

**River Users Meeting
November 16, 2011
Grants Pass Interagency Office**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Katrina Symons, Grants Pass Resource Area Manager, BLM Medford District; Jeanne Klein, Acting Medford Recreation Lead; Dave Ballenger Acting Assistant Field Manager for Recreation; Barbara Zurhellen Commercial Permit Administrator; Becky Brown, Rand Visitor's Center Manager, Shawn Clark, Maintenance Manager; Todd Calvert, Park Ranger; Gitta Anderson, Park Ranger; Tom Gentry, Park Ranger; Vickie Whiteaker, Park Ranger/Note taker; Jared Nichols, Facilitator.

United States Forest Service (USFS): Alan Vandiver, Gold Beach District Ranger; Nancy Schwieger, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, and April Skaaren, River Permit Manager, Gold Beach Ranger District, Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest.

Attendees: Sharon McCall – Affordable Shuttle; Dave Miller – river user; Tyler Wendt – OARS; Michael Greenbaum - river user; Erik Weiseth – OTT; Brad Niva – Rogue Wilderness; Zach Collier – ECHO; Larry Laitner – River Hawks; Karen Sally - river user; Seldom – river user; Floyd Bell – Galice Shuttle driver; Gary Berlant – river user; Steve Welch – ARTA; Kate Wollney – OARS; Bonnie Rott – River Hawks

Handouts available at the sign-in for meeting participants included:

- 2011 Rogue River Users Meeting Agenda
- 2011 Wild Rogue River Use Report
- Bear Statistical Analysis 2011

Welcome and ground rules with opening remarks from BLM and FS. Both agencies shared commitment to two-way communication to solve problems. These items were discussed relating to a Power Point presentation.

2011 Recap

- **2011 Revenue and Expenses**
- **2011 Overall Use**
- **2011 Compliance**
- **2011 Successes**
- **2011 Project Summaries**
- **BLM boat ramp monitoring**

The agency agreed to look into putting the Power Point presentation on the website.

Action item - If policy allows, BLM agreed to place the Power Point presentation on website.

News and Updates - BLM

- Galice Access Route – received funding for geotechnical evaluation, design and implementation. Evaluation and design in FY 2012 and implement in FY 2013.
- Winkle Bar – Business plan is on hold for now. The public will be informed of the Winkle Bar business plan process when more information is known.
- Rogue River Business Plan is the current program priority.

Trail Booklet

- Rogue River Trail booklet has been updated and sent to the State Office for printing.

National Recreation Reservation Service (www.recreation.gov)

- Started work at getting the noncommercial lottery online. We will continue to move forward with goal of getting online in 2013.

Shuttle Special Recreation Permit

- Plan to begin the process of information gathering for Shuttle permits in 2012, with implementation in 2013.

Comment –

-please ensure compliance from unauthorized drivers.

Noncommercial Operating Plan

- The Private Operating Plan Conditions of Use will be updated. Not making changes to policy, just updating the information to be consistent.

Bear Report – April

- Number of bear forms turned in almost doubled from previous year therefore total number of bears observed also doubled. No major incidents.

Visitor Use

- West Virginia University students will be conducting a visitor use survey for jet boats and floaters in 2012 on the lower Rogue.

Toilets

- Bucket toilet systems will be required to have a screw on type lid for the 2012 season. Snap on lids will no longer be accepted. Toilet systems must be dedicated for that purpose only and not contain non-toiletries. Information will be included in the Noncommercial Permit Winner Letter and on the website.

Comments -

- Waste Management in the corridor is an issue. The agencies would appreciate ideas and user input on how to best address human waste.
- User suggests allowing free access to Scat Machine at Foster Bar (tokens or machine counter to keep track of use).

December Rand Staffing

- Rand Visitor Center will be open 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in December (Closed the week of Christmas) and open M-F, 9-3 in January (Closed on Holidays) for answering calls. **Rand is not mailing out the lottery application letter**, it can be faxed, mailed, or phoned in.

Open Discussion

Information concerning Outfitter and Guide meeting

–Goal is to keep everyone informed as agency works through issues with an effort to gain feedback prior to final decisions. The focus will be on issues that can be resolved and move forward so as not to revisit the same issue again.

Issues visited in the outfitter meeting included:

Split camp-lodge trips

Campsite competition

Guides with hikers

Unregulated shoulder season use

30 minute toilet setup/human waste issues

Penalties and equitability

Comments-

-Outfitters want to maximize profits and it affects general users. Privates have no ability to hear what is going on behind the scenes.

-In the old days, the public was invited to a public meeting where decisions were already made. - It is a mistake to have separate meetings.

-Who decided the outfitter meeting is closed to the public?

-Are the outfitter meeting notes available to the public?

Action item – Will look into note release and will discuss pros and cons of combining meetings.

-Should an email address be optional on permit application forms to use for communication?

Issues of interest/concern

- Put more heat on hikers and less on the rafters.
- Be aware that BLM employees in uniforms monitoring boat ramps are looked to for guidance and direction.
- Maintain the Mule Creek Trail.
- Bear Fences are an eyesore.
- 30 minute toilet set-up is ridiculous.
- Put in place a contact number to report dangerous shuttle drivers and lodge complaints.
- User fees and the requirement to compete for float permits should be waived for seniors and veterans.
- Current permit system works. Not in favor of an on-line system.

Recorded Bin List Items

Cost by position	Post presentation and meeting minutes on website
Business Plan for Winkle Bar	Free use of Scat Machine
Minutes of Outfitter meeting	Shuttle Permitting

Next Steps:

Expand the private user outreach for notification of the public meeting.
Schedule an agency meeting mid-December to review commercial and non-commercial issues.
Research the history of why BLM conducts two separate meetings.

What went well:

Rand is a happy place
Replacing old toilets
Appreciation for BLM attitude
Liked seeing bears
Appreciate the room at Foster Bar boat ramp
Positive communication at the boat ramps
Bear fences in the river corridor are a positive reminder of possible bear visits.