## John Day Snake River RAC Meeting

Meeting Minutes 17-18 March 2016

John Day Snake RAC March 17, 2016

Meeting called to order at 12:19

# Presentation from Robert Gentry – seeking a recommendation to place a cabin facility into the cabin rental program. This is the Crescent Lake Guard Station.

The Deschutes has gone through a public process, and put a notice in the Federal Register. They received 6 comments (all positive); notified officials, gained the support of the Klamath Board of County Commissioners, and the support of neighbors at the lake.

The station is on Crescent Lake at the edge of Simax Beach. It was built in the 1930's and recently restored with Title II funding that helped the FS put in a new foundation, new lap siding, paint, water/sewer/gas.

The cabin would be available in the summer for about 6 months right now, and longer if the FS can get it on its own water to avoid coming off a water line that runs from a nearby campground (and is closed seasonally).

REQUEST: \$120 night, which the FS feels is comparable to other similar rentals. Hope to be available in rental system this July.

Comment: There is no lodging tax so no funding to the county for example.

Comment: This cabin represents an irreplaceable value to history

Comment: could you increase the fee slowly? Start lower and go up?

Comment: Will you break even or will you get money to upgrade the water? Answer: this will bring in more money than needed, but the money comes back to the Deschutes and we have to spend it on like projects, so the money stays local.

Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision Update

#### Lower Deschutes River Fee

Insert Jim's notes here.

Comment: need to look at the fees with this. Depending on how a flat fee is applied, it could add a lot to a guide/outfitter business. Basically, with launch fees, take out fees, boating fees, etc. the fees keep adding up, and are getting more complex. (Note: Brian will agree to join the LDR Fee committee).

#### Erin McConnell – Status of Invasives EAs

In addition to PPT, group was interested in the role of "soil amendments" such as the D-7 from Bio West Ag Solutions as a method to reduce weeds.

#### Meeting Adjourns for the Day

John Day Snake RAC March 18, 2016

Meeting called to order at 8:01

#### Present

Category 1: Commodity Interests Terry Drever-Gee, Energy/Mineral Brian Sykes, Commercial Recreation Harry Dalgaard, Outdoor Recreation Arthur Waugh, Outdoor Recreation

Category 2: Conservation Interests Ben Gordon, Environmental Organization Tim Unterwegner, Dispersed Recreation Brian Jennings, Environmental Organization Steve Lent, Archaelogical/Historical Interests

Category 3: Community Interests Greg Jackle, State Agency Representative Patrick (Chris) Perry, Elected Official Randy Jones, State Agency Representative

#### Agency:

Greg Shine, BLM Oregon State Office, Office of Communications Larry Moore, BLM Vale District Office, Public Affairs Specialist

#### Meeting

8:01: Greg Shine speaks about RAC nominations. Connect with RAC Chair Testimonials.

8:20: Prineville District Report—Briefing Paper

#### TEETER ROAD

Terry Drever-Gee (TDG): "What is the complaint about Teeter Road?" Carol B (CB): "Vandalism, poaching, etc." Brian Jennings (BJ): "If an alternate road is proposed, how long would that take?" CB: "No way to know." TDG: "How old is the road?" CB: "It predates the BLM."

The BLM has been maintaining the road.

#### **BOATER FEES**

Brian Sykes (BS): "This will cost outfitters a great deal."

#### 9:15 Vale District Briefing

9:20 Concerns over Ochoco NF

Carol B. fielded questions and concerns:

Water quality/quantity--Brian Jennings OHV Proposal--Steve Lent IBLA verbiage concerns--Brian Sykes

#### 10:00 Deschutes National Forest Briefing

Shane Jeffries presenting, Deputy Forest Supervisor

#### 10:20 Officer Election Conversation

<u>Chair Nominations</u> Arthur Waugh---Terry Drevers-Gee Randy Jones---Harry Dalgaard

<u>Vice Chair</u> Tim Unterwegner---Ben Gordon Berta Youtie---Terry Drevers-Gee 10:49 Harney County Discussion

Harry Dalgaard (HD): "There are processes (RACs, etc.,) There are avenues to express concerns."

TDG: "Invite groups/people to the RAC."

BJ: "Brought into the process in a meaningful way."

Arthur Waugh (AW): "Group is diverse, looking at contribution? Issues?"

Tim Unterwegner (TU): Was protesting the tactics, were not going to allow Tim, etc in their meeting. "Protest is over but animosity is still there."

HD: "More info dispersed on public participation."

Greg Shine (GS): "History of Public Land Management must be looked at." TDG: "We can be a venue if nothing else."

Ben Gordon (BG): "Is there a way to make a statement? We could solicit inter-RAC conversations?"

RJ: "Role in creating a statement—good opportunity from Steve Grasty, Oregon Film, etc. One of the aspects of the story that is told, what's working in terms of managing public lands." (RACs, partnerships, etc)

Steve Lent (SL): "Historically, open range created intense conflict between ranchers etc. Historically, something must be done. Since 1906, Taylor Grazing Act...Prevents free for all."

TDG: "Miners, ranchers, etc have come with a sustainable attitude...Can be done with the right people involved."

TU: "There has been frustration with range permits being cancelled."

Brian Sykes (BS): "god to spread word of activities but careful not to acknowledge the fringe."

RJ: "We're appointed by the Secretary. Does that have bearing on our perspective?"

TU: "This group works within the existing system to affect change." Greg Jackle (GJ): "Without a united front, it's difficult."

SL: "Civil disobedience can be effective but not with arms."

HD: "RAC collaboration is proffering an alternative process for other groups."

AW: "Agency needs to bring this up with other RACs and see what direction they want to go in.

Randy—compose general letter and circulate among the RAC and finally addressing it to the RACs.

Chris Perry-subcommittee for the RAC Letter

## Brian Sykes—Open letter in newspapers about RACs

Letter Subcommittee

- Randy
- Ben Gordon
- Harry
- Greg Jackle
- Arthur Waugh
- Terry

Vote to suspend exclusive face to face voting and adopt email alternative for RAC Mission-statement letter

--motion carries

Vote on recreation fee changes for Deschutes National Forest

--motion carries

## **Next Meeting:**

- Email voting
- Snake River Presentation, awaiting input
- PowerPoint on Deschutes River Railroad—Steve Lent
- Subcommittee Discussion
- Fire Restoration Progress—Terry
- EWU Invasive Species/Bio Controls—Chris Perry
- Rec. Economy—Harry Dalgaard
- Forest Restoration Subcommittee Chair: Lump in with Blue Mountain,
  - o Add Arthur Waugh to Blue Mountain Forest Revision Committee
- Subcommittee, Sourth Fork Fire Rest.—Remove Kevin
- Lower Deschutes: Jim, Tim, Ben, Hrry, Greg, Chris, Brian Sykes
- Brian Jennings interested in subcommittees where he's needed (grouse, WHB, invasives)
- South Fork—Tim Unterwegner
- Planning 2.0—Vale/Prineville DM
- Economic Subcommittee
  - Harry-Chair
  - o Terry

- o Brian J.
- o Chris
- o Brian Sykes

# Meeting Adjourns

# John Day Snake River RAC March 18, 2016 **SIGN IN**

#### **Category One: Commodity Interests**

VTerry Drever-Gee	Energy/Mineral
Brian Sykes	Commercial Recreation
Harry Dalgaard	Outdoor Recreation
Vacant	Commercial Timber
Arthur Waugh	Outdoor Recreation
Category Two: Conservati	on Interests
Jen Gordon	Environmental Organization
James Reiss	Dispersed Recreation
Tim Unterwegner	Dispersed Recreation
Brian Jennings	Environmental Organization BV OO
Steve Lent	Archaeological/Historical Interests
Category Three: Communi	ity Interests
Greg Jackle	State Agency Representative
Patrick (Chris) Perry	Elected Official Patrick C Derry
Erica Maltz	Tribal Representative
Berta Youtie (RAC Chair)	Academia/natural sciences
Randy Jones	State Agency Representative fanly function

Agency Greg Shine, BLM Oregon State Office, Office of Communications

# John Day-Snake River RAC March 17 SIGN IN

stand in the second	
Name	Interest Sign In
Commodity Interests	
Terry Drever-Gee	Energy/Mineral
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Agency Don Gonzalen (Bruce Sillitor Acting) BLM Share Jeffries Deschates Naturel Forest Grey Share BLM Organ State Office, Office of Comminications

Greats

#### INFORMATION UPDATE New Information Only

The additional public comment period required for the permittee alternative addition to the Powder River Canyon Geographic Unit (GU) environmental assessment is completed and additional comments were addressed. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record (DR) would allow the renewal of grazing permits associated with the GU; these items will be released this spring.

The public comment period for the Vale District environmental assessment regarding the expanded use of herbicides in the ongoing battle against noxious weeds closed in early February. Comments are being addressed and a DR/FONSI are forthcoming.

#### Fire and Burned Area Rehabilitation:

As a result of the Windy-Cornet, Lime Hill and Dry Gulch wildfires, Baker Field Office prepared three ES&R Plans for the BLM managed public lands burned in these fires. The implementation decisions for two of these plans, Windy and Lime Hill, were appealed regarding the proposed use of herbicides for the control and prevention of noxious weeds and annual grasses. The appeals were resolved and all stabilization and rehabilitation activities, with the exception of herbicide use, will be implemented as planned.

#### **Forestry and Fuels:**

Also resulting from this past summer's wildfires (Windy-Cornet and Grizzly Complex), two categorical exclusions (CX's) were prepared for the Dark Canyon and Grizzly Timber Salvage Sales and the sales were offered for bid in October and January, respectively. Both sales received protests; the Dark Canyon protest has been denied and negotiations are in progress to award the sale to the original high bidder, while the Grizzly protest will be decided on shortly. Dark Canyon would result in the harvest of approximately 888 MBF from 192 acres and Grizzly would result in approximately 693 MBF from 81 acres.

The Baker Field Office continues to prepare an EA to cover the changed condition and potential salvage of about 1000 acres of timber impacted by the Windy Ridge and Cornet fires. Our goal is to have the EA completed and the salvage timber sold this spring, allowing the purchaser as much time as possible to harvest before the timber loses too much value.





INFORMATION UPDATE New Information Only

## **Baker Resource Area**

#### Greater sage-grouse:

The Baker Sage Grouse Coordination Group met on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Baker City for its inaugural "kick off" meeting. This group will facilitate communication among all of the partners in the Baker population area involved in sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat issues (ODFW, USFWS, BLM, NRCS, SWCD, County Government, private landowners, and others). The group will meet several times a year to help prioritize work, share ideas, pool resources, collectively seek funding opportunities, stay informed on population monitoring/trends, etc. This group serves as the "Local Implementation Team" outlined in the Oregon Sage-grouse Action Plan (2015) and Oregon Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon (2011).

#### Mining:

The Baker Field Office has begun the NEPA analysis process for the True Claims Mining Plan of Operations (PoO). The PoO is for a proposed placer gold mining operation located on Clark's Creek in the general vicinity of the recently approved Paul Ada #2/Snappy Ben Plan of Operations. True Claims PoO takes the place of the analysis that had begun for the Don J Plan of Operations, which the proponent requested the BLM to postpone.

#### Lands and Realty:

Within the next two weeks the Baker Field Office will release an environmental assessment for public comment regarding the potential issuance of a ROW for the construction of a new power line in the Wallua-McNary corridor. The EA was drafted by CH2M Hill, a contractor for Pacific Corp, who is the proponent of this project. Consultation has been conducted with CTUIR and is about to begin with the Oregon SHPO.

Unfortunately we were unable to fill our vacant Realty Specialist position during our last recruitment effort. We are hoping to have better luck when we advertise the position again in the very near future. Baker Field Office Lands and Realty needs are currently being serviced by staff in the Vale District Office.

#### **Range Management:**

An interdisciplinary team (IDT) is currently developing alternatives as part of their assessment of the effects of livestock grazing in the Keating Geographic Unit (GU). Completion of the EA would allow Baker Field Office to proceed with renewing grazing permits within the GU. The EA will soon be released for a public comment period and the intent is to complete the NEPA analysis and issue a Decision regarding the permit renewals by the end of the fiscal year.

Vale District Bureau of Land Management





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Vale District Office

March 2016

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Vale District Bureau of Land Management



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# **Briefing Paper**

Pacific Northwest Region – Ochoco National Forest

Ochoco National Forest & Crooked River National Grassland - Updates John Day – Snake RAC, March 17, 2016

**Ochoco Summit OHV Trail Project**: The Forest has released a Supplemental Draft EIS for this project with a public comment period that ends April 4. The previous DEIS and FEIS released in 2014 were withdrawn following the Bailey Butte fire. The new SDEIS incorporates feedback from multiple stakeholder meetings following the fire and withdrawn FEIS. The new DEIS used that feedback to create Alternative 5, which proposes to create a 135-mile OHV trail system with a season of use from June 1 – September 30. The intent behind the project is to create a sustainable place for recreational OHV use in the Ochocos so that riders will have an authorized place to recreate and will not create their own routes in other parts of the Forest. The Ochoco riding opportunity is intended to dovetail with other riding areas across Central Oregon, like Bend-Ft. Rock, Millican, and Santiam Pass, so that OHV riders have a place to recreate in all seasons. Adoption of an OHV trail system does not eliminate other OHV riding opportunities currently available on open mixed-use roads in the Ochocos. The Forest to release a Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision for the project later this year.



USFS off-highway vehicle trails proposed in the Ochoco National Forest The U.S. Forest Service is proposing a 135-acre trail system in part of the Ochoco National Forest.

Blue Mountains Forest Resiliency Project: The Ochoco National Forest took part in a public engagement session in Prineville on March 16, which was one of many taking place to discuss a Proposed Action for the Blue Mountains Forest Resiliency Project. Across the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon and Washington, more than 2.3 million acres of dry forests have become overcrowded and vulnerable to unusual outbreaks of insects, diseases, and wildfires. The current pace of active forest restoration is not keeping pace with forest growth. The project is an effort to restore more than a half million acres of forests on the Ochoco, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. This project will use thinning and fire to actively restore dry forests toward more resilient conditions. The Proposed Action suggests:

#### **BRIEFING PAPER - (continued)**

- 118,000 acres of treatment on the Ochoco National Forest
- 212,000 acres of treatment on the Umatilla National Forest
- 280,000 acres of treatment on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

A public comment period for the Proposed Action ends April 5.

Walton Lake Project: The Ochoco National Forest expects to begin thinning on about 200 acres surrounding Walton Lake this spring in order to remove disease-infected fir trees on one side of the lake and to preserve the mature ponderosa pine trees on the other three sides. Laminated root rot has infected Douglas and Grand fir trees on the east side of the lake, rotting them at the base from the inside. The fir trees often fall without warning, which creates a safety hazard at the busiest recreation site on the Forest, and creates a fire danger with the accumulation of heavy ground fuels. On the other three sides of the lake, treatment will remove fir trees that are crowding and stressing the large, legacy ponderosa pines that visitors come to enjoy. Replanting of shrubs, forbs, and disease-resistant trees will follow thinning. The proposal was advertised in 2015 and the analysis was completed using a Categorical Exclusion. Work will take place outside of campground season, starting this spring and finishing this fall once the campground has closed.

**Crooked River National Grassland Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs)**: The Grassland received \$100,000 to refine and enhance its ESDs in partnership with the BLM and NRCS. Our partners are very encouraged and excited to hear that the Forest Service is interested in pursuing further development of ESDs as a tool for describing restoration potential. This effort will help us determine a starting place, and the best places to invest in restoration in the future, to reduce the spread of medusa head and enhance health of native plant communities.

**Big Summit Wild Horse Herd Management Plan:** The Ochoco National Forest has begun a two-part effort to update its management plan for the Big Summit Herd Management Area, a Congressionally-designated area of 27-300 acres located about 25 miles east of Prineville. Planners have begun gathering data in order to prepare an EIS and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council has formed a public stakeholder group to explore the social values surrounding wild horse management and provide recommendations to the Forest. The current plan was written in 1975 and calls for a managed herd size of 55-60 head. Some of the management tools provided in that plan are no longer available to the Forest and many conditions have changed since 1975. The June 2015 annual wild horse inventory estimated a current herd size of 152 horses. In the interim, the Forest continues to gather animals that have strayed outside the territory and work with the Central Oregon Wild Horse Coalition to adopt them out.

**Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative (OFRC):** The OFRC has been working collaboratively with the Ochoco to provide recommendations for the Gap Fuels and Vegetation Management Project planning area. The Gap project proposes thinning and restoration treatments on about 38K acres southwest of Big Summit Prairie in the Upper Crooked River and Horse Heaven Creek watersheds on the Paulina Ranger District. A Draft EIS was released for public comment at the end of 2015. The proposed treatment calls for 14K acres of commercial thinning, 2K acres of noncommercial thinning, and 5.5K acres of under burning, along with hardwood restoration, stream restoration and culvert replacements. A Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision for the Gap project are expected to be released for public comment later this year.

Ochoco Stream Restoration Projects: The Ochoco National Forest continues to move forward with a number of stream restoration projects to improve water quality and floodplain connection on mountain streams, while improving fish habitat and restoring what were historically wet streamside meadows. The Forest completed about a mile of restoration on Trout Creek and upper Deep Creek last year, with plans to restore sections of McKay Creek and lower Deep Creek this year. The work is unsightly at first glance to many visitors so the Forest is working to communicate what the work involves and why it's so important. Much of the work involves using earthmoving equipment to remove berms that were installed on the stream banks in the past to control flooding. The berms have channeled the streams and disconnected

#### **BRIEFING PAPER - (continued)**

them from their historic floodplains, moving water downstream in flashes rather than allowing it to linger in pools that spawn fish and spread out into meadows that nurture riparian vegetation. Once berms are removed and streams made level with the floodplain, trees and other woody debris are laid across the channels to increase shade that cools water temperature and increase complexity of fish habitat. Treatment is followed by replanting of riparian trees and plants.

**Grassland Restoration Projects:** Several large projects to remove juniper from the Crooked River National Grassland continue to progress with the goal of restoring range conditions for cattle and wildlife and making ground moisture available for the forbs and grasses that support them. Pine Ridge and Westside Stewardship projects are ongoing with the help of Oregon Hunters Association. This year, the Willow Creek project will begin with help from a \$142K grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The Grassland also enjoys a close working relationship with the Gray Butte Grazing Association with whom the Grassland is partnering on experimental grazing rotations combined with prescribed fire to reduce infestations of medusa head and other noxious weeds. The Grassland has completed about 750 acres of slash burning this fall to remove hazardous fuels left over in personal firewood cutting areas and to clear woody debris before replanting grasses for range improvement.

Youth Conservation Corps: Central Oregon YCC will again accept applications from April 1 to May 1 for about 100 seasonal positions across the Grassland, the Ochocos, and the Deschutes National Forest. Students aged 16 to 18 can work 36-hour weeks from June 27 – August 18 earning minimum wage. Projects include building trails, maintaining fences, piling hazardous fuels, restoring campgrounds, improving wildlife habitat and other types of conservation work. This year, crews will be based in Crescent, La Pine, Bend, Sisters, Redmond, Prineville, Madras, and Warm Springs. Applications can be found online at <a href="http://www.heartoforegon.org">http://www.heartoforegon.org</a>

**Oregon Wild's National Recreation Area Proposal:** The Ochoco National Forest has no knowledge of whether Oregon Wild continues to pursue its proposal for legislative designation of a 312,000-acre National Recreation Area in the Ochoco Mountains. Both Crook County and the City of Prineville held well-attended town hall gatherings this winter to hear public testimony on the proposal and both governments signed resolutions in opposition. The Ochoco National Forest has no official position on the proposal and as a rule does not comment on proposed legislation, other than providing baseline data about current forest management and policies to elected officials and other interested parties.

**County "Coordination" Status:** Recent newspaper articles in the Bend Bulletin have reported on a newly-formed Natural Resources Political Action Committee in Crook County that seeks to develop a county natural resources plan for the Ochoco National Forest and assert county "coordination" status in order to put county government on an equal footing with the Forest Service in forest planning. This effort has not been sanctioned by Crook County. The Ochoco National Forest has shared with the Crook County Court guidance from its Office of General Counsel on coordination requests, which are similar to what was reported in the Bulletin. Namely, the OGC opines that federal law requires the Forest Service to coordinate in good faith with local, state, and federal governments and Tribes, and affected stakeholders, but that no law gives the viewpoint of any one person, entity or government preference or more weight than another, and that the legal decision-making authority for National Forest System lands ultimately resides with the Forest Service.

# Prineville District – Bureau of Land Management John Day – Snake RAC Project Briefing Paper - March 2016

#### Prineville Invasive Plant Environmental Assessment

In October 2010, the Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Director signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on "Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon." Each OR/WA District will "step down" the statewide EIS in site-specific analyses particular to each District. These EAs will provide best management practices for treating weeds including prevention, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments. They allow for use of 14 herbicides, expanding the current range of options for chemical control, consistent with national and state direction for use of herbicides on BLM managed lands.

At this point, the Revised EA, FONSI, and Decision Record are complete, and BLM is almost done responding to the 14 public comments. A final internal review of the documents will happen next week. We expect to have a signed Record of Decision Spring 2016.

#### **Teaters Road**

The Prineville District was notified this past spring that Teaters Road would be closed to public access. Teaters Road extends several miles through private land, and the landowners (Waibel Ranches, LLC) installed gates on the road to prevent access by the general public. Waibels have said the closure is due to years of trespassing, illegal hunting on private land, off-road vehicle damage, illegal antler hunting and littering.

BLM has an access easement on Teaters Road; however, the landowners assert that the access easement that was granted to the BLM in 1964 was incomplete, falling short by about 350 feet. BLM requested a Land Description Review (LOR) by the BLM's Oregon State Office Branch Chief of Cadastral Survey to review and validate the August 31, 1964 Access Road Easement.

As a result of this Review, BLM feels the agency has a complete right-of-way across Teaters Road and requested that the landowners open the gates in time for fall deer hunting season. In October 2015, Plaintiffs filed a complaint seeking a definitive judicial ruling on the scope of BLM's right-of-way in Crook County Circuit Court; shortly thereafter, the United States removed the case to the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, where the case is still pending.

#### Update:

The case is currently stayed in response to a joint request of the parties, which means that they are at least temporarily not proceeding with litigation in the case to allow them to focus on exploring the prospects for reaching a mutually agreeable settlement. These exploratory efforts are being kept confidential. Both parties agreed to release the following information:

One of the proposals the parties are currently exploring in their discussions is the offer by Waibel Ranches LLC to construct a new road closer to the western perimeter of their property, in the light of which BLM would then evaluate whether it could and/or should relinquish or opt not to exercise its right-of-way on Teaters Road to the extent it allows for public use. BLM would first have to analyze its potential environmental effects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and also ensure that it was in accordance with its substantive legal obligations as well. Such a process would also provide an opportunity for the public and interested parties to weigh in on such issues prior to any final determination being made in this regard.



#### **Cline Buttes Recreation**

BLM is continuing to work in the Cline Buttes Recreation Area. For OHV trails, the Buckhorn and Cascade View Trailheads are slated for development this year. We just put in for another Recreation Trails Program grant for funding to develop trails in these areas. This will add 36 miles of OHV trails on the north side of Hwy 126. For non-motorized trails, we will construct mountain biking and equestrian trails in the area known as "the Buttes," and will finish work on the Tumalo Canal Historic area trails. We have submitted for a grant to finish the Fryrear Trailhead trails.

On a side OHV note: **Millican OHV area** will have range fence moved to a new location, and the OHV trails and cattle guards will be moved to accommodate this range need. Additionally, there is a planned re-route of trail 90 which may or may not happen this year. **Rosland Play area near La Pine** is partially closed while ODOT uses a portion of the pit for their road project for the next year, and BLM will be updating fencing, signage, repainting the CXT, and generally sprucing the place up on the other half.

#### Cottonwood Canyon

Cottonwood Canyon State Park encompasses a checkerboard of State (8,100 acres) and BLM (10,171 acres) land. Western Rivers purchased the private parcels collectively known as the Murtha Ranch in 2008 and sold 8,008 acres to Oregon State Parks and Recreation (OPRD) for the state park. BLM is preparing an Environmental Analysis of alternatives to provide the public with a seamless recreation experience and enhance resource values in and around the new park. Unless the BLM allows access through connecting trail segments on public land, the OPRD would forego constructing 20.1 miles of the park's trails system.

**Update:** Update: BLM continues to work with OPRD to map location of trails to ensure they meet national and Resource Management Plan direction for routes in travel planning. Based on the expected need of OPRD, BLM will only analyze trails likely to be built in the next 10 years (based on OPRD funding levels).

After reviewing all of the public comments and taking a look at the land management direction provided in the JDBRMP, we have changed the proposed action to include fewer open routes and identified actions to minimize effects on many of the open routes. For example, our proposed action dropped three miles of trail on BLM land, meaning we went from 32 to 29 miles of non-motorized trails. Our analysis also includes drainage design features to control erosion. Most of the existing routes would remain open to administrative use by the BLM and park staff, right-of-way holders, or livestock lessees.

The BLM recently heard the County/State Parks' decision on boating access at Starvation Lane, Hay Creek: State Parks is planning to limit motorized access along the river by placing boulders/fence along the edge of the County's right of way and placing a gate where Starvation Lane meets the River. State Parks is planning to develop river access at Hay Creek with a small, concrete boat ramp and parking area (other side of the river). With this information, BLM has enough information to formulate the proposed action and move forward with the Environmental Assessment (with a decision in the next 6 months).

#### National Public Lands Day

BLM is partnering with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to conduct a National Public Lands Day in Cottonwood Canyon State Park this September. With the completion of the EA anticipated, BLM and State Parks will plan to work with volunteers to work on a variety of projects such as building trail and pulling weeds. This will be an overnight event.



## 0-1

#### Eclipse 2017

On Monday, the 21st of August, 2017, a solar eclipse moves across the state over Salem, Warm Springs, Madras, Mitchell, Prairie City and Huntington near the Snake River. Summer in Oregon, east of the Cascade Range to the Idaho border, normally has the best weather for viewing anywhere along the eclipse's path across the United States and many small towns and areas are anticipating a large influx of visitors for this rare event.

BLM staff are currently working with the city of Mitchell/Mitchell Fire Department in preparation for an anticipated 25,000+ visitors. The Fire Chief has identified 4 areas on BLM-administered land that could accommodate a large group of people and plans on applying for a Special Recreation Permit to use these areas. The City plans on establishing a reservation system with a fee to help cover costs of water, restrooms, trash pickup etc.

BLM will also be planning for extensive dispersed camping throughout the path of the eclipse (Madras, Mitchell, Lake Billy Chinook, and Prairie City) and will work with neighboring agencies to manage people. In addition to a joint community information center, BLM and Forest may also consider bringing in an incident management team to help with land management. In addition to water/sanitation, local communities and agencies will need to provide "other things to do while in Central Oregon," since some sites are recommending arriving up to 5 days in advance.

#### **Boater Pass System Upgrade**

The on-line Lower Deschutes Boater Pass system continues to operate on old hardware and programming, and is in need of an upgrade. The BLM is working with the current government contractor Active Network to negotiate a transition of the Lower Deschutes Boater Pass system to a new system to be operated by Rec.gov. The new system will include several improvements requested by boaters, including the ability to purchase all boater passes necessary for a multi-day trip in one sitting, and blocks of passes released at 7 AM instead of midnight.

During recent meetings with the Lower Deschutes Manager's group a handful of concerns were raised:

- The \$6 per transaction fee associated with using Active Network's program;
- Limitations and issues for outfitters who buy passes for their customers; and
- The algorithms and basic equations needed to meet the limited entry system on the Lower Deschutes.

The BLM is working with Active Net, the Manager's Group, and various outfitters to address these concerns before moving forward. The system is expected to be online 2017.

#### Special Recreation Permit-IBLA Decision

Kevin Dieker, doing business as Rivers In Oregon Rafting, applied for a commercial special recreation permit to run guided boat trips on the Lower Deschutes River in 2013. Prineville initially denied his permit application, and on June 1, 2015, IBLA set aside a Decision by the Prineville District to deny Kevin Dieker's application to run guided boat trips on the Lower Deschutes River. IBLA determined that the Prineville District's interpretation of the LDRMP was inconsistent with the LDRMP. In addition, the issuance of permits to purchasers of businesses already holding an SRP constituted a transfer, not a new permit, in express prohibition of the LDRMP.

#### The BLM, to remedy this situation has done the following:

• The Prineville District, working with a variety of partners, had an informal comment period for 30 days that allowed individuals, businesses, etc. to provide ideas and comments in regard to a new system that would meet the requirements of the plan and take into consideration IBLA's decison



- A draft proposal has been developed that will receive solicitor review before being implemented in 2016. This year is looked at as a pilot and it may change next year based upon feedback from the outfitting community as well as those seeking a permit, who are not buying an existing business.
- The BLM has been very sensitive to the changes resulting from both the agency's misinterpretation of the plan and the IBLA finding. We are working diligently to come up with a process that can provide some security to existing business owners, while ensuring new businesses have an opportunity to compete for permits.

# The current plan is to roll out the new process in April with permits being issued in late spring, early summer.

#### Segment 3 Environmental Assessment

In recent years, extended whitewater rafting trips have floated Segment 2 (Harpham to Sandy Beach), portaged Sherars Falls, and then floated four more miles from Buckhollow to Pine Tree. This increased whitewater day use is taking a majority of allocated passes during Limited Entry weekends resulting in fewer passes being available for other uses in the remainder of Segment 3. Limited Entry implementation as called for by the Lower Deschutes Management Plan (the Plan) is continuing to reduce available passes by 10% per year.

The managing agencies formed an inter-agency technical team to assist with writing and reviewing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider how changing boating use levels in Segment 3 and/or adjusting segment boundaries would affect the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) identified in the Plan. These ORVs are: recreational, fisheries, wildlife, cultural, geologic, scenic and botanical values. The actions considered in the EA are dividing Segment 3 into Segments 3A and 3B (division at Pine Tree boat ramp), moving the boundary between Segment 2 and 3 to Pine Tree, using Pine Tree as a "soft boundary" between Segments 2 and 3, requiring a "pass through" zone in Segment 3A for guided whitewater boaters or for all users, and changing the daily and seasonal limits of Segment 3.

Any changes made by the Decision would be implemented for the 2018 season. In accordance with the Lower Deschutes River Management Plan, boater passes for the 2016 boating season will be available with the following limitations:

- Segment 1 will continue to be limited on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from May 15 -September 15
- Segment 3 will continue to be limited 7 days a week from May 15 September 15
- Segment 4 will continue to be limited 7 days a week from May 15 October 15

## Central Oregon Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Initiative

In Central Oregon, stakeholders across five counties (Lake, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson and Klamath) have come together under the umbrella of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy in agreement to collaborate across jurisdictions and boundaries toward managing fuels, protecting homes, communities, and safely and effectively responding to wildfire. Prineville BLM, Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, city and county fire departments are part of this effort. Along with the more typical stakeholders, the group includes a variety of non-traditional stakeholders such as city and county planning departments, local developers and even the local beer brewing industry. This effort will lead to greater sharing of information, coordinated planning, and create opportunities for grants and efforts that cross agency boundaries.





Date: March 18, 2016

Subject: Approval of Recreation Fee Changes

To: Jim Peña, Regional Forester

The John Day-Snake River Resource Advisory Committee held its meeting March 17, 2016. The committee reviewed proposals to initiate new fees and/or modify existing fees. The RRAC reviewed the proposal submitted by the Deschutes National Forest to begin renting the Crescent Lake Guard Station.

The John Day-Snake River Resource Advisory Committee formally recommends the fee changes requested by the Deschutes National Forest.

Randy Jones, Chain Acting John Day-Snake River RAC



# **Briefing Paper**

#### **USFS Pacific Northwest Region**

**Deschutes National Forest** 

## Crescent Lake Guard Station –Recreational Rental Fee Proposal January 29, 2016

#### Situation

The Crescent Lake Guard Station, built in the early 1930s, is being proposed as a Recreational Rental. The Guard Station, administered by the Crescent Ranger District, lies on the eastern shore of Crescent Lake in Klamath County provides an excellent opportunity to provide a recreational rental to the public and preserve the historic building.

#### Background

The Guard Station was used until the early 1990s and then was vacated. In 2007, a recreation lodging feasibility study for the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland identified the Crescent Lake Guard Station as having potential conversion to a recreation rental. Beginning in 2010, district staff began rehabilitating the building through a series of Title II grants with the assistance of Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers, YCC crews and employees, investing approximately \$100K into the facility, primarily from grants.

The guard station is approximately 670 square feet with a full kitchen, living room, one bedroom and one bath. It is heated with a gas. Outside amenities include a picnic table, fire grill, horseshoe pit and views of Crescent Lake..

#### **Rental Potential**

The Crescent Lake Guard Station is expected to be available for rental year-round. However, District staff would like to begin with an initial rental season of April through October as logistics on winterizing the water in the rental still need some research.

Based on the Forest Service's rental tool the proposed rental fee would be \$120 per night. That fee is comparable to other similar rental opportunities in the area. Due to the popularity of Crescent Lake and the demand for this type of recreational opportunity it is estimated that the initial booking season (6 months) would generate between 8K and 12K annually, assuming a 60% occupancy rate.

#### **Next Steps**

The rental proposal public comment period has closed with the Forest receiving 6 comments, all in support of the fee proposal. Additionally, staff informed the local Community Action Team as well as the adjacent resort on Crescent lake and uniformly received support. The proposal is scheduled to be presented on March 17, 2016 to the Resource Advisory Council (RAC), which acts as the Deschutes National Forest's Recreation Advisory Council. If the proposal is approved to move forward, then the rental would be made available in Rec.gov for rental in July, 2016.



for the greatest good





1





2













Forest Servic	e Fee Report		Action: Fee Type:	New Fee Expanded Amenity Fee
Site Name: Crescent Lake Guar	d Station		Forest Name:	Deschutes National Forest
Site Type: LOOKOUT/CABIN		_	District:	Crescent Ranger District
Financial Information:		Fee Ch	ange Inform	nation:
Total O&M:	\$2,628	Reservatio	n fee of \$9.00 a	pplies
Deferred Maintenance:	\$12,328		From: 4/1	To: 11/15
Current Revenue:	\$0		<b>Current Fees:</b>	Proposed Fees:
Predicted Revenue:	\$12,000	Rate	\$0.00	\$120.00
Projected Development Costs:	\$100,000.00			

#### **Reason for Fee Change**

The Crescent Lake Guard Station (CLGS) built in the early 1930's is a one bedroom one bath cabin on the eastern shore of Crescent Lake managed by the Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. CLGS was identified in the 2007 draft recreation lodging feasibility study as a top potential facility that could be converted to recreation rentals on the Deschutes. The Deschutes NF has invested roughly 100K into the facility predominately from Title II grant funding.

<b>Basic Lodging A</b>	menities		Other Site Amenities:
Toilet: Water: Heat Source:	Graveled 2WD accessible Respond to emergencies only Flush Running water Propane/Gas heat Electric lights/modern appliances 1-4 People	Garbage: No Tent Space Outside : No NRHP Listed or Eligible: Yes	View Showers Lake-River Oriented Rec Opportunities Nearby Rec Opportunities from site

#### Area Description:

Crescent Lake Guard Station sits atop a small hill overlooking Crescent Lake in a open Ponderosa stand. CLGS is approximately 670 square feet with a full kitchen, furnished living room that includes a couch (folds out to full bed), original buffet, desk, and newly installed gas "wood stove" heater. The bedroom has a full bed and the restroom has a claw foot tub, toilet and pedestal sink. The Guard Station is walking distance to Crescent Lake Resort.

	Forest Service Fee Report	Action: Fee Type:	New Fee Expanded Amenity Fee
Site Name	: Crescent Lake Guard Station	Forest Name:	Deschutes National Forest
Site Type:	LOOKOUT/CABIN	District:	Crescent Ranger District

#### **Planned Accomplishment Narative:**

The fees generated will go toward care and maintenance of the the site, development of interpretive materials, and expanding the season of use over time by improved winterization and potential water source development.

#### Method for Informing Public:

Accomplishments are communicated to the public through the Forest's Annual Report, website, and onsite notices.

A letter was sent to the Federal delegation and they were supportive. The date of the letter and the letter will be uploaded

Other Provider Summary:	Other Provider Avg Price:	\$146.67	
Other Provider 1 Name:	Other Provider 2 Name:	Other Provid	er 3 Name:
Crescent Lake Resort	Odell Lake Resort	Shelter Cove	
Other Provider 1 Price: <b>\$175.00</b> Other Provider 1 Summary:	Other Provider 2 Price: <b>\$150.00</b> Other Provider 2 Summar	Other Provid <b>\$115.00</b> ry: Other Provid	ler 3 Price: ler 3 Summary:
Cabin Name: Billy ChinookCabin 4Cabin Style: 2 Bedroom (deluxe)Sleeps 4Cabin comfortably fits: 4-5 People1 queen bedAmenities: 2 queen size beds, full1 hidebedkitchen, fireplaceGas flame stoveUnclear if there is a ki		Cabin 'C' Sleeps 3-4 2 Full Beds (E Full Kitchen	3unk Style)

#### Price Justification:

The average price of similarly priced accommodations on Crescent and Odell Lakes is \$146.67 per night. The proposed fee of \$120 per night is in alignment with other accommodations in the Crescent and LaPine area. The guard station doesn't have as many of the amenities as the other cabins, thus the lower price.



# **Forest Service Fee Report**

Site Name: Crescent Lake Guard Station
Site Type: LOOKOUT/CABIN

Action:	New Fee	
Fee Type:	Expanded Amenity Fee	
Forest Name:	<b>Deschutes National Forest</b>	
District:	Crescent Ranger District	

## **Site Photos**



**Crescent Lake Guard Station** 

View from the outdoor seating area, Crescent Lake and the Cascades beyond.



## **Forest Service Fee Report**

Site Name:	<b>Crescent Lake Guard Station</b>
Site Type:	LOOKOUT/CABIN

Action:	New Fee	
Fee Type:	Expanded Amenity Fee	
Forest Name:	Deschutes National Forest	
District:	Crescent Ranger District	
10.0		

Public Participation: In progress, dates will be updated as tasks are accomplished.

Posted Notice in Rec Area:	11/26/2015	Federal Register Notice:	11/19/2015
NewsRelease:	11/26/2015	Local Elected Official:	02/08/2016
Website Post:	11/26/2015	Federal Legislator:	
Notify Local Interest Groups:	02/08/2016	Public Meeting:	

Public Participation Tasks:

Once the initial review and approvals are obtained the Forest/District will prepare the announcement in the Federal Register and the opportunity for comment. Our goal will be to have this ready to place in the Federal Register on or before December 1, 2015 in order to meet the 6 months prior to implementation. Projected implementation date is June 1, 2016.

Further, utilizing the services of the Forests' PAOs we will develop a series of talking points and news releases to articulate the need and how this new recreation opportunity will fit into the District's offerings. Public Participation Results:

WO saw the FRN and uploaded doc 11/19/2015 (the initial review button was not checked, Rgentry checked the button on 3/16/16 in order to clear the program for printing)

The District received 5 emails of support during the comment period. Emails came in between 11/26/15 through 12/24/15 and one additional comment of support on 1/28/16.

Rgentry: Personal conversation with Crescent Lake Lodge CEO Kaly Harward, 11/4/15. he is supportive of the the guard station becoming a rental.

Met with local Community Action Team (CAT) and Klamath County Commissioner on 2/8/16

The story of the Guard Station made it into the following papers:

The Bend Bulletin, The Washington Times (121/27/15, The Washington Metro Bugle (Facebook Page), and News United 11/27/15

#### Crescent Lake Guard Station Fee Proposal

#### **Additional and Public Comments**

#### November 26, 2015:

Dear Mr. Gentry,

This forwards an "In My View" piece submitted to The Bulletin in support of the plan to rent the Crescent Lake Guard Station. I hope it provides useful support to implementation of the plan.

We have met briefly once, and I have worked briefly with your wife on operation of Historic Elk Lake Guard Station.

You may recall that at one time I served in the same position on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District in which you serve on the Crescent Ranger District. As you can tell from the piece, I am completely supportive of your Crescent Lake Guard Station adaptive reuse project.

Thanks,

Les

Les Joslin Editor, OldSmokeys Newsletter

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association** 

P.O. Box 5583

Portland, Oregon 97228.

Home Office: 2356 N.W. Great Place Bend, Oregon 97703 541-330-0331

#### December 20, 2015:

Yes! Finally. Please open this one, my family loves staying at these. Mike Davis Cell 503-930-6605

#### December 21, 2015

My family and I love going to these Guard Stations and Lookouts, we've been hoping another would open within reach of the valley.

K J Cruise Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

#### December 24, 2015

Mr. Gentry,

Thank you for accepting comments on the Crescent Lake guard station cabin and its potential as a rental. As one who tries to spend as much time as possible exploring Oregon, my companion and I are always looking for ways to enjoy Oregon's beauty through out the year. For about six month we usually do roadside car camping or back packing. The rest of the year we look forward to spending time in a yurt or cabin. With the population growing and more folks wanting to enjoy the out doors, we find many if not all the sites booked months in advanced. Hearing and seeing the possibility of another place to enjoy Oregon's beauty is exciting. Please do what can be done to add the Crescent Lake cabin to the list of Forest Services accommodations. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Sean Wilde

#### Hello Mr. Gentry

I am sending this email in support of turning the historic cabin on Crescent Lake into a public recreation rental. There are never enough cabins to rent for those of us who enjoy the wonderful experience of being outdoors in Oregon <u>and</u> hopefully more of the Oregon public will begin to understand the wealth of wilderness and beauty Oregon has to offer by having one more chance to spend a night outside.

Thank you for this opportunity to use my voice in support of being outside and encouraging others to be engaged with Oregon's beauty.

Sincerely

**Christina Reagle** 

CHRISTINA REAGLE

creagle09@gmail.com

January 28, 2016

From: Kim Thompson [mailto:kthompson73@hotmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:45 PM To: Gentry, Robert -FS Subject: Re: Historic ranger cabin

My grandfather worked at that cabin in 1947. Please put me on a waiting list if that's possible. I would love to to see it! Thanks. Sent from my iPhone Les Joslin 2356 NW Great Place Bend, Oregon 97703 541-330-0331 lesjoslin@aol.com

"My Nickel's Worth" response to Dylan Darling's "Crescent Lake cabin might become a rental" article in the November 26, 2015, issue of The Bulletin...

#### **Rent Historic Crescent Lake Guard Station**

Kudos are due the Deschutes National Forest and Robert Gentry of its Crescent Ranger District for the current effort to add historic Crescent Lake Guard Station to the national forest's recreation rental program as reported in The Bulletin on November 26.

I've been pleased with—as well as a proud participant in—successful efforts to rehabilitate and reuse historic U.S. Forest Service ranger station and guard station structures. I had a hand in the historic Elk Lake Guard Station (a summer visitor information station and interpreted historic site since 2002) and Fall River Guard Station adaptive reuse projects, and am encouraging the Deschutes National Forest also to renovate and rent the historic Deschutes Bridge Guard Station along the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway as a recreation rental.

"Simultaneous preservation of Forest Service heritage resources and development of National Forest System recreation resources" is the way I've phrased this affordable and successful concept while taking and encouraging such action.

It is correct to "anticipate that it will pretty much pay for itself" as Gentry does in the case of the Crescent Lake Guard Station project. Under current law, recreation rental receipts are dedicated to historic structure restoration, maintenance, and operation. Successful rental of the Fall River Guard Station for years proves this concept works to the benefit of Deschutes National Forest visitors.

#### Les Joslin

Bend

# Historic Crescent Lake cabin may become rental

By Dylan J. Darling The Bulletin Published Nov 26, 2015 at 12:05AM

#### Want to comment?

Sharms

The Deschutes National Forest is taking public comment about plans to rent the Crescent Lake Guard Station as a recreational cabin for \$120 per night.

Comments are due by Dec. 30. Send comments by email to Robert Gentry with the Crescent Lake Ranger District at rgentry@fs.fed.us (mailto:rgentry@fs.fed.us) or call him at 541-433-3205.

Once home to forest rangers and then firefighters, a cabin by Crescent Lake may become available next summer for recreation rental.

The Deschutes National Forest is considering renting out the Crescent Lake Guard Station for \$120 per night, said Robert Gentry, recreation and land team leader for the forest's Crescent Ranger District.

"The guard station has gone unused for a number of years and it is still in great condition," he said Tuesday.

If the district goes ahead with the plan, the guard station about 70 miles from Bend would be available for rent in July, according to a Federal Register notice about the plan. Reservations could be available through www.recreation.gov; (http://www.recreation.gov) a \$9 reservation fee would be charged.

The public is invited to submit comments to Gentry until the end of the year.

Built in the 1930s, the cabin on the lake's eastern shore has one bedroom and one bathroom, comfortably sleeping one to four people, according to the Federal Register notice. While many rentals offered by the U.S. Forest Service do not have running water, Gentry said the guard station has water and also a shower and clawfoot bathtub.

The cabin has a kitchen and features some of the furniture originally used by rangers who lived there with their families while working at Crescent Lake.

"It was their home and their office," Gentry said. More recently, seasonal firefighters were housed at the cabin.

What is outside the guard station may attract recreation-minded renters as much as what is inside. There is a grill, a picnic table and a view of Cowhorn Mountain and the surrounding Cascades on the other side of the lake. Crescent Lake is off of state Highway 58.

http://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/3731249-153/historic-crescent-lake-cabin-may-be... 3/15/2016

Gentry added that Crescent Lake Resort, which has a restaurant open in summertime, sits only about 500 feet from the cabin.

If the guard station becomes a rental it would be the first in the Crescent Ranger District and the third in the Deschutes National Forest, the headquarters of which is in Bend. The other recreation rentals in the Deschutes are the Fall River Guard Station (http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/deschutes/recarea/?recid=49933), at the headwaters of the Fall River off South Century Drive, and the Green Ridge Lookout (http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/deschutes/recarea/?recid=70734) near Camp Sherman.

The Fall River Guard Station costs \$90 per night and can have as many as five people at a time; the Green Ridge Lookout costs \$40 per night and can take up to four people.

As at the other rentals, fees collected for renting the Crescent Lake Guard Station would be used to pay for maintenance, Gentry said.

"We already anticipate that it will pretty much pay for itself," he said.

The guard station on Fall River and the Green Ridge lookout have proved very popular, with people often booking them months in advance. The rentals offer unique places to stay in beautiful locations, said Jean Nelson-Dean, spokeswornan for the Deschutes National Forest. And they are historical.

"There is a lot of history that comes in staying in one of these Forest Service sites," she said.

The Fall River Guard station was also built in the 1930s, according to the Deschutes National Forest website. Green Ridge Lookout was built in the 1960s, according to recreation.gov. (http://recreation.gov)

--- Reporter: 541-617-7812,

ddarling@bendbulletin.com (mailto:ddarling@bendbulletin.com)



Deschutes National Forest / Submitted photo Built in the 1930s, the Crescent Lake Guard Station has been refurbished and has gas heat, as well as running water.



Deschutes National Forest / Submitted photo Outside, the Crescent Lake Guard Station has a grill and picnic table, as well as view of Cowhorn Mountain across the lake.



Sha

Deschutes National Forest / Submitted photo The Deschutes National Forests Crescent Ranger District is considering renting out the Crescent Lake Guard Station as a recreational cabin. The cabin would rent for \$120 a night starting in July.





**Crescent Lake Guard Station** 

Living Room



Kitchen





The View



Living Room - Buffet & Heating



Claw foot tub

