input.

Motion Made:

Stacy made the motion for the BLM to use the least cumbersome approval process to allow proper water placement/water rights to Tom Davis Livestock.
Bill seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

- Update on Cooperative Management Agreement
 - ✓ Currently working on a proposal with Roaring Springs Ranch to provide public access to Black Canyon, Dry Creek and Home Creek.
 - ✓ In return, BLM is requesting administrative access to a couple of dune areas that are being managed for archeological reasons.
 - ✓ Roaring Springs has a parcel of property called Home Ranch. There are several public easements that will be vacated. Notice has been sent out and information is posted on the website.

CHAIRPERSON UPDATE

Pam Hardy

- ✓ Energy Facilities Sighting Council meeting
 - ONDA made a proposal to the State EFSC requesting the Steens be added to the list of places that are excluded from energy development.
 - The council decided they were not going to begin the process of rulemaking to determine if it should be on the list.
 - The council expressed that one of the reasons for declining to make a ruling was due to the existence of the SMAC. Currently there is a committee in place that makes decisions on how the Steens is managed. Uncertain if EFSC understands that the SMAC's position is to manage public lands within the CMPA and that we do not have jurisdiction to manage the use of private land within or outside the CMPA.
 - The energy facilities are on private lands within the CMPA.
 - In the Steens Act there were \$25 million authorized for land acquisitions and non-development easements, which has never been appropriated. A number of people have suggested that some of that money be used to buy the development rights within the CMPA.
- ✓ Prepared 2 letters
 - i. Wild Horse Bill –A letter was not submitted due to the bill being withdrawn.
 - ii. SMAC appointments – A letter was sent to the Secretary requesting expedition of the process in appointing potential members to the SMAC

NORTH STEENS TRANSMISSION LINE FIELD TRIP

Skip Renchler

The field trip consisted of a presentation of the proposed routes for the North Steens Transmission Line project. The draft EIS is currently out for public review/comments. Initially the comment period was scheduled to end August 30th. The BLM decided to extend it to the close of the business day on September 17th. A more detailed description of the proposed EIS is available on the BLM website.

Lunch

Mike Kelly

- The BLM will be replacing the old, wooden map at the entrance of Page Springs Campground.
- Committee members were asked to provide comments to the draft map that was presented.
- There should be several drafts before the final map is completed.
- Anticipate having a more detailed map by the next SMAC meeting in September.
- Currently brochures are dispensed at the bulletin board.
- There is a possibility of dispensing brochures specific to trails and campgrounds.

NORTH STEENS TRANSMISSION LINES EIS COMMENTS

Joan Suther

- There is approximately 4 miles of proposed transmission line on private land within the CMPA.
- Requesting components of different alternatives/mitigations that would/would not make it a reasonable approach.
- BLM's authority is to grant a right of way. Our authority to apply mitigation comes from the right of way grant. The mitigation should relate to the effects that are occurring within public land.
- The BLM cannot enforce mitigation that occurs on private land that is within the CMPA. However, we can recommend mitigating measures to another agency that has the authority to enforce mitigation.

Pam asked the Council if they would like to begin having conversations about using a portion of the \$25 million to purchase development rights from private landowners.

Dick – This is a topic that the SMAC needs to stay away from. We are an advisory group for the BLM; we are not an advisory group for private landowners.

Bill – Additionally, we are an advisory group for the Secretary. Does the BLM have to buy off on any recommendations? (a) Kenny will follow up on this process.

Paul – The \$25 million should go into the Steens whether it's habitat enhancement, trails, or fulfilling other obligations. Paul believes that there are private entities that have the ability (i.e., Nature Conservancy) to purchase land development rights, if they choose.

David – Wind generation affects a large portion of the CMPA. To some degree we are obligated to have a conversation. There could potentially be mitigating factors due to the impact on wildlife and the visual aspects of the wind towers.

Rich – Suggested the SMAC make a recommendation to the Secretary to engage the private parties involved to see if they would be interested in having their development rights bought. At this point we're not sure what their position is. Additionally, the SMAC should submit a letter to the Secretary expressing there will be visual impacts that will affect the quality of the Steens experience.

Richard asked for clarification from the solicitor for: Can development easements be purchased outside the CMPA when there are indirect impacts on the CMPA under the Steens Act?

SMAC MOTION

Richard Angstrom moved that the SMAC submit a letter to the Secretary to:

1) Meet with private interest groups to see if they would be interested in transferring their development rights; and 2) Express how the visual impact will affect the quality of the Steens experience.

Stacy Davies seconded. (Motion tabled due to Hoyt and Fred excusing themselves from the conversation.)

Daniel – We’re having a discussion on a topic that we have not prepared for. This is a fairly large-scale discussion and we need to be organized and focus on the resources, visual impact, recreation, and wildlife sections.

Fred – Recusant himself from participating in the conversation due to potentially contractual obligations.

Hoyt – Recusant himself from participating in the conversation as he is currently under legal contract.

The committee decided to table further discussion until they have an opportunity to review:

- Impacts of the transmission line.
- Impacts of the actual development itself.
- Response/comments.
- Whether we want to pursue the \$25 million that was originally allotted in the Steens Act.
- Potential recommendation for mitigation.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

Stacy Davies moved to approve the April 2009 minutes. Pam Hardy seconded.

The April minutes were approved

David Bilyeu moved to amend the minutes for September and October. Any corrections/additions will be e-mailed to Sheryl.

Upcoming appointments for renewal in October are:

Daniel Haak, Richard Angstrom, Stacy Davies, and Burns Paiute Tribe position

SMAC Motion:

Stacy moved that the SMAC write a letter the Secretary to expedite the upcoming appointments for committee members. A carbon copy will be sent to the Senator. Pam Hardy, Chairperson, will send out the letter.

Paul Bradley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

STEENS LOOP ROAD/ ROCK PIT/POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Kenny McDaniel

Presentation on the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded project.

Phase I –

- ✓ Rock crushing and stock piling.
 - 2 pits were developed – One on the south side, the Roaring Butte site, and one on the north side, the Juniper pit.
- ✓ Last year we were appropriated \$3 million from stimulus funds for this project.
- ✓ A plan was submitted in 2005. As a result from a site tour with state engineers, it was determined that our district would receive \$3 million.
- ✓ The Juniper site is 120 acres; the stock pile quarry site covers 18 acres.
- ✓ The Roaring Butte site is 110 acres; the stock pile quarry site covers 20 acres.

Phase II –

- ✓ The road is divided into 11 segments.
- ✓ We will be awarding one segment at a time as funding is provided to our district.
- ✓ To date we have completed 2 segments on the north side and beginning to work on the south side.
- ✓ The next segment will be the Rooster Comb area.
 - Looking at a binding agent to prevent wash boarding of the road.
- ✓ To complete Phase 1 of the project was \$1.5 million of the \$3 million. The balance was used to complete the first 2 segments. It's projected that it will cost an addition \$6 million to complete the entire project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Hammond

- Bringing up the topic of the transmission line seems to be after-the-fact.
- No one seems to be representing the private landowners. To my knowledge, no one has asked to speak to the Steens Mountain Landowner Group for their input.

Charlie Otley

- Agriculture is the only industry left in Harney County. Agriculture cannot support this County alone.
- The transmission line is incredibly important to everyone including the schools and hospitals.
- Our County has lost all the logging and mill due to the environmental communities.
- Feels the BLM is not in support of the transmission line project.

Erik Robertson

- The CMPA is a resource that seems to be impacted by the transmission line.
- The SMAC seems to be the entity that speaks for the CMPA.
- Does not have an opinion one way or another on the project. I am, however, Interested in the opinion of the SMAC.

John O'Connor

- Main function on the Steens is to keep the trails open to horses and recreation.
- Request a representative from ODFW to explain the low deer population on the Steens.

Linda Johnson

- I'm trying to understand the visual impact from the transmission line project. There are several transmission lines around our County that do not impact or obstruct my views.

Paul Davis

- Is the \$25 million appropriated to enhance the area?
 - (a) It's authorized by the Act. It has not been appropriated by Congress. We can request it and it should go through an approval process.
- Would like to see the road paved.
- Need to add additional restrooms.
- The more you talk about the Steens Mountain, the more people visit the mountain.
- Expressed his frustration with the Stonehouse Allotment water developments.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None (due to time restrictions)

Oregon Explorer 2.05

David Bilyeu

- In 2007 a committee was created to produce a science strategy as required for the CMPA to be part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).
- Following the guidelines from the NLCS Science Strategy, the committee created the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Science Strategy information for the public.
- Contact was made with the developers of the Oregon Explorer at OSU. It was clear that this new initiative would be useful in meeting the needs of the public to access science in the area.
- The Oregon Explorer was created by the joint work of the OSU Libraries and Institute of Natural Resources on the OSU campus.
- The Oregon Explorer developers secured a grant from OWEB to create a new portal dedicated to the Steens Mountain and surrounding area on the Oregon Explorer Website (<http://oregonexplorer.info/lakes>).
- Work at the Oregon Explorer portal commenced in 2008.
- The portal and feature story are live and the final piece of the project requires an agency in the area to take the lead in signing the Memorandum of Understanding which lays out the duties of the local agency, the OSU Libraries, and the Institute of Natural Resources.
- Discussions with Joan Suther and Karen Moon of the Harney County Watershed Council led to the agreement that the Watershed Council would take the lead in signing the MOU.
- Karen reported that she's presented the MOU to the Board and received approval.
- Bill Renwick is currently Chair of the Watershed Council.

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS, PARKING LOT, MEETING EFFECTIVENESS

- ✓ Field trips – Look at the sites and limit discussions/comments until returning to the meeting.

- ✓ Remind everyone to raise their hand and wait to be called upon by the facilitator.
- ✓ Presentations from the BLM need to identify key issues for the SMAC to review.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA

Impact of the EIS.

- ✓ Whether you want to pursue the action.
- ✓ Recommendations from litigation.
- ✓ Recommendation as to the route.

ACTION ITEMS

Pam – Submit letters to the Secretary, Senators, and Representatives regarding appointing new members in a timely fashion.

All – Review the minutes to ensure that they are stated correctly for the record.

Sheryl – Will make the necessary corrections to September and October minutes.

Michelle – Identify potential sites for overflow camping.

Solicitor – What is the definition for developments within the CMPA?

Can the \$25 million be used on land adjacent to the CMPA?

SMAC – Review the recreation plan and submit any comments as soon as possible.

AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

- ✓ Recreation Plan
- ✓ Sage-grouse Management Plan
- ✓ What can the task force do for the committee?
- ✓ Transmission line EIS (Identify items the SMAC can take actions on)
- ✓ 5 Creeks tour
- ✓ Update on the South Steens Allotment Management Plan EIS

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Next meeting date: September 16 & 17, 2010, Diamond, Oregon

Submitted by: Sheryl Drushella

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council approved the minutes on _____

Signed by Pam Hardy, SMAC Chair _____