

BLM Coeur d'Alene District Resource Advisory Council Meeting

BLM Coeur d'Alene District Office
3815 Schreiber Way
CDA, ID

Meeting minutes – October 19, 2017

RAC members attending: **Category 1:** Mike Reggear, Al Casile, JW Marshall, Bill Orr, Linda Rider; **Category 2:** Cliff Swanson, Bob Balsler, Bill Cook; **Category 3:** Trevor Fulton, Patty Perry, Chris Goetz

Others attending: Karen Roetter (Sen. Crapo), Shoshana Cooper (USFS), Jeff Ward (USFS), Diana Jones (USFS), Todd Erickson, Maria Erickson, Charles Erickson

Agenda Topic: Welcome/Introductions: CDA District Manager Linda Clark welcomed the RAC members and thanked them for their contributions. Chair Linda Rider reviewed the agenda and the group did brief introductions.

Agenda Topic: Cottonwood Field Office Updates – Richard White, Cottonwood Field Manager, provided information on accomplishments in fiscal year 2017 and on future projects including recreation and forestry projects. The RAC had specific questions regarding restoration activities on the Lolo 80 (Double Lo) timber sale and easement issues on the planned Ahshaka sale.

Agenda Topic: Coeur d'Alene Field Office Updates – Kurt Pavlat, Field Manager, provided information on key projects in the CDA field office. He provided updates on the Wallace Forest Conservation Area (WFCA) recreation and forestry project at Blue Creek Bay, the proposed improvements at Ross Point and the planned Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease with the City of CDA for the former BNSF railroad corridor.

The RAC had questions about the parking lot (Bonnell Rd) at the WFCA as well as the planned mtn bike trails and equestrian trails. Timing of the timber sale was also discussed.

Linda Clark also provided an update on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment plans as a result of the large mining company settlement in 2011. A trustee group made up of the State, the CDA Tribe, Dept of Agriculture and Dept of Interior are nearing release of the final environmental impact statement that will guide restoration activities in the CDA Basin.

Agenda Topic: Election of New Officers – Chair/Vice-Chair for RAC and Rec RAC: Linda Rider was nominated to continue as RAC Chair. No one else was nominated and all were in favor. Linda will also serve as the vice Chair for the Recreation RAC. Chris Goetz and Al Casile were nominated for vice Chair (which also serves as the Chair for the Recreation RAC). A ballot vote was conducted and Chris Goetz was selected as vice Chair for the RAC and Chair for the Recreation RAC.

RAC Adjourns; Recreation RAC Convenes:

Agenda Topic: Nez Perce/Clearwater NF Recreation Fees – Diana Jones and Jeff Ward, USFS presented summaries of public comment on the recreation sites proposed for fee implementation and/or increase. (See attached package "Forest Service Proposal")

| CWF/NP NF Recreation Site | Comments | Proposed Fee | Recreation RAC Recommendation |
|---|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Aquarius Purple Beach Campground | none | \$15/night | Implement |
| Cedar Flats Dump Station | none | \$10/use | Implement |
| Elk Creek Campground Group Picnic Shelter | Rec RAC suggests a higher fee | \$25/day | Increase to \$35/day |
| Fish Ck Campground Group Camp Area | Questions asked and clarification provided about the revenue retained by the USFS and the amount rec.gov retains | \$25/day | Implement |
| Giant White Pine Campground | none | \$12/night | Implement |
| Gold Meadows Cabin | Concerns about demand generating enough revenue to maintain the site | \$40/night | Implement |
| Liz Creek Cabin | none | \$40/night | Implement |
| Lolo Ck Campground | none | \$12/night | Implement |
| Partridge Creek Campground | none | \$12/night | Implement |
| Scurvy Mtn Lookout | none | \$45/night | Implement |
| Wallow Mtn Lookout | none | \$45/night | Implement |

The Recreation RAC asked about the sites (Scurvy Mtn, Liz Creek, Gold Meadows and Wallow Mtn) that are located in areas recommended for wilderness. It was clarified that if the area was to become wilderness, the sites would be taken off the system and the Forest would return to the RAC. There was also concern expressed about the Forest continuing to work with the active outfitter in Elk Meadows.

Recommendation by the Recreation RAC: A motion was made to accept the fee increase in its entirety but then amended to a modified motion to accept all but suggest an increase to the Elk Creek Campground Group Shelter to \$35/day which all were in favor of. The Recreation RAC recommended to the RAC and DFO implementation of the proposed fees at all of the sites except they recommend the fee for the Elk Creek Group Shelter be increased to \$35 per day.

Future Recreation Proposals: Jeff Ward, USFS Region One, shared brief information with the Council about additional upcoming recreation fee increases/proposals. The Idaho Panhandle NFs will begin their public scoping process this winter and the Bitterroot NF will bring forward a proposed increase for the Magruder Cabin which is located in Idaho County.

Recreation RAC adjourns; RAC Convenes

Public Forum – Individuals representing the newly formed Coeur d’Alene Mining District, Todd, Maria and Charles Erickson briefly spoke about their group and shared their website: cdaminingdistrict.com. The group has had two meetings to-date and is working to become a united voice for mining in the Coeur d’Alene area.

Reed Ridge Potential Acquisition – Scott Pavey presented an overview of a proposed land acquisition the CDA FO may be interested in and may pursue through a Land Water Conservation Fund grant. He presented the proposal and asked if the RAC would support. The parcel is currently owned by Hancock Forest Products but they are very interested in selling. The FO has not talked with Benewah County yet. Obtaining the parcel would provide connectivity to other BLM lands and recreation and hunting


opportunities. The BLM is concerned that if this parcel was sold to a private entity, there could be a loss of public access.

The RAC was not ready to formally provide support. They were concerned about how Benewah County losing tax revenue and encouraged the FO to meet with them.

Agenda Topic: Gamlin Lake Vegetation Treatment Project – CDA Field Office Forester Jered Bowman provided an overview of the forestry and hazardous fuels reduction project at Gamlin Lake Recreation Area. The area has been hit hard by recent windstorms and the understory in the area is overgrown creating potential fire hazards. The BLM met with interested neighbors in late September and is working on an environmental analysis to treat the area. The proposal includes a commercial timber sale as well as creating a shaded fuelbreak on borders with adjacent property owners.

The RAC had questions regarding plans to create temporary roads and how those will be rehabbed after the project. The RAC discussed concerns about the timing of the project, protection of amenities at the site and recreation activities while timber harvest/fuels reduction activities were occurring.

Closeout - Next Meeting Date & Location. The RAC would like a Doodle Poll put out to set a meeting date in late February or March.


Linda Bonser-Rider, Chair

