

2013 Rogue River Users Meeting Notes

January 23, 2013, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m., Grants Pass Interagency Office

Members of public in attendance: 1

Conference Call Attendees: 3

Introductions

Explanation of Agenda, Ground Rules, and Breakout Groups

BLM & USFS Report Back from November 14, 2012 Meeting

- ***Posting river access road conditions on Trip Check***

Update:

Trip Check only posts information regarding a state or federal highway.

Comment: This road is considered a highway.

BLM – We'll continue to research whether or not we can put Bear Camp Road on the Trip Check website.

- ***Using Facebook and Twitter to communicate with users***

Update:

BLM – We can now post information through the State Office. Simply "Friend" the OR/WA BLM Facebook page to receive updates regarding Rogue River information.

FS – Forest Service has access to a Twitter account and will decide if they want to use Twitter or possibly join BLM on the Facebook page.

- ***Dogs in river canyon***

Update:

FS – There are rivers that do not allow dogs. We'll need to continue to study this issue on the Rogue River this field season. No decision yet.

- ***Changing from one meeting to two***

Update:

FS – The November meeting is our priority unless there is a substantial issue to report back on.

BLM – We are currently short staffed and multiple meetings are a huge workload. One meeting is better.

- ***Financial Transparency***

Update:

BLM & FS have agreed to be consistent in reporting financial disclosures by using matching formats.

Comment: You mean the agencies will use the same simplicity of format? Because a column named "Contracts" doesn't spell out the details of how that chunk of money was spent.

BLM – More detailed financial information will be available on the BLM website for BLM and FS. Any personal information will be eliminated.

- ***Law Enforcement presence in the river canyon***

Update:

BLM - Law Enforcement is mandated to patrol federal lands.

- ***Equity in regulation of rafters, fishermen and hikers***

Update:

BLM - We contact all users we see in the canyon.

- ***Winkle Bar***

Update:

BLM – The Winkle Bar cabin, boat, and rock wall are in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Introduction to Campsite Competition Discussion

- **Overview – Continuing conversation to gain a better understanding**
- **Past Input – Summary of past input as listed in handout**
- **Setting the Stage – Overview of maps and handouts**

(Available at: www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/rogueusersmeeting.php)

BLM – In our effort to continue to gain a better understanding of this issue we will not spend our time discussing a campsite reservation system or removing toilets at this meeting.

Group Discussion

- ***Where is campsite competition an issue? (Map Exercise placing dots on problem areas)***

Top problem locations identified: Mule Creek, Tate Creek, and Tacoma

Other locations mentioned: Horseshoe Bend, Whisky Creek, Little Windy Creek, Jenny Creek, Brushy Bar, Half Moon Bar and Solitude.

Comment: The campsite competition issue is the BLM personnel in this building.

- ***When is campsite competition an issue?***

Comment: Late June we try and get to Mule Creek by noon or it's full.

Comment: July and August.

Q: Are hiker's part of the problem at Whisky and Mule Creek?

A: From user – Most hikers stay up in the field by the grass and trail. Competition is from rafter's at all three Mule Creek sites.

Comment: Most traffic is rafters not hikers.

FS – Most traffic is rafters not hikers.

BLM – There have been some complaints from boaters that hikers use Whisky.

Q: Why are these sites more popular than others?

Possible Reasons: Boat parking, closeness to kitchen set-up, close to trail, flat is desirable, size of campsite, familiarity, toilet access, sun/shade, sand, easy to find and proximity to amenities.

- ***Do you think layovers (in key sites) are part of the issue and would limiting layovers help?***

Comment: Extended layover experience is only at Mule Creek. Yes, limiting layovers may help.

Comment: Mule Creek seems to be the place folks choose for extended stay.

Comment: We did not have layover issues.

Comment: If you believe there “is” a competition issue then yes, it would help.

- ***Are there sites that could be promoted?***

Comment: There were locations that were good sites. I think a crew with hand tools could bring back Lower Missouri and other sites as well.

- ***Is lunch site competition an issue and would designating a camp setup time help?***

Comment: I have never found this to be a problem in 20 years on the river.

Comment: Communication on the river helps. Lunch stop has never been an issue.

FS – We don’t know of any major confrontations, just conversations.

Comment: There are lots of different ways to have lunch; you can eat on the boat. There’s not a need to lay out a large spread everywhere.

BLM – We have observed folks stopping early on to secure camp before campers have even vacated a site. Therefore someone might not have the opportunity to stop for lunch.

Comment: Lunch lay out is usually a commercial outfitter issue.

Wild Rogue Campsites Handout input

- ***How should small and large groups be defined?***

Comment: 12 = large

Comment: >8 = large due to the review of most common division of users.

LEO – consider number of boats in the equation.

Comment: BLM analysis of 2011 season shows average non-commercial group size is 6 and commercial group size average is 13.

Comment: Use the BLM statistics to help calculate large group size.

Comment: It is a mistake to categorize sizes. Commercial outfitters may be suggesting this is an issue.

Suggestion: Survey the river corridor in early May to see what’s changed. Update the campsite brochure annually and educate the public about new sites.

Comment: There is a campsite supply issue. Take a look at Google Earth and compare 1994 with 2005 to see the amount of sand loss at campsites.

BLM – BLM has been doing site monitoring since 1989. We have seen some sand deposit increase on the recreation section this winter.

Comment: If new sites emerge, maybe placing some flagging at the site to bring it to the attention of boaters.

Next meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2013, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, at the Grants Pass Interagency Office, 2164 NE Spalding Avenue.

Possible Agenda Items:

Outfitter Flex
Rabbit Boating

Bin List

Financial disclosure