Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council Meeting

Feb. 13, 2020

Meeting convened at 8 p.m. via teleconference

Members present: Tim Davis, Jeremy Austin, Richard Watts, Ken Poole, Mark Owens

Agency Reps and others: Todd Forbes, Lakeview District Manager and Designated Federal Official; Jeff Rose, Burns BLM District Manager; Don Gonzalez, Vale BLM District Manager; Larisa Bogardus, Vale BLM PAO

Public: Susie Koppert, rockhound;

NOTE: Due to the lack of a quorum, the RAC could discuss items on the agenda, but could not vote on them.

Time for public comment and response

None.

District Updates

Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is reviewing and responding to public comments and is working on the Final Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEORMP) Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The final version is expected to be released in May 2020.

Lakeview Resource Management Plan Amendment

Chapters 3 (Affected Environment) and 4 (Impacts) are being revised to address comments from the State Office and Cooperating Agencies. We anticipate providing the revised chapters to the SO and cooperating agencies this month. Our estimated date for publishing the Draft for public comment is April, 2020.

Fire and Fuels

• Lakeview has resumed pile burning in the Clover Flat Project area. To date we have completed 1300 acres of Prescribed Fire in the Project Area. The South Warner Project was completed in the fall of 2019.

Energy and Minerals

- Update on Grassy Mountain/Calico mining proposal -- Calico is submitting their Plan of Operations by the end of the February. BLM will meet with Calico before we begin our completeness review of their revised Plan of Operations.
- Update on proposed Tucker Hill perlite mine expansion

The Section 106 process is complete and we have submitted a briefing package to the State Office for review. Once this is complete the S.O. will submit a briefing request for a departmental briefing where we anticipate approval to issue the final EIS and ROD.

Wrap up

Next meetings will be April 22-23 in Vale/Ontario and June 10-11, 2020 via teleconference.