

Coastal Oregon RAC Meeting Notes

Date: November 9 & 10, 2016

Location: Coos Bay District Office, North Bend, OR

Chair: Melissa Cribbins, Coos County Commissioner

DFO: Patty Burke, District Manager

New Member Orientation

November 9 - 9 am to 11:30 am

Attendees: Patty Burke, BLM District Manager
 Hannah Schrager, New Member
 Karla Norris, BLM Associate District Manager
 Timm Slater, New Member
 Melissa Cribbins, RAC Chair
 Todd Buchholz, BLM Umpqua Field Manager
 Eric Riley, New Member
 Kathy Westenskow, BLM Myrtlewood Field Manager
 Warren Brainard, New Member
 Stuart Mitchell, BLM Operations Manager
 Megan Harper, BLM Public Affairs
 Stephanie Messerle, BLM District Fisheries Biologist

Public: Doc Snyder
 Jim Farr

BLM Overview: A National and Regional Perspective

Presented by Megan Harper, BLM

- The new members were provided an orientation to the BLM from a national and regional perspective, including information on the BLM's history, organization and current programs.

Overview of the coastal Oregon RAC Handbook

Presented by Megan Harper, BLM

- The BLM provided an overview for the new members of the Coastal Oregon RAC Handbook, including:
 - an overview of the legislation empowering the RAC to make recommendations to the BLM (FLPMA, Secure Rural Schools, FLPMA and FACA) and their role on the RAC
 - The RAC charter

- Standard operating procedures/voting rules
- Travel reimbursement procedures

Recreation Program and the Advisory Council Role

Presented by John Harper, BLM

- John Harper, Coos Bay District Recreation Program Lead, provided an overview of the Coos Bay and Northwest Oregon recreation program, and an overview of the council’s role to approve recreation fees as authorized by REA.
- Questions from the Council
 - Is hunting and fishing incorporated into your recreation planning? Yes. There are rudimentary calculations based on hunting and fishing licenses in hunting units to calculate users.
 - Are fees spent on the same site from which they are collected? Yes.

Secure Rural Schools, Title II and the Advisory Council Role

Presented by Stephanie Messerle, BLM

- Stephanie Messerle provided the new RAC members with an overview of the Secure Rural Schools legislation and Title II, which enables the RAC to review and recommend public natural resource projects for federal funding.
- Questions from the Council
 - What were the project priorities of the 2015 RAC? The new member wants to incorporate in to the Title II meeting discussion RAC member priorities to generate common understanding and a path forward in the meeting.

Information Public Comment

- Jim Farr spoke to the BLM and new members about public access to snowy plover areas near Floras Lake. He would like to work with the BLM to have a corridor for beach public access. Kathy Westenskow, Myrtlewood Field Manager, followed up with Mr. Farr.

Regular RAC Meeting

November 9 – 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Attendees: Patty Burke, BLM District Manager
 Hannah Schrager, New Member
 Karla Norris, BLM Associate District Manager
 Timm Slater, New Member
 Melissa Cribbins, RAC Chair
 Todd Buchholz, BLM Umpqua Field Manager
 Eric Riley, New Member
 Kathy Westenskow, BLM Myrtlewood Field Manager

Warren Brainard, New Member
Megan Harper, BLM Public Affairs
Stephanie Messerle, BLM District Fisheries Biologist

Public: None

***Update on Secure Rural Schools Title II project approvals and implementation/
Discussion/recommendation on law enforcement ATV funding
Presented by Stephanie Messerle, BLM***

- The BLM was unable to transfer the approved \$17,000 for the Coos County ATV to Coos County via an assistance agreement or a contract. Therefore, the \$17,000 returned to the Coos Bay District's Title II budget. The BLM discussed with the council what they would like to do with the money – add funding to one of the previously approved project (namely noxious weed education in Coos County) or roll the money over to the next round of funding.
- Melissa Cribbins gave an update on the noxious weed board activities and the noxious weed education projects. The board would use the additional money if awarded.
- Several members indicated that a number of projects were not funded in the last round and the would prefer to roll the funding to the next round.

Kurt Olson made motion to roll over the \$17,000 in funding to the next round of project solicitations. Don LaFrance seconded.

VOTE

Cat 1: 3

Cat 2: 5

Cat 3: 3

Motion passes.

RECOMMENDATION: Carry-over the \$17,000 from the ATV project in Coos County to the Coos County pot for the next round of funding.

***Schedule for next round of Secure Rural Schools Title II project solicitation and funding
recommendations– schedule next RAC meeting
Presented by Stephanie Messerle, BLM***

- The RAC discussed a schedule for soliciting, reviewing and recommending the next round of Title II projects.
- The group agreed to the schedule as Stephanie presented.
- Group found it helpful to have presentations and would like project proponents to do it again for this round of projects.

RECOMMENDATION: Majority agrees the RAC will meet March 14 and 15 to review and recommend natural resource projects for funding under Title II. Group agreed to have the next meeting in Coos Bay/North Bend area, with half days on each day to allow for travel time.

Update on Recreation Fee Proposal Timelines from BLM's Northwest Oregon District

Presented by: Dan Davis and Jeff McKuster, BLM Recreation Planners

- Dan Davis and Jeff McKuster from Northwest Oregon District gave an overview of the recreation program in Northwest Oregon and the status of their fee proposals.
- The Northwest Oregon District has seen a drastic increase in use and are older recreation sites. The fee sites they are talking about are four campgrounds in the Nestucca River corridor. Built in the 1970s and have 10-12 sites. Three of the campgrounds are fee sites. The District has not raised fees for ten years.
- NW Oregon has developed a business plan for these campgrounds, and have been routing it through the State Office. Important that the public outreach has been complete prior to coming to the advisory council. Will post in the FRN and allow for a 30 day comment period. Has to be done before the RAC can make recommendation. Will send business plans for Nestucca areas prior to the meeting.
- District has received 7 comments so far, mostly in support of the fee proposals. People seem excited for the District pass. Some confusion about the different programs and passes, and they are hoping to clarify the confusion with the new business plan.
- Jeff and Dan asked the Council if there is a better way to do outreach for the fee proposals. The RAC offered the following suggestions:
 - Is there a website the RAC could look at to see the recreation sites? Not with new website.
 - Have well posted signs next to brochures in the District Offices. Post information in the Hebo Forest Service Office.
 - Advertise in other visitor centers, such as Oregon Department of Forestry and State Parks. Work with other recreation planners in the area.
 - Inquire with hiking clubs – Obsidians, Chemikitans – to get the word out.
 - General public and local public are two different audiences. Go through the local newspaper in Tillamook to get to the local public. Tillamook Headline Herald.
 - Kiosk in nearby campgrounds that would tend to fill up.
 - Want to include a field trip in the mix, and get information in front of the members as soon as possible.
 - Contact the Oregon Hunter's Association to help get the word out.

FOLLOW- UP: Megan will send Nestucca River documents and web link to the RAC members.

RMP Overview and Implementation

Presented by: STEVE FOWLER, BLM PLANNER

- Travel Management Planning (TMP) will be on the forefront of people's minds because of gate closures. Also the selling of the Elliott State Forest because only 50% of that forest has to stay open for public access.
- What was the total timber harvest in western Oregon under the NWFP? Around 250 million board feet.
- Can we carry over our target and meet it the next year? There is an annual and decadal variance to the targets that the District has to meet.
- Do we envision having to shift staff to the north following the increase in cut? We are looking at efficiencies first. Will also depend on future budgets.
- Is the definition of Late Successional Reserve the same now and in the old plan? Yes and no. Still the same definition, but how it's laid out on the ground is different. More refined modeling of what is considered an LSR working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Changed the areas defined as LSRs. Based on recovery plan for spotted owl and on where owls are actually nesting.
- How much restorative thinning in riparian reserves will be able to do? Will drop from current levels, from 4000 acres in Coos Bay to hundreds of acres. Instream restoration work will continue.
- Wouldn't the opportunity for restorative thinning decrease over time? Yes. As stands age, there is fewer opportunities for restorative thinning. That is why this timber harvest is not included in the sustained yield program.
- How are O&C receipts distributed to the counties? Important not to only consider county receipts, but also contributions to the local economy from mills, contractor, etc.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:40 P.M.

FIELD TRIP TO WAGON ROAD PILOT and WOODWARD CREEK INSTREAM PROJECT

November 10 - 8 am to 1 pm

Meeting minutes not taken on field trip.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:20 P.M.