

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 21-22, 2009
Bend, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Hardy, Chair, Dispersed Recreation, Bend, OR
Hoyt Wilson, Grazing Permit-tee, Princeton, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Brenda Sam, Burns Paiute Tribe, Burns, Or
Daniel Haak, Mechanized Consumption Recreation, Burns, OR
Stacy Davies, Grazing Permit-tee, Frenchglen, OR
Michael Beagle, Vice Chair, Fish & Recreation Fishing, Eagle Point, OR
Richard Jenkins, Recreational Permit Holder, Diamond, OR
Steve Purchase, State Liaison, Salem, OR
Paul Bradley, Wildhorse Management, Hines, OR

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL (DFO)

Kenny McDaniel, District Manager, BLM, Hines, OR

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL ASSISTANTS

Christi Courtemanche, 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
Renee Davis, Oregon Explorer, Corvallis, OR
Laurie Thorpe, Forest Service, Portland, OR
Kathy Ludlow, Forest Service, Portland, OR
Terry Slyder, Forest Service, Portland, OR

COMMENTING PUBLIC

OTHERS PRESENT

Tara Martinak, BLM, Burns, OR	Jefferson Jacobs, ONDA
Michelle Franulovich, BLM, Burns, OR	Pat Moran, ODOT
Eric Haakensen, BLM, Burns, OR	Doug Stott
Susan Hammond, Landowner, Diamond, OR	Bob Spike
Dan Fouts, OET	

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, HOUSEKEEPING AND AGENDA:

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

Designated Federal Official Update

Kenny McDaniel

- Herd Management Areas- Met with Oregon State Director, Representative from California, State Horse Specialist, BLM District Manager, and Wildlife Refuge. We discussed several herd management areas in California and Oregon. There are approximately 8,000 horses. It may be more cost effective to have one person look at the area as a whole and try to tackle this issue. There may be a possibility for funding.
- On October 16, 2009 there was a ceremony for the Howard Delano family and friends. A plaque was installed at the entrance sign on the North Loop Road.
- There was a successful burn in the Broadcast Area. Approximately 16,000 acres of which half was private land. No accidents were reported and there was a tremendous amount of cooperation.
- Construction began on the development of 2 gravel pits. Completion is scheduled for December 2009. Currently we are under budget. Any extra funding would carry over to road projects.
- Requesting to postpone December meeting to January 14th & 15th. There were no objections.

Field Manager Update

Joan Suther –

- Home Creek access:
 - ✓ Currently working on access with Stacy Davies for the West side of the Steens. Continuing negotiations next week
 - ✓ RS has a trespass road. The road was built a number of years ago in the WSA
 - ✓ Adequate parking, good trails. Would be part of the comprehensive road. After 99 and before 2005. The road is in the Basque hills. Public access is Home Creek and there is a smaller area north of Dry Creek. Is the objective to change the use? There has been a strong voice to increase

access. Part of the discussion is to relinquish part of BLM's access. In other areas, creating an equivalent easement trade.

- North Steens Transmission Line EIS:
 - ✓ Working with the contractor to complete the Preliminary draft EIS
 - ✓ There will be an internal review with BPA and Burns Paiute Tribe and other cooperators
 - ✓ There are two different routes being analyzed
- Burnt Car Road:
 - ✓ Removed and dispersed several rocks
 - ✓ The majority of the road has been closed for public safety reasons. May need to close additional sections, if comments warrant
 - ✓ When the Federal Register has been posted the BLM will be able to reinforce the closures
 - ✓ Actions may include; removing juniper and rocks, seeding and re-vegetating certain parts of the area
 - ✓ EA should be completed by November

Oregon Explorer

David Bilyeu and Renee Davis-Born

- Renee presented the group with slides from the Oregon Explorer site which showed examples of the portal development.
- SMAC members were asked to review the Lakes Basin Explore site at (www.oregonexplorer.info/lakes/) and to provide comments about the content.
- There has been an overwhelming interest in the Watershed Restoration Tool and in the restoration projects.
- The Oregon Explorer staff is currently looking into integrating with Google Earth.
- The information that is provided by the Oregon Explorer is part of the libraries permanent collection and resources.
- The resources are linked to the library search engine.
- The Watershed Restoration is a visual tool to the projects.

Break

Introduction (Logistics for the day, introductions, ground rules)

Laurie Thorpe, Kathy Ludlow, and Terry Slyder

There was a discussion amongst the group regarding the absence of several committee members. Several members were disappointed by the lack of presence. The committee felt that the meeting was critical and that the absent members would provide quality participation. After further conversation Kenny felt that the meeting should continue. The instructors were willing to provide follow-up information to the absent members.

Introduction of Niche/Vision (Posters and where we're going in the Next Two Days)

The group was asked to introduce themselves and in one word, "The vision for Steens is?"

Terry Morton – Cooperation

Pam Hardy- Wild

Kenny McDaniel– Health

David Bilyeu– Wilderness

Tara Martinak– Diverse

Joan Suther– Varied

Susan Hammond– Happy

Michelle Franulovich– Multiple-Use

Pat Moran ODOT – Spectacular

Dan Fouts - OET - Equestrian facilities

Jefferson Jacobs ONDA – Sustainable

Rich Angstrom – Balance

Hoyt Wilson– Preservation

Fred Otley – Historical

Bill Renwick – Sustainable

Eric Haakensen – Rock

Christi Courtemanche – Love

Sheryl Drushella - Recreation

Terry Slyder – Old West

A vision would be defined as a clear inspirational statement that causes organizations or individuals to act.

- ✓ Develop programmatic & spatial vision for the future
- ✓ Build trust, respect, and credibility with the community stakeholders and management
- ✓ Delineate human values spatially (and temporally) for integrated resource analysis, planning, design, and monitoring

Will this decision impact historical local uses of the area? What is the expectation of the workshop?

- ✓ Refocus the SMAC to identify significant areas, ideas, and challenges to work on
- ✓ Develop a plan for the BLM to manage the area as it was intended for
- ✓ Implement the Act as it was originally written, instead of changing conditions that could prevent positive management of the area
- ✓ Need to make the hard decisions in order to come to a common vision for the mountain; ultimately this will transcend personal wants and desires
- ✓ Understanding differences
- ✓ Re-planning and training

What is the mission of the Steens Mountain?

- ✓ Maintaining the cultural, economical, ecological, and social health of the Steens
- ✓ Conserve, protect, and manage the long term ecological integrity of the Steens for present and future generations
- ✓ Promote grazing recreation and other historic uses that are sustainable

How do we make vision defensible (legally)?

- ✓ Communication is viable between the SMAC, ONDA, and the BLM.
- ✓ Develop a vision that is clear, concise, and in compliance with the law
- ✓ Vision should be better than the law
- ✓ Legally defensible

The committee felt that the language “Creative and innovative solutions to land management problems” is unique to the Steens Act and the group relies on this definition often.

Do we have a clear vision of what the expected outcome should be?

- ✓ A programmatic and spatial vision for the future. It will help build trust, respect, and credibility
- ✓ Incorporates human values spatially for integrated resource analysis, planning, design, and monitoring

Pre-work Questions (Review and discussion Pre-work questions)

Kathy Ludlow

1. *What does “sustainable area” mean to you?*
 - Maintain available resources
 - Sustain purpose and condition under Steens Act
 - No “losses” beyond eco-system carrying capacity over time and varying conditions
 - Apply to stable, declining, and improving systems equally
 - Activities use, yet don’t deplete natural resources over time
 - Interconnecting parts can sustain some disruption yet continue to be functional in all aspects (population/diversity/etc.)
 - Look at the whole system

2. *What are the unique or exceptionally distinctive attributes of the Steens CMPA? What of those must be maintained in the future?*
 - Visually unique and scenic areas
 - Wild, remote, roughness that only attracts a few off the beaten path
 - Accessible
 - Wonderful renewable resource
 - Maintain conditions at the time of the Act
 - Geomorphology, soils, climate, biota, gorges, and rivers
 - Pre-history, history of use and dependence, conservation, and protection
 - Night darkness
 - Grand experiment – balance ecological and social benefits
 - “Discover it on your own” feeling – ability to wander
 - Current businesses should be safe guarded to keep the economic balance to maintain the above attributes
 - Quit messing with a good thing – leave it alone

- Manage in the manner that made it what it was at the time of the act
 - Resolve. Continue to work with stakeholders for common good
 - Maintain roughness. The lack of development will maintain dark night sky
 - BLM and SMAC needs to engage at a significant level to cooperatively shape the policy making it balanced ecological and social-economic values
3. *What is the most important management action SMCMPA could take to maintain the existing attributes?*
- Buy up in-holdings and close little used roads
 - Resist obtrusive changes that alter the visual aesthetic of the region
 - Defend current economic uses, maintaining landscape level management, and partnerships with permit-tees
4. *What does “conserve and protect” mean to you?*
- Leave alone with adaptive management
 - Manage and protect
 - Management practices needed to maintain or enhance the diverse ecosystems within jurisdiction
 - Stewards of the land, water, & wildlife
 - Actively work to restore wilderness values
5. *What are benefits to the communities from the Steens Mt. area?*
- Attracts recreationists who appreciate the area
 - Economic benefits to local and region agricultural communities
 - Aesthetic benefits to tourist industry
 - Shared spaces for multiple uses
 - Home to locals, cultural history maintained
 - Outsiders witness one of the least developed and naturally spectacular places in the lower 48 states
 - Long term gains in retaining the uniqueness of the region – no short term economic gains
 - Opportunity for solitude, open space, serenity, scenic beauty, and naturalness.
6. *What are personal benefits you receive from Steens Mt. area?*
- Utilize renewable resources in ranching
 - Share beauty of area with tourists
 - Three generations of ranching & recreation (hunt/fish/nature)
 - Spiritual connectivity
 - Grandeur of nature
 - Silence and solitude
 - Sense of the old west
7. *As a participant, what are your expectations for this workshop?*

- Refocus the SMAC to specific areas, ideas, and challenges to work on
- Develop a plan for the BLM to manage it as it was intended for
- Implement the Act as originally written instead of changing conditions that prevent positive management of the area
- Have the hard discussions while coming to a common vision for the mountain that will transcend personal wants and desires
- Understand our differences

Demographics Discussion (Objective look at existing and future demand)

Terry Slider

- Everyone values the Steens
- Solitude and Isolation (less than 1 person per square mile)
- Cultural wildlife
- Community/Heritage/Culture
- In 2009 Harney County averaged 20 % unemployment. The composition of people that work in Harney County is close to 50% government (BLM, teachers, State, and Forest Service). If you take that 50% out of the equations Harney County's non-government are approximately 36% unemployment
- There are 3,086 counties in the United States. Harney County sits at 20-25 in the nation for unemployment
- In 2008-2009 there was a 94 % of decrease in factory jobs
- There are more people moving to Oregon
- Education and health fields are still on the rise
- Construction is beginning to rise slightly
- National statistics prove fuel prices are on the rise and Amtrak usage increased significantly
- The airline industry has decreased 9% and is expected to decrease an additional 5%

Demographics:

- ✓ Population in Harney County is 7600
- ✓ 76% of the County is publically owned
- ✓ 15% of the visitors to the Steens Mt. are from local use
- ✓ 85% of the visitors to the Steens Mt. are from non-local use
- ✓ Visitors are coming from: Washington, Portland, Central Oregon and Northern California
- ✓ Local people tend to hunt, fish, and OHV
- ✓ Non-local people tend to hike, sight see, and view wildlife
- ✓ The County receives \$8.8 million from local activities
- ✓ The County receives \$18.7 million from non-local activities

Steens Mountain Demographics

	<u>Local</u>	<u>Non-Local</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Activity/ Trends:	Hunting - constant Fishing - constant OHV - constant	Wildlife Viewing - up Site seeing – up Hiking –up	Local: Constant vs. Non-Local: Increase
Activity/ Economics:	Hunting – 4.5mil Fishing – 2.8 mil OHV – 1.5 mil	Wildlife View – 8.0mil Sightseeing – 9.2mil Hiking – 1.5mil	Local: 8.8 mil vs. Non-Local: 18.7mil

Population Density Survey

- Bend and Boise are growing 3-8 times more than the national average
- Non-local markets: Central Oregon 3 times the national average; Northwest 2 times the national average
- Demographics tend to hunt, fish, OHV, which is constant with local
- Hiking and sightseeing have increased
- 36 counties in the state of Oregon are the most important to economic impact.
- The one thing they all have in common are; solitude, wildlife, community and mountains

Distribution of Use

- By practicing a “do-nothing approach” studies have shown that the land will deteriorate.
- The presenting committee did not factor in the ranching industry as far as an economic benefit to the community
- Not able to sustain a business anywhere near the Steens Mt. due to the seasonal conditions
- The Chamber of Commerce conducted an economic analysis and found that the Bird Festival is a strong economic factor. It’s targeted to a specific audience, specific use, and a specific time of year. There is a substantial amount of money spent in the community during the festival
- Data indicates that the traffic counts and campground usage have increased significantly over the last year. With the economy and fuel prices higher than normal people are traveling closer to home.
- With the explosive growth in Central Oregon some of the committee members were adamant that they do not want to see the same type of growth

Lunch

Area Poster (Sound-bite look at uniqueness of recreation in the area)

Kathy Ludlow & Terry Slider

Exercise #1

All members were asked to form 3 groups and come up with a slogan/tag line to describe the Steens Mountain.

- ✓ Experience nothing less and all its glory
- ✓ Experience gorgeous solitude of our purple mountain majesty
- ✓ The big empty – a place for everyone

Exercise #2

All members were asked to identify, on a map, valuable and unique areas of the Steens Mt.

Mapping Exercise (Spatial look at attributes, values & connections to create settings)

Terry Slider and Kathy Ludlow

Exercise #3

All members were asked to gather into their perspective groups and perform a three circle alignment exercise.

- a) Show how the circles were laid out before the Steens Act was passed in 2000 (past)
- b) Show how the circles are currently laid out (present)
- c) Show how the circles look in the future (future)

The results show that all 3 groups were in agreement and significant improvement within the Steens Mt.

- Optimism
- Balance
- Respect
- Open to seeing others perspective
- Collaborative group
- Respect

Sustainability (Holistic look at sustainability & links to Steens)

Laurie Thorpe

- What does the change in size of the circles represent with regards to the vision? Are you getting more emphasis on planning?
- It's perceived that the trend is growing to be on equal footing with the economic and social factors. Traditionally grazing and hunting are two paramount circles that the environment, in terms of management, is truly managed using best practice
- Prior to Wilderness Act and WSAs inventory of the 80's and at that point in time the BLM and ranchers were forced to spend more time thinking about the environment

- Today it is felt that the social and economic has suffered and are not receiving the same amount attention as the environment. It is the hope that in the future it would come to a balance and that all 3 circles would form closer together

How do we know if the Grand Experiment is working?

- The GAO would acknowledge that it is working
- That the model is being replicated and used elsewhere
- When we get more work done on the ground
- There will be additional Cooperative Management Areas as opposed to legislative designations
- Threats to the grand experiment
- We need a better understanding of our legal authority and what phrases mean legally
- We do not need/want members joining who are unbending and uncompromising
- We need people who are thoughtful and that are going to represent their interest

What is the Grand Experiment?

It's the Steens Act itself. The committee feels strongly that they are willing to find new and innovative solutions to balance all their competing interest. No other collaborative process/act has that language in it. It's the first time that an advisory group extends the discussions outside the framework of the other acts. It provides/mandates coordination with private land owners.

What is the Steens role in helping with the economy?

The SMAC has a very important role in the recreational planning. The SMAC's position is to ensure that the mountain is set up in the way that it attracts visitors and makes their experience memorable to where they want to come back. There are generations of stability and the ranching industry is extremely important to the economic viability and is dependent on the Steens. Future recreational development has been discussed.

How do you ensure that tourists will have a good experience when traveling to the mountain?

- Maintain safe roads
- Adequate restrooms and garbage receptacles
- Adequate space to turn around large motor homes
- Address blind spots
- Search and rescue
- Adequate signs
- Site specific monitoring
- Visitors need to have an expectation/knowledge as to what they're going to visit
- Shared uses/dispersed uses
- Emphasis great experience and accessibility

How does the Steens Mtn. tie in with the wildlife refuge? How do you see each other's areas?

- ✓ The number one problem is that everyone is working within their own fence line. In trying to get everyone to work together and look at the common goal and a common vision can be difficult.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00pm

Everyone was invited to dinner at McMenamins at 6:30pm

Thursday, October 22, 2009

So, what's the vision? (Roll-out and Round Robin Review)

Kathy Ludlow and Laurie Thorpe
Steens Mtn CMPA Vision – Draft

Connected to the Land – Open to the Night Sky

Millions of years of uplifting created the 30 mile long fault-block called Steens Mtn. Sharply rising one vertical mile above the Alvord desert, it offers spectacular views of glacially carved gorges, and expansive ranch lands and lakes. Travelers witness one of the most naturally spectacular places in the lower 48 states, and sparse populations make this one of the darkest night skies in the world. Century ranches are a source of beauty and immense community pride.

The area provides spiritual connectivity within the grandeur of nature, for the weekend visitor and for locals who experience it daily. Scenic byways connect these special places and provide access through this remote country. Byway portals welcome visitors while orienting and teaching stewardship for this natural area.

Steens Mtn. CMPA is the Grand Experiment – the model for collaborative management of public and private lands. Innovative and creative solutions to complex issues are modeled here. Sustainability for the CMPA includes: Social understanding of each other's perspectives, economic stability through agriculture and geo-tourism, and environmental resiliency.

The group was asked to comment on the vision statement, positive and negative;

Eric H. (p) Travelers witness the most spectacular places
(n) Grand experiment

Bill R. (p) The process
(n) Expectations of what it is that may not actually be. I.e.; The old west, The John Wayne cultural

Rhonda (p) Likes the tone and the feel good

- (n) No comment
- Hoyt (p) Pleasantly surprised and enjoyed the process
 - (n) Feeling like being pushed to plan our recreation plan and going into a projected mode rather than an in the moment plan. Need to be as flexible as possible. The Grand experience
- Fred (p) The description of the ranches adding more sustainable
 - (n) The inaccuracy of the descriptors
- Stacy (p) Likes the overall look of the draft and the balance of the tone
 - (n) Scenic byways and byway portals is more of a how to
- Dan F (p) Especially likes the wording “The area provides spiritual connectivity within the grandeur of Nature.”
 - (n) The access
- Susan H. (p) Great job
 - (n) Hunting occurs here. The whole idea of wildlife management. Suggested saying; home to wild horses, cattle, and great fishing
- Jefferson (p) Likes the contextual sentiment.
 - (n) The grand Experiment. Not sure if this is the model yet more so the test case
- Michelle (p) The sum of the surrounding parts
 - (n) Byway portals welcome visitors. Not sure if we want to do this
- Joan (p) likes sparse population and dark nights.
 - (N) No comment)
- Tara (p) Overall tone is nice and enjoys the process.
 - (n) No Comment
- Pam (p) Likes the balance between recognizing the expansiveness of the dark skies, etc.
 - (n) Too inclusive. Blending too much into one setting.
- Kenny (p) Like the balance and especially the 3rd paragraph.
 - (n) “Grand Experiment”. Suggested adding the word “solitude” to the description.
- Terry (p) Agrees with the group and likes the way it was done. Teaching stewardship.
 - Suggested adding the word “wildlife” to the description.
- David (N) Unrestricted experience. Suggested adding “personal discovery” to the description.

Break

Strategies (How do we share this place and protect & sustain its qualities?)

Kathy Ludlow and Laurie Thorpe

Susan H. - It’s an opportune time to be talking with the MNWR in that they are in the beginning stages of developing their 10 year plan. When the agencies divided it was a disaster to the habitat

Fred O. I do not want to advertise the Steens Mtn. I only want to provide accurate information. The surrounding ranges are included in the Steens Mountain. It is wrong to put a boundary on it. In favor of looking at the textural effects.

Jefferson – The textural idea is growing. There is an issue with scale. Need to look at the text and identify the good and the bad inside each text. Appreciates valued resources which include: Hart Mountain, Lesley Gulch, and Ponderosa Pines. Everyone wants to enrich the Steens.

The scaling piece will be much more important into the CMPA. Everyone agrees that the contextual analysis is very important. However, where do you draw the line? The scale needs to be reasonable. The recreation plan is important and we need to recognize that this is only a small piece. Ultimately we are all linked to additional areas.

Suggested Tag Lines:

- Vast by nature...uncrowded by design
- Find yourself....by yourself
- Connected to the land - Open to the night sky
- A place for everyone
- There's room for everyone
- Land, Sky and People
- Discover your own space
- A place to find yourself off the beaten path
- Connected to the land – discovering hidden special places
- Connected to the land – freedom to roam
- The Steens...if you like Disneyland you won't like it here.
- Land of culture...land of space (discovery, explore)

Break

Wrap-up and evaluation

10 different areas of potential conflicts:

- ✓ The prioritizing of specific areas within the Steens do we want activities (Identify what activities fit where)
- ✓ Do not develop until necessary
- ✓ Minimum services necessary to meet the needs now
- ✓ Define triggers/define thresholds
- ✓ Allow use without degrading the environment
- ✓ Consider private land
- ✓ Reduce conflict among users
- ✓ Plan for increased horseback riding use

- ✓ The program will define the amount of commercial (special recreation permits) recreation allowed
- ✓ Education component as a way of preventing a need for capital improvement
- ✓ Respect the running camp and current existing SRPs
- ✓ Teamed cooperative effort in developing ownership and stewardship
- ✓ Any development emphasis on the naturalness and undeveloped. Minimal footprint (visual). Less is more
- ✓ Need to address land owners in a proactive way to determine their uses regarding how they exist now and the projection of various increased needs
- ✓ Turn arounds and pull out facilities for large vehicles

What is the one thing that a recreation program should do?

- ✓ Manage resource damage
- ✓ Education before development
- ✓ Design for minimal conflict between users

What are the triggers?

- ✓ Braided trails
- ✓ Vast expansion of highly impacted campgrounds
- ✓ Increase of people and uses
- ✓ Parking lot
- ✓ Campsite road access damage
- ✓ Kiger overlook
- ✓ South loop – Rooster Comb
- ✓ Complaints and safety issues
- ✓ Dan Jordan’s property; Road and campsites
- ✓ Need to be proactive instead of reactive
- ✓ ORVs

Guidance given to Michelle for the development of the recreation plan.

- Only develop what is necessary
- Work with private land owners to develop and meet everyone’s needs
- Overflow campsites for specific times of the year (Steens Rim Run, hunting season and holidays)
- There is a demand for larger group camping
- Dispersed camping

Scenic Byways and its role:

- Accessibility (visitors and unloading horses)
- Safe road and turnouts for larger vehicles

- Provide visitor information i.e.; maps and brochures
- Education

Discussion and review of workshop, establish upcoming agenda, propose field trip dates, approve previous minutes, and wrap-up

Terry Morton

Agenda for December Meeting:

- Follow-up from Niche/Vision
- Presentation of the recreation plan
- 2010 meeting dates
- Field Manager, DFO, and Chair Reports
- Oregon Explorer update
- Travel Management Plan – Road Maintenance
- Commission to Salazar’s Report

Action Items (ongoing):

- ✓ WJMA interpretive brochure
- ✓ Steens High Desert Country Map
- ✓ Special Recreation Permit holders fit into the CRP
- ✓ Comprehensive Recreation Plan
- ✓ Update on Oregon Explorer
- ✓ Finalize response letter to SMAC regarding South Steens EA recommendation
- ✓ Terry will follow up with Pam regarding letters regarding;
 - Management of WHB
 - Expediting appointments of Committee Members
- ✓ South Steens EA
- ✓ Page Springs Weir
- ✓ Cold Springs and Grove Creek Springs replacement
- ✓ Road Maintenance

Public Comments:

Susan Hammond, Hammond Ranches;

- Cold Springs and Grove Creek Springs replacement has been a continuous issue with private land owners. Susan understood that the agreement had to be put back in within a month.
- What is the quality and quantity of rock that is being produced on the mountain?

- Will private land owners have access to the gravel for private roads and access roads?
- What is the expected completion date of the development?
- Who is the BLM going to assign to address these issues?
- Oregon Explorer – It's important to the public's interest to know how much everything cost. Private individuals need to see if it's cost effective after completion of a project.
- Are there current negotiations between BLM and ONDA that public land owners are privy to? Kenny and Joan - Yes, the BLM is in early negotiation with regards to Burnt Car Rd. Not entering into settlement negotiations with the RMP. Continue to work on the South Steens. The North Steen's project is continuing to move forward.
- Historically there were undeveloped camp sites that were used for family camping. Susan would like to see ODFW brought back into the loop regarding the process of how they allocate hunting tags.
- Mule Deer report – Encourage recommendation from BLM wildlife to ODFW regarding mule deer report. The deer numbers are being compromised by fractional laws of different agencies. Need to get the animals back onto the mountain.
- Recreation Permits – As a private property owner on the mountain I would hope that the BLM would stay away from requiring everyone who visits the mountain to have a permit. It puts the private property owners at a disadvantage when we furnish everything we do without a charge to the visitors.
- Requesting to be included in the recreation process.

Dan Fouts, OET;

- Initially thought that the horse camp was a tragedy, now thinks it's very nice.
- Requesting additional equestrian development and disperse camping on top.
- Requesting to be a partner in the planning process.
- Some people will not go to a campground without having metal facilities.
- Recommending an unloading site for horses.
- There does not need to be a groomed trail, would like to have the wilderness experience. User groups can help maintain this.
- The private land owners have done a wonderful job at allowing public use. Wanting to commend the group for all their efforts.
- Difficult to tell what is public and private owned properties.

Borden Beck, Sierra Club;

- Noticed the maintenance/development to Burnt Car Road. It is more visible and will increase public use.
- Wanting the SMAC to understand that they do not need to meet the needs of everyone who visits the mountain.
- Limit the size of RV that is allowed on the mountain.

- Need to balance the need for disperse campsites. Would discourage creating several overflow sites.
- Has noticed people trespassing into the wilderness area. People will go off road and abuse the area.
- Concerns when maintaining roads by WSAs. Maintenance should be dealt with differently. It does have an impact and should fall into a different level of consideration when encouraging vehicle traffic.
- Problem with TMP, CRP, and roads. Feels frustrated that he was not able to have reasonable input into the process.
- As a Sierra Club member, there has been a noticeable improvement with the state of vegetation. This has been a positive collaborative process.

Written Statement made by Jefferson Jacobs, ONDA (Read by Terry Morton)

- *Steens cannot be “everything to everyone”. Trying to be so would only result in being essentially “nothing to anyone”.*
- *“Multiple Use” does not mean “Every Use Everywhere”. Steens is appropriate for some activities and some experiences and not for others. The best system would be to view Steens as part of the region, and not an isolated location in the vacuum. Steens can provide experiences that other places in the region cannot provide: focus should be put on managing for those experiences Steens can best provide, and those which don’t diminish the unique “Steens Experience” .*
- *Education is the best way to address potential visitor’s expectations and help them properly and appropriately prepare for their visit . Education via interpretive signs and detailed web pages would not only help people know what to expect, but would reduce the need for many expensive developments which would be aimed at substituting for visitor’s preparedness. Steens is wild, Rough country; that is what people come to see and experience. If it were not wild and tough, it would not be the Steens. Maps showing outhouses and road conditions would be very useful. At other public lands areas (i.e. Volcanoes National Park) there are interpretive signs with suggested itineraries charted out to correspond to visitor’s expectations and time-available.*
- *Education could also help address the paradox of “wanting people to come to Steens, but not have so many people it gets ruined, and wanting cash to flow into the local economy”; By telling people beforehand they can fill up with gas and get groceries at Frenchglen or about additional resources available in the area, it informs people of how and why it is important to spend money locally, It also acts as a draw to help advertise the area; but in a way that will potentially increase the number or percentage of “prepared” visitors, who might be less likely to negatively impact the resource. In Leave “no trace” ethics, the first rule is to be prepared and informed about the area you are going to: By informing visitors we will help reduce their impact.*
- *Given the limitations of information, some developments may be needed to provide for health and safety of visitors and to protect the character of the Mountain. Such projects*

may include: Turnouts at or near locked gates on the loop road. Signs warning people of locked gates at the closest reasonable turnout that would preclude them from having to make turn-outs in especially inconvenient locations immediately adjacent to gate locations. Additional outhouse facilities at the most popular stops along the Loop Road would help reduce human waste and litter issues.

- *“Road Closed” signs posted next to closed roads, do not seem to be especially effective. Perhaps one or more carsonite signs could be placed immediately obstructing the route (as is done in Hart Mountain.)*

Craig Miller, ONDA

- The SMAC needs to consider public input and should support the majority of the contribution. This could potentially avoid challenges in the future. The TMP is important.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding road closure:

Kenny asked the SMAC if the BLM could expect any recommendations as to how and if we address roads on an individual basis or specific routes? Will there be any discussion at the next meeting to how we handle the transportation system to our recreation plan?

SMAC’s response – The consensus is; the SMAC wanted the BLM to make those decisions administratively rather than a policy process. SMAC went through the TMP and decided they could not close any roads. They categorized the roads between use and maintenance. When it was finalized some people thought there were not enough roads closed and some people thought too many roads were closed. The SMAC then added language saying, “there’s an opportunity in the future to open/close a road based on a specific criteria. Additionally, road closures on the Steens require public involvement.”

Craig Miller stated; there are several people that are passionate about the Steens and want to see it preserved and agree with ONDA’s philosophy. In the TMP approximately 95% of the people supported the alternative that ONDA proposed. There was no consideration and we/they felt ignored.

Bill R. feels that ONDA was not excluded. A great concern regarding the TMP process is there interest out there and that they wanted to see mass road closures for the sake of closing roads. The SMAC provided a means for anyone and individual groups to make an appeal to the BLM through the administrative process to change the status. What’s frustrating is that element of what was done was ignored by ONDA, Sierra Club and to some extent the BLM. This was a collaborative decision on how to deal with the road situation on the Steens.

Craig – Feels ONDA did not ignore the administrative process. They have made requests on several occasions. ONDA has given the routes that they were interested in closing and their rationale. Craig has requested clarification on the proper steps to take for the administrative process. Secondly, no one is in favor of massive road closure. A majority of those roads in

which ONDA has proposed closed are used for off road vehicle traffic, which historically has not been there before. Routes that are no longer visible and routes that are in WSAs. ONDA is not opposing routes that lead to reservoirs or roads which have typically been used by ranchers in the past. We are asking that these roads are for service permit and/or administrative use only. There has been a large turnover within the BLM and hope that in the future BLM would be more responsive.

Bill – Part of the problem may be that BLM has failed to address the applications.

Stacy – Did the BLM respond to the citizen proposal for WSA's? Comments came in during the RMP and TMP. Usually when comments are submitted there's a response. There was limited response and there was no NEPA review.

Fred – There is historical use and several generations enjoy the mountain. Fred feels that ONDA is trying to close historical uses that are not important to them. As a private citizen BLM must be responsible to keep the historical value of the mountain.

Stacy – What do we do different this time? What is the process that the SMAC and BLM use?

Craig - Look at the comments. Take them seriously we have good lawyers that know what they are doing. If something is illegal and not degrading the resource ONDA could care less. Include ONDA on the SMAC it would help alleviate some of the tension.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Due to not have a quorum July and Sept minutes were not approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm

Next meeting date: January 14th & 15th, 2010, Burns, Oregon

Submitted by: Sheryl Drushella

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council approved the minutes on _____

Signed by Pam hardy, SMAC Chairwoman _____