



**BLM Western Oregon  
Resource Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes**



**January 13-14, 2025**  
9:00 AM – 11:30AM; 12:30PM- 4:00PM  
Zoom Meeting

**Subject:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act Title II Grant Application Review

**Tuesday, January 13, 2025**

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM PST

Virtual via Zoom

**Call to Order**

**Welcome** Heather Whitman: Designated Federal Official for BLM Western Oregon Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)  
Samara Phelps: RAC Chair  
Megan Harper: RAC Facilitator

**RAC Member Roll Call and Introductions**

**CATEGORY 1**

- Dino Venti: present
- Thomas Carstens (Tom): present
- Samara Phelps (RAC Chair): present
- Rebecca (Becky) Wolf: present
- VACANT

**CATEGORY 2**

- Sarah Rockwell: present
- Sue Martino: absent
- Sophia Kaelke: present
- Ken McCall: present
- Robin Harkins: present

**CATEGORY 3**

- Randy Smith: present
- Jack (Dylan) Edwards: present
- Tasha Davison: present
- Michael DeBlasi: present
- VACANT

### **BLM Staff Introductions**

- Heather Whitman, RAC's Designated Federal Official, Roseburg District Manager
- Megan Harper, RAC Facilitator, Coos Bay District Public Affairs Officer
- Aaron Curtis, Western Oregon SRS Act Title II Grant Coordinator, Oregon/Washington State Office Associate Deputy State Director
- Aileen Macias: Coos Bay District SRS Act Title II Grant Coordinator, Natural Resource Specialist
- Amanda Huffman, Medford District and Klamath Falls Field Office SRS Act Title II Grant Coordinator
- Greg Deimel: Roseburg District SRS Act Title II Grant Coordinator, District Public Affairs Officer
- Charity Glade: Northwest Oregon District SRS Act Title II Grant Coordinator, District Botanist
- Liz Hilberg: Administrative Support, Oregon/Washington State Office Management and Program Analyst
- Katy Fleek: Administrative Support, Oregon/Washington State Office Management and Program Analyst
- JoAnna Vasquez: Administrative Support, Oregon/Washington State Office Management and Program Analyst
- Kyle Sullivan: Zoom support, Medford District Public Affairs Officer
- Matthew Gibbs: Zoom support, contractor

### **Meeting Overview and Resources**

- Started meeting off with an overview of the agenda and the SRS Title II grant process to ensure that everyone had a common understanding of how the next 2 days of meetings will proceed.
- Overview of key Zoom functions to facilitate RAC member participation in meeting.
- Ensured all RAC members have hard copy binder of all SRS grant applications.
- Screenshared grant funding spreadsheet and identified minor changes in available grant funding that occurred since the RAC's binders were mailed last month.
- A hard copy of the SRS Act and key language from the statute about the grant program were put into the Zoom chat. a Aaron went over the grant cycle.
- Heather answered the RAC members' questions that were sent in previously to ensure all up to speed on the RAC and what Title II covers.
- Additional in-meeting questions from RAC members and responses from Heather and Samara.

*BREAK*

### **Klamath County Grant Applicant Presentations**

- Klamath Watershed Partnership: Leigh Anna Vradenburg
  - 1\_Canyon Rim Fuel Break Cross Boundary Project
- Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District: Hannah Chittenden
  - 2\_Dyers Wood Treatment and KCWMA

- RAC questions and discussion.
- RAC review of screenshared spreadsheet with county-by-county funding levels.

### **RAC Motion**

- Tom Carstens motioned that the RAC recommend to the BLM to fund both Klamath County grant applications at their minimum funding level requests using all available Klamath County funding and funding from other counties without any funding requests.
- Tasha Davison seconded Tom's Motion
- RAC Discussion

### **RAC Vote**

- The RAC affirmatively passed Tom's motion in accordance with its charter.
- See subsequent motion on January 14<sup>th</sup> affecting this vote.

### **Coos County Grant Applicant Presentations**

- Coquille Watershed Association: Emily Kolkemo
  - 3\_ Sandy Creek Phase II – Fish Passage Culvert Engineering & Project Design
- Coos Watershed Association: Allison Tarbox
  - 4\_ Shotgun Creek Stream Crossing Upgrades Development Final Design
- BLM: Goldie Warnke
  - 5\_ Native Plant Grow Outs – Coos/Curry/Douglas multi-county
- RAC questions and discussion.
- RAC review of screenshared spreadsheet with county-by-county funding levels.
- RAC deferred from making any funding recommendations for the Coos County applications.

### **Curry County Grant Applicant Presentations**

- Curry Soil Water Conservation District: Kelly Timchak
  - 6\_ Rouge Rearing Habitat 2024
- RAC questions and discussion.
- RAC review of screenshared spreadsheet with county-by-county funding levels.
- RAC deferred from making any funding recommendations for the Curry County application.

### **LUNCH BREAK**

### **Douglas County Grant Applicant Presentations**

- Smith River Watershed Council: Brian Jenkins
  - 7\_ Blackwell Creek Passage Improvement Design Blackwell Creek Passage Improvement Design
  - 8\_ Bum Creek Culvert Replacement
  - 9\_ Coon and Crane Creeks Instream Large Wood Placements
  - 10\_ Herb and Sweden Creek Instream Restoration
  - 11\_ Smith River Basin Noxious Weed Surveying, Mapping, and Control
  - 12\_ Wasson Ranch Blackberry

- Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District: Did not have a speaker nor presentation
  - 13\_ Cox Creek Portuguese Broom Control
- Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District: Matt Ruwaldt
  - 14\_ SWCD Noxious Weed Control and Elimination
- Douglas Forest Protection Association: Scott Jackson
  - 15\_ Dutchman Butte Smoke Detection System
- Phoenix School: Cheyne Rossbach (BLM employee on behalf of applicant)
  - 16\_ OYC Recreation Site Maintenance & Forest Health Crews
- BLM: Dan Dammann
  - 17\_ Soggy Bottoms Stream Restoration
- BLM: Micah Kittle
  - 18\_ Buck Creek-Old Blue Fire Suppression Access Road Rehabilitation
- Partnership for Umpqua Rivers: Kevin Keller
  - 19\_ South Umpqua Basin eDNA Monitoring 2025-2026 3
  - 20\_ Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2025-2026 1
  - 21\_ Yellow Creek Tributary Culvert Design 4
  - 22\_ Walker and Wallace Creek Instream Restoration 2
- RAC questions and discussion.
- RAC identification of potential project-by-project funding levels on screenshared spreadsheet.

#### **RAC Member Motion**

- Tom Carstens motioned that the RAC recommend to the BLM to fund Douglas County project application numbers 7, 18, 8, 9, 10, 14, 22, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 at the funding levels identified on the screenshared spreadsheet and leave the remaining \$28,100 of Douglas County funding available until further presentations and discussion.
- Tasha Davison Seconded Tom's Motion
- RAC Discussion

#### **RAC Vote**

- The RAC affirmatively passed Tom's motion in accordance with its charter.
- See subsequent motion on January 14<sup>th</sup> affecting this vote.

#### **Public Comment Period**

- No advance or in-meeting public comments received.

#### **18-Countywide Project Application Presentation**

- University of Idaho: Mark Kimsey
  - 23\_ Current and Future Forest Carrying Capacity Models
- RAC questions and discussion.
- RAC deferred from making any funding recommendations for the application.

#### **Day One Wrap-Up Conversations and Questions**

## **Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 PM**

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**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom

### **Call to Order**

**Welcome** Heather Whitman: Designated Federal Official for BLM Western Oregon RAC  
Samara Phelps: RAC Chair  
Megan Harper: RAC Facilitator

### **RAC Member Rollcall**

#### **CATEGORY 1**

- Dino Venti: present
- Thomas Carstens (Tom): present
- Samara Phelps (RAC Chair): present
- Rebecca (Becky) Wolf: present
- VACANT

#### **CATEGORY 2**

- Sarah Rockwell: present
- Sue Martino: absent
- Sophia Kaelke: present
- Ken McCall: present
- Robin Harkins: present

#### **CATEGORY 3**

- Randy Smith: present
- Jack (Dylan) Edwards: present
- Tasha Davison: present
- Michael DeBlasi: present
- VACANT

### **Introductory Topics**

- Discussion related to Heather's request for feedback and/or questions from previous day's meeting.
- Introduction of incoming new RAC member Joy Rogalla whose term will begin by the next RAC meeting.

### **Jackson County Grant Applicant Presentations**

- Applegate Fire: Brian Mulhollen and Miranda Stuart
  - 24\_ AVFMT Defensible Space Strategic Implementation

- 30\_ AVFMT Implementation -Jackson/Josephine multi-county
- BLM: Todd Calvert
  - 25\_ Matthews Guard Station Stabilization and Maintenance
- BLM: Jeanne Klein and Chris Foust
  - 32\_ Illegal Dumping Removal – Jackson/Josephine multi-county
- Understory initiative: Vanessa Robertson-Rojas
  - 26\_ Seedling Resilience – Native Pollinator Seed Mix Production
- Lomakatsi: Andrew Markham
  - 27\_ South Obenchain Post-Fire Riparian Restoration Project
- Klamath Bird Observatory: Sarah Rockwell
  - 28\_ Understanding Declines in Bird Species
  - 29\_ Vesper Sparrow – Douglas/Jackson multi-county
- RAC questions and discussion. RAC deferred from making any funding recommendations for the Jackson County applications.

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#### **Josephine County Grant Applicant Presentations**

- Applegate Partnership: Luke Wimmer
  - 31\_ Grow Youth Program – Provolt Recreation Site
  - 33\_ Cheney Creek Large Wood Round 2
- Understory Initiative: Sean Prive
  - 34\_ French Flat Weed Control
- Northwest Youth Corps: Amanda Wallace
  - 35\_ NYC Grants Pass Outdoor Recreation Project
- Cave Junction Farmers Market: Cindy Palacios
  - 36\_ Operation Clean Sweep
- BLM: Shaun Bessinger
  - 37\_ Produce Aggregate in Mt Ruben BLM Quarry:
- BLM: Greg Montague
  - 38\_ River Corridor Project:
- BLM: Rober Lange
  - 39\_ Takelma Creek Riparian Restoration Project
- Williams Rural Fire Protection District: Brian Mulhollen and Miranda Stuart
  - 40\_ Williams Community Defensible Space Strategic Implementation

#### **Lane County Grant Applicant Presentations**

- BLM: Annie Lawrence
  - 41\_ Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Riparian and Oak Woodland Restoration
- Coastal Fork Willamette Watershed Council: Reilly Newman
  - 42\_ Mosby Creek Northwestern Pond Turtle Habitat Project
- Lane County Sheriff's Office: Josh Mars
  - 43\_ Sheriff's Office Work Crew Debris Clean-up

### **RAC Member Motion**

- Robin Harkins motioned that the RAC rescind its two previously approved motions on January 13, 2025, related to its Klamath and Douglas County project funding recommendations to the BLM so the RAC could more holistically consider the remaining funding requests and available county-by-county balances.
- Ken McCall Seconded Robin's Motion.
- RAC Discussion.

### **RAC Vote**

- The RAC affirmatively passed Robin's motion in accordance with its charter with a vote of 11 YEAs and 2 NAYs.

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### **Northwestern Oregon Counties Grant Applicant Presentations**

- Tillamook Estuaries Partnership: Asa Skinner
  - 44\_ Lincoln/Marion/Polk/Tillamook\_Native Plant Production for Coastal Restoration
- Mary's River Watershed Council: Evan Hayduk
  - 45\_ Benton/Lincoln\_Salvage Log Project
- Institute for Applied Ecology: Tyler Roberts and Andrew Esterson
  - 46\_ Linn\_Oak Basin Roads and Restoration
- Upper Nehalem Watershed Council: Maggie Peyton
  - 47\_ Columbia\_Riparian Restoration with Nehalem Native Nursery
- RAC discussion.
- RAC identification of potential project-by-project funding levels on screen shared spreadsheet.

Group decided to put remaining funds for project 31 for youth. Tasha Davison made the motion and Tom Carstens 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to fund all projects as shown on the spread sheet. Vote was unanimous.

The RAC members discussed options for what to do with SRS funding that is returned to BLM since the SRS legislation is expired and the BLM cannot solicit for additional project proposals at this time. Robin Harkins made a motion for de-obligated or extra SRS funds returned to the BLM should go towards project #5. Tasha Davison seconded motion. Unanimous vote.

Closing words done by Samara and Heather. Meeting adjourned at 4:23 PM 1/15/2025