



Western Oregon Resource Advisory Committee Notes – May 17, 19, 21, 2021



Date: May 17-21, 2021

Location: Virtual meeting on Zoom

RAC Coordinator/Facilitator: Kyle Sullivan

DFO: Elizabeth Burghard, Medford District Manager

Day 1 – May 17 from 9 AM to 3:00 PM

9 AM Welcome, meeting called to order (Elizabeth Burghard, Designated Federal Officer)

Introductions (Kyle Sullivan)

Attendees: Elizabeth Burghard, BLM Medford District Manager and Designated Federal Officer (DFO); Kyle Sullivan, Facilitator and Public Affairs Officer, BLM Medford District; Ann Craig, Budget Analyst BLM Roseburg District; Kaard Bombe, Tech Support; Jan Mathis, notetaker.

BLM District Managers: Lenore Heppler, Acting DM NW OR; Heather Whitman, Roseburg; Steve Lydick, Coos Bay; Todd Forbes, Lakeview.

SRS Title II Coordinators: Pat Johnston, State Lead; Christina Beslin, Medford, Roseburg, Klamath Falls; Megan Harper, Coos Bay District and Public Affairs Officer; Stephanie Messerle, Coos Bay District.

BLM Field Managers: Jared Nichol, Butte Falls

RAC members:

Category 1: Dean Finnerty, Chair; Dino Venti, Samara Phelps, Jack LeRoy, Lance Powlison

Category 2: Matt Swanson, Ken McCall, George McKinley, Edwin Anderson

Category 3: Lily Morgan, Co-Chair; Bob Main, Kevin Christiansen, Craig Pope

Presenters: Jeff Rose, Burns

Public: No attendees from the public.

Overview of agenda and meeting process (Elizabeth Burghard)

Shout out to Kyle Sullivan and Pat Johnston for getting all of the topics fit into our agenda.

Review and approve notes (Dean Finnerty, Chair)

- **Motion made by Ken McCall to approve the minutes from the last meeting, second by Jack LeRoy.**
A vote was taken by asking if any members opposed. No one opposed.
- **Motion passes, the minutes from the last meeting are approved.**

BLM/DOI Leadership Update (Elizabeth Burghard)

Secretary of Interior, BLM Director, BLM Priorities



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First, we would like to mention that we are working on issuing the assistance agreements to support the projects that were approved at the last RAC meeting. Those are somewhere in process getting funding to the recipients. Thank you to the Title II coordinators for accomplishing that workload.

Since our last meeting, we have new leadership at the BLM:

- Currently, the new Deputy Director for policies and programs is Nada Wolff Culver. She has been onboard for about three months.
- Nominee for Director is Tracy Stone-Manning.
- New Secretary of the Interior is Deb Haaland, she had been in-place for about month and a half.

Other updates:

- The BLM will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year.
- One of the actions we're taking related to the celebration is to invite everyone to re-imagine public lands. The agency is still evolving and being re-invented by the public year-to-year.
- Asking everyone to embrace that process. Would like to make public lands as productive for as many users as possible on behalf of the American public.

Priorities for the Department of the Interior. Please keep these in mind as you are looking at the project proposals:

- Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.
- Strengthening government-to-government relationships with sovereign tribal nations.
- Making investments to support the administration's goal of creating millions of family wage and union jobs.
- Working to conserve at least 30 percent of each of our lands and waters by year 2030.
- Centering equity and environmental justice.

Q. When is the next cycle of funding expected after this round? (Ken)

A. Anticipate sometime this fall after the fiscal year starts, October 1. (Elizabeth/Pat)

Q. You mentioned that the agreements are in the works, any idea of a timeline? (Jack)

A. Depends on the individual agreement and when the paperwork gets cleared, probably by reaching out to your program officer. Elizabeth will make a note to follow up.

Updates on the RAC application process:

Elizabeth gave a shout-out to Kyle and Pat for getting the *Federal Register Notice* published for our May and June meetings.

Kyle: Thank you all for re-applying for the RAC and your patience with the process. Normally it's a fairly long process to vet all of the applicants. This time it has taken longer than usual because we had a change in the administration in the middle of the nomination process. We do anticipate movement



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on the nomination process soon. The Governor has conducted their consistency review and the RAC applications are now at the DOI for review. Should have another update for you in June.

Q. Are we supposed to re-apply every year to be on this RAC or is the appointment for three years, then we re-apply after that? (Dino)

A. Typically RAC terms are for three years. It was an interesting situation with the Western Oregon RAC because it was a consolidation of three different RACs and we kept your origin term when you moved over to this RAC. Ideally, we would have five positions expire every year on a rotating basis to retain quorum throughout the year. However, we ended up with nine terms expiring this year, so anticipate a staggering with the next round of appointments we may have some members reappointed for one year, two years, or three years. Hope that we will eventually be back on track with five positions expiring each year. Kyle will keep track of when your term is getting close to expiring and when we are doing a call for nominations, he will let all the RAC members when they need to re-apply.

Fire Recovery and Timber Salvage Update (Jeff Rose)

Presentation about Western Oregon Fire Recovery and emergency stabilization.

2020 Fire Season:

- A total of 1.1 million acres burned in Oregon and Washington.
- There were 191K acres of BLM land, of that, 128K was in Western Oregon.
- 31 percent was in the harvest land base.

Guiding principles:

- Public safety is always the first priority, so the actions we took were directly related to ensuring the safety of the public and our employees.
- Remember that we are neighbors throughout the landscape, we want to help people adjacent to us and even further out.
- Committed in supporting family wage jobs and make sure we do as much locally as possible.
- Protect habitat, water quality and environmental quality.
- Goal is to head back into a healthy forest for sustained yield and multiple use.
- Recovery plans that the districts put together were very complex. There was a lot to track with the magnitude of the different resource issues, social issues, and political issues that were addressed.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR). These are two different programs:

- Emergency stabilization is done right after the fire, within the first year.
- Rehabilitation is a longer term commitment.
 - Hazard tree removal was one of first actions that was done for public safety.
 - A large part of that is salvage timber sales.
 - Reforestation is done to put the system back together.
 - Reassess the infrastructure which includes not just buildings, but roads and bridges.
 - Public safety hazard tree removal: The biggest concern was to reduce hazard trees along the travel corridors and areas that are commonly visited by the public, ie. campgrounds, etc.



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- Top priority is public safety and employee safety.
- A lot of the work has been done along trails, roads, and recreation sites.
- Only doing the salvage in the harvest land base (31 percent or 40K acres).
- Districts have been exceptional in getting out to assess fire salvage.
- Green sales have been postponed.
- Reallocating timber volume across the region over the next three years. Factoring in all of these issues to make the targets we are assigned.
- Helping to shift staff around to help other districts.
- Support family wage jobs, protect habitat and water quality, set us up to be successful for the future and next phases of recovery.

Updates from the districts:

Roseburg, Heather Whitman

- Archie Creek Fire – many actions were started immediately afterwards.
- Fire was along the North Umpqua River which is Hwy 38. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has a right-of-way (ROW) agreement with the BLM and was responsible for public safety and removing the hazards from Hwy 138.
- PacifiCorp has a ROW agreement with the BLM and was responsible for restoring power as quickly as possible to residents and removing hazard trees along power lines.

The Roseburg District did a categorical exclusion (CE) immediately to help with hazard tree removal along private property lines where trees from the BLM were threatening infrastructure for private individuals as well as along the road system. The CE was completed (no appeal), so they have been implementing ESR hazard tree removal projects in the Archie Creek fire area.

We are in the last day of the comment period for the Archie Creek Fire EA for the salvage harvest and a broader hazard tree removal program. Showed a video about the EA.

NW OR District, Lenore Heppler

There were three major fires:

- Beachie Creek Fire burned 192K acres with over 38K on BLM land.
 - Biggest recreation loss was at Fisherman's Bend Day Use Area which is very popular.
 - The facilities were burned along with a number of RVs in the campground, so there are a lot of hazardous materials that we need to deal with at the site. Almost all the hazard trees have been removed, we are currently conducting cultural surveys and surveys on the hazmat, so they can get a contractor in to remove that material.
 - Optimistic that we can get the day use area open next summer, but the campground will take several years. Hope to tap into the Great American Outdoors funds to cover the costs.
 - This fire burned over the Canyon Creek Day Use Area in the Elkhorn Valley Campground. the salvage sales won't begin until fall. It will probably take a few years to get these sites open, because we will need to do a deeper level of NEPA two sites.
- Riverside Fire burned 138K acres with over 12K on BLM land.
 - Fire closures remain in-place for this summer for all three fire areas.
 - Working with partners to let the public know what sites are closed and what alternate sites are available. Using Travel Oregon for broad messaging on how to recreate near burned



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areas, and partner organizations has information on lands managed by different agencies, so people can find areas that are open and closed.

- Holiday Farm Fire burned more than 173K acres with over 18K of BLM land.
 - Several instream habitat projects were affected by fires.
 - McKenzie River instream project through the placement of large wood to retain silt and sand, increase stream bed height and provide access for off channel winter habitat for juvenile fish.
 - Deer Creek project that burned in the fire caused it to destabilize and increasing the risk of the wood washing downstream. Post fire restoration project will build onto existing burn structures to stabilize them. Permitting has been completed. Working with the McKenzie Watershed Alliance, funding will be coming through the Good Neighbor Authority.

Medford, Elizabeth Burghard

- South Obenchain Fire was one of largest of the Labor Day fires to effect the Rogue Valley.
 - The fire was off of Hwy 140 south of Butte Falls and east of Eagle Point. 32,761 acres burned with 14,791 acres of BLM land.
 - There was a mix of land types burned: some timberlands, however most were oak woodlands, hardwoods, grazing lands, and several areas with fragile soils.
 - Some of the ongoing recovery efforts: We have one year to complete initial ESR work to deal with major erosion.
 - The activities that are going on now are hazard tree removal from ROWS, replacement of damaged culverts, storm proofing of the roads, and native seeding of the area.
 - Two grazing allotments were burned, we will allow those areas to rest for a minimum of one year.
 - We have also started to replant trees – currently conducting an experimental project to plant seed pucks to see if they will sprout outside the nursery setting. This is a contribution to a longer term effort on reseeded after fires and a shortage of nursery space.

Several fires impacted the Rogue Valley, however this was the fire that effected the BLM the most.

*Q. We have harvested a little over 2 million ft off the Obenchain fire from private timber lands. We were looking forward to a timber sale coming out, however we found out from your timber staff that the sales would not be economically viable, because they have large wood and it would be difficult to market.
(Jack)*

A. In the Butte Falls Field Office, we are salvaging everything we can access. The location has a lot to do with where we go, the viability of the trees, the cost to access that location, and the resource management plan (RMP). We plan to hold a sale in late June/early July. (Elizabeth)

*A. Jared Nichol, Field Manager from the Butte Falls Field Office responds: The vast majority of the types of land managed by the BLM that burned in the South Obenchain fire were not timberlands. The area in Butte Falls does not have the largest timber. In many of the areas that did burn, we have limited legal access or the value of timber wouldn't justify the cost of building roads. It was a mixed severity burned, there were areas that burned very hot and other areas it did. We carefully looked at the best area to have a viable sale to get as much of that timber as we could. Looking at late June/early July for a sale.
(Jared Nichol)*



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Q. Noticed in the project proposals related to South Obenchain are less timberland related and more rangeland related. Thinking about forage plants that could be re-established in the Obenchain fire area. A few projects are related to the idea of expanding nursery capacity for native plant species. What is the timeline for having native plant species available, and will that be a huge problem? (Ken)

A. We have native seed and we're working through the procurement process to get that out as soon as possible. We have some seed available that we should be able to get that out this fall. We have noticed that some of those areas are naturally recovering. (Jared)

10:40--10:50 AM Break

District Updates

NW OR District (Lenore Heppler)

- The biggest programs for NW OR District are timber, recreation, and restoration. Focusing on the recreation program for this update.
 - We usually get about 1.5 million visitors to our developed recreation sites.
 - Due to COVID last year, we closed several facilities, especially the group campsites, the pavilion, and in the campgrounds, we closed every other campsite.
 - Based on this situation we had a reduced fee revenue, but our costs didn't go down much because we needed to purchase additional cleaning supplies and personal protection equipment for staff.
 - With all the cancellations due to COVID and fire, we had to refund the money that was put aside from those campground reservations. We also had to pay a fee on top of that which came to about \$100K.
 - Coming out of COVID, our campsites are quickly getting reserved. We plan to have all recreation sites open by Memorial Day, except those that have been effected by the fires. We may have some reduced capacity depending on COVID conditions. Bringing on campground hosts, seasonal staff, having work parties to get everything cleaned up, and testing the water systems.
 - On a side note: We are seeing a high demand picnic shelters at Wildwood and Shotgun Day Use Areas most likely due to a pent up demand for family gatherings and weddings. We will be open at 50 percent capacity at those locations. We will continue to adapt to the CDC guidelines, DOI guidelines, and local circumstances.

Yaquina Head update:

- A popular rec site with about 600K visitors every year including a lot of school groups.
- With COVID this year, they went to online virtual tours and field trips.
- Maintenance efforts at Yaquina Head Lighthouse: Put a new coat of paint on the outside, got rid of lead-based paint on the inside, rebuilt the deck and the approach to it, and did a thorough assessment of the building's structural integrity, including the cast iron support that keeps the top part of the lighthouse in place.
- Information Center is closed, however will open up as the COVID situation improves.



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Recreation fees update:

- In early January, we solicited public input on a draft business plan to modify fees at recreation sites across the District.
- Some of the sites currently have fees and we are looking to increase them. Some sites haven't had an increase in 10 years, some haven't had an increase in 20 years.
- We are also looking to add some sites to the fee program once we have increased the amenities to help pay for the maintenance of these sites.
- The Federal Recreation Enhancement Act allows the BLM to keep 100 percent of the fees collected to operate, maintain, and improve these sites.
- We are also looking at proposing an annual pass that would cover fees for the day use areas for the District.
- The overall proposal would modify fees at two day use sites, 13 campgrounds and group facilities, and establish new fees at 16 new sites.
- Market study has been completed of fee changes for other similar recreation sites in the local area.
- The proposal will go before the RAC at the June meeting.

Roseburg District (Heather Whitman)

- Focusing on recreation on the District.
 - We had quite a few recreation sites impacted by the fires along the North Umpqua River, however we were able to open a few sites along the river and the day use areas along the Hwy 138 corridor.
 - The North Umpqua Trail and the Susan Creek Falls Trail are closed until we can do some hazard tree removal before opening them up for public use.
 - Right now, we are using the Archie Creek fire perimeter as our border for lands that are currently closed other than that Hwy 138 corridor.
 - This weekend, a press release went out from the Oregon Marine Board, Umpqua National Forest, and the Roseburg District announcing that the river is open for recreational purposes. However, caution was advised since there are still trees that are potentially dangerous along the river.
 - We encourage everyone to go to [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) to make reservations for campgrounds in the Roseburg District.
 - We are starting our first major project in the late successional reserve in our South River Field Office. The work that will be done in that land use allocation will be focused on fire resilience and improving habitat. Just issued the scoping notice for that project. Encourage the RAC members to take a look at the project and for the public to provide comments.

Coos Bay District (Steve Lydick)

- Three different topic areas, the first is the timber target reduction for FY21.
 - Worked with the State Office and with our sibling districts to identify needs for assistance on fire-affected districts to be able to get the post-fire recovery and salvage work done in a timely manner. As a result, it was determined that they would adjust the timber target for this year only, so we could assist those districts.
 - Our target went down from 31 MMBF to 17 MMBF.



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- We have three sales remaining for this FY and several green tree sales have been deferred to next year.
- It has been a very successful effort and we have been able to help them get to a good place.
- Loon Lake. There has been a great deal of public interest in Loon Lake.
 - It was impacted by the big snowstorm in 2019 and has been closed for a couple of years. The storm took out a number of buildings, including the water treatment plant. The water treatment plant was built in the 1970s, and subsequently has been cobbled together until it was damaged. It turned out that it will need to be completely rebuilt so this whole process has taken longer than expected.
 - Plan to open Loon Lake up in May 2022.
- Pacific Gas Connector Pipeline (PGCP) and Jordan Cove project. The parent company of that project announced a pause on the project in April. In response, the BLM has paused work on the ROW process. We are uncertain about the future of the project. Currently efforts on this project have been suspended.

Klamath Falls Field Office (Todd Forbes)

- Our field office is similar in size to other Western Oregon field offices and involved in many different kind of work:
 - Renewing grazing permits.
 - O&C timber sales for FY21.
 - Involved with litigation on some of our timber sales.
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) projects: Swan Lake pump storage, Klamath River Dam Removal process.
 - Recreation management on the wild and scenic portion of the Klamath.
 - Working on several other restoration projects: Mule Deer winter range project, several fisheries projects, as well as managing the Wood River wetlands.
 - Wild Horse management (nuisance) project, ground gather from private lands.

Medford (Elizabeth Burghard)

In addition to Title II projects, we have been focused on fire recovery, and very focused on our forestry program and Western Oregon RMP.

- So far for FY2021, our commercial timber program has yielded 33.2 MMBF of timber sold, and we have awarded contracts for 36 MMBF of timber.
- In addition to the harvest we have done, we have planted approximately 1 million trees on 2700 acres.
- Conducted prescribed fire on about 3200 acres, and hand thinning and piling on almost 3700 acres across the District.
- Several ongoing planning efforts to support hazardous fuels reduction.
- This summer, anticipate issuing a decision for integrated vegetation management which will support forest resiliency projects in terms of resiliency to fire.
- We also have a hazardous fuels reduction component in any forestry-related project we plan and analyze.



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- Continue to make progress on addressing conflicts between recreational users, in particular recreational target shooting at Anderson Butte, where there is conflict with both motorized and non-motorized recreation in the area. Since the last RAC meeting, we completed a public comment period for an environmental assessment looking at a restriction of shooting activity at 11 potential locations totally about 50 acres in this area to address public safety concerns.
- Addressing illegal dumping. Thank you for the SRS funds that we received for these efforts. We are working with our new hazmat coordinator and our task force to respond to reports, both internally and externally, and getting our response documented so people will know that we're following up on those reports. We have three cleanup efforts scheduled in May and June across the District. Some statistics: Last year, we removed 72 vehicles from public lands in Jackson and Josephine County, we are poised to do the same this year. A good amount of the SRS funds that we received has been going to this effort, as well as community clean-ups.
- E-Planning. We want to highlight E-Planning and direct everyone to use e-Planning as their first source of information on any planning efforts in the District.

Unfinished Business from December 2020

Follow up from a Round 1 proposal from the Institute for Applied Ecology – Oak Basin, Linn County Project from Rebecca Brooke and Rebecca Currin.

- Upper Oak Basin is a parcel which is a district designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and it is managed for the natural resources, in particular two listed species that are found there: Fender's Blue Butterfly and Kincaid's Lupine. This site is one of two populations in the Eugene east recovery zone, and critical for the recovery of these species. In short, we need to create more habitat.
- We will build on previous work from a partnership with the BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the private landowner that is adjacent to the Oak Basin Tree Farm, and the Institute of Applied Ecology. We will focus to create corridors to link a series of meadows that are separated by thick stands of conifers. We will remove the conifers, deal with the weeds, and planting a diverse native community including nectar and host species for the Fender's Blue Butterfly. We will be leaving all downed trees on site.

Answers from the proponents to the questions posed by the RAC:

Q1. How long will the project take?

A. The project would take about two years. The first year would be the creation of the corridors by removing the trees. The second year will include pile burning, weed treatment, and replanting native species for the Fender's Blue Butterfly.

Q2. Are there any local projects where the downed trees can be used?

A. There are no projects at this time for using the trees, the downed trees will remain on site.

Q3. How many of board feet of conifer will be removed? What is expected to happen with the board feet since it's on O&C land?



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A. The land where the project will take place is not in the harvest land base. The project itself is less than eight acres and in an area that has been designated as a reserve. We manage the reserve as an ACEC for specific, relevant, and important values. In this case, it is being managed for habitat for the Fender's Blue Butterfly and Kincaid's Lupine.

The RAC will have a discussion of the project when we get to the rest of the projects for that area which is scheduled for Friday. The earlier decision was not to fund until the questions were answered.

Elizabeth provided an update on funding to the RAC:

- The last round, we had 300k from the prior year's SRS efforts where we had trouble determining which county those funds had originally been allocated.
- Our budget analysts were able to tie the funding to the county that it was originally allocated.
- The great news is the group did not spend any money over county lines the last round.
- The downside is the group no longer has extra funding that is not tied to a particular county. This may create more challenges in allocating funding towards projects.
- The RAC may recommend allocating funds to cross county boundaries. We have been encouraged to keep funding within county boundaries where it has been generated, however there are some counties that have funding and have no projects submitted.

Process for under-funded projects (Pat Johnston):

- Last December, we worked on the funds that were allocated essentially this fiscal year. Those funds came in this spring (April) which we were anticipating. We knew we wanted to work on those funds as per the legislation and continue to spend down SRS funds as they come on our books. Given that, in January, we did a notice of funding opportunity. That came so closely to the time the RAC made decisions to fund projects, many project proponents contacted us to ask if they could re-submit another request for the rest of the funds they needed.
- We met with Chair Dean Finnerty for a discussion on the underfunded or unfunded projects. The group will see those projects in the spreadsheets under Under-funded Round 1 Projects.
- The reasons: 1) We wanted to spare them from completing a whole new application, when they were only asking for the unfunded portion of the project, 2) With new projects, we would be having another presentation and we could see that we would have well over 100 project proposals.
- We let the underfunded project requesters that their projects would appear in the spreadsheet in lower half of the county they are asking money for, the newer projects would be able to make their presentations.

Q. Is the \$300K being put back into the source where it came from? (Jack)

A. Yes, it is now separated out by the counties the funding came from originally. (Elizabeth)

Q. If a county has a surplus, does the RAC have the discretion to allocate the surplus to other counties, or are other entities that need to weigh in on that decision? (Matt)

A. The RAC can certainly make that recommendation. We are strongly encouraged to support the counties where the SRS funds came from. Once the recommendation comes from the RAC, then the Department of the Interior will make a decision on that recommendation.



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12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Welcome Back/Call to Order

1:05 PM Public Comment Period

- No public comments at this time. Kyle will check back again in 10 minutes.
- In addition, Kyle did not receive any public comments leading up to the RAC meeting.
- In the future: If anyone from the group has a constituent who would like to submit a public comment and cannot attend the meeting, please have them send their comment to Kyle so he can read it during the public comment period.

Any further questions regarding the fire salvage efforts from this morning's presentation?

Q. Question for the NW OR District regarding fire prevention efforts. Dino has been out in the forest as part of a volunteer group to clear up multiple roads to get to their mountain bike trails. He has noticed an unimaginable amount of new fuel on the forest floor. Timber sale companies go in and clear out the roads, however is there a mitigation plan to remove the fuel under the canopy? This may be a good time to reach out for volunteers to help land managers remove fuels from the forest floor. Dino is involved in trail advocacy groups and would be more than happy to spread the word. (Dino)

A. From Lenore Heppler: She will check to find an answer and get back to the group later today. That is a really good point and something that is in the forefront of everyone's mind.

A. From Heather Whitman: Roseburg District have some volunteer groups that are helping with trail clearing. One of the items that can be difficult is that the District needs to provide a safe environment, so we have been assessing the areas that could be cleared by members of the public through volunteer groups.

Q1. Regarding reforestation: Are you actively planting across the entire burn area or just limited to the harvest lands? (Matt)

Q2. Does the BLM propagate or grow seedlings for use in a non-fire cycle? What percentage are you producing vs. what percentage are you buying from commercial nurseries?

A. We don't limit our reforestation efforts to just the harvest land base. We have silviculturists who evaluate what has burned, the intensity that it burned. Based on that information, where is additional support or input necessary to support reforestation. There will be some natural reforestation and recovery, we focus on the areas that won't do that on their own. In terms of the nurseries, we contract with a couple of commercial entities for nursery space and for the trees. (Elizabeth)

A. From Heather: We do reforestation across all land use allocations. With ESR, emergency stabilization occurs the first year after the fire, and the rehabilitation is an ongoing effort. We plant a variety of species within the Late Successional Reserves (LSR). For the harvest land base (HLB), timber sale funds go back and used for reforestation on the HLB. The process is a bit different than other land use allocations. Roseburg District does have a tremendous reforestation program right now.



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A. NW OR District has a couple of seed orchards and they have been ramping up this year. There has been a lot of competition between private, state, and federal lands. (Lenore)

Seed Puck trial:

A promising program going on right now by the Medford District is a seed puck trial on the Obenchain fire. A mix of seedlings are placed into a puck and they are distributed by drones. This process

distributed 50K seedlings in one day. The traditional seedling process takes one to three years. If the seed puck trial works, that would allow us to readily adapt in some situations. (Kyle/Elizabeth).

Public comment period:

Kyle checked again to see if there were any public comments.

No public comments.

Funding Strategies (Megan Harper)

A facilitated discussion with the RAC members on the following question:

What are your values and what is important as you consider funding projects with the goal of finding any commonalities or are there any disparities?

There were three main criteria from the group's comments:

- 1) Improved habitat for wildlife and fisheries.
- 2) Forest resiliency and fire prevention.
- 3) Involvement of young people.

Other items mentioned:

- Access.
- Infrastructure improvements.
- Partnerships: what the contribution is from partners, the match from the partners, the results from previous efforts.
- Cost effectiveness and economic benefits to counties.
- Environmental education.

Discussion on the spreadsheet.

Q. When is the final deadline when these dollars need to be committed before it is sent back to Treasury? (Craig)

A. The funds need to be committed by Sept 30, 2023. (Elizabeth)

A. From Pat: A realistic operational date is late spring 2023.

Q. What are the rules and guidance for the BLM and RAC on the ability to move dollars from one county to another? (Craig)

A. There are no strict rules, the guidance was interpreted by RACs in the past that they would spend the money in the same county it was allocated. (Elizabeth)



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2:05 – 2:10 PM Break

Josephine County

- Illinois Valley Community Development Organization
JJ-Botanical Restoration and wheelchair access (Ferris Couture)
Amount funded: \$27,248

Q. *Will it be accessible to motorized wheelchairs? (Jack)*

A. Yes.

- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
LL-Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (Shane Jimerfield)
Amount funded: \$18,817
- Josephine County Forestry
MM-RossRoe Memorial Youth Tree Plant (Dave Streeter, Vince Randall)
Amount funded: \$100,000
- Northwest Youth Corps
NN-Rogue River NRT Grayback Mountain Trail (Kelsee Taylor)
Amount funded: \$27,786

Q. *Does the Youth Corps work with any local trail organizations? (Dino)*

A. The particular proposal is for the BLM, but we do work with other organizations, such as Pacific Crest Trail, Trail Stewards of Oregon. We do all aspects of public land maintenance.

Q. *Are you struggling with having an adequate number of people getting involved to fulfill the mission? (Craig)*

A. This has been a challenging year with recruitment, but we have dedicated staff working on the effort. We have the young people who are interested in doing the work.

Q. *How does your group work with group that provided the match, NW Corps Team Camping Program? (Lance)*

A. We bring our own match for federal or non-federal entities. We can send you a budget breakdown on how that works out. We have a youth camping program and a community program, that's where that language come from.

- Applegate Partnership, Inc.
OO-Watts Topping Fish Pass (Janelle Dunlevy)
Amount funded: \$66,491

KK-Cheney Creek Large Wood
Amount funded: \$99,344



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- Josephine County Parks
PP-Wolf Creek Park Bridge Vault (Mckenzie Crume)
Amount funded: \$44,353

Q. Could you explain how you are not funded by taxpayer dollars and that you are utilizing forestry dollars to pay for other projects? (Lily)

A. We have about \$28K from timber harvest from the property. We are not supported by the general tax fund. All of our money comes from camping and day use fees.

Q. Is this project scalable? (Dino)

A. The bridge is our priority if we can't do the whole project. The bridge would cost about \$60K, the vault toilet is \$19K.

- The Understory Initiative
II-Rogue Basin Native Seed Coop (Kathryn Prive)
Amount funded: \$30,530
- Discussion, funding recommendations for Josephine County projects.

➤ **Lily Morgan motions to fund all of the projects in Josephine and Jackson Counties. Ken McCall seconds the motion.**

Vote for all projects:

Cat 1: Lance-yes; Dean-yes; Dino-yes; Samara-yes; Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes; Edwin (absent); Ken-yes; Stan (absent); George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes; Mike (absent); Bob-yes; Kevin-yes; Lily-yes

➤ **Motion passed.**

Day 1 Close-Out

3:00 PM Adjourn

Day 2 – Wednesday, May 19 from 9 AM to 3 PM

RAC members roll call:

Cat 1: Dean Finnerty, Chair; Dino Venti, Samara Phelps, Jack LeRoy, Lance Powlison

Cat 2: Matt Swanson, Edwin Anderson, Ken (absent), Stan (absent), George McKinley

Cat 3: Lily Morgan, Co-Chair; Bob Main, Kevin Christiansen, Mike Kennedy, Craig Pope

9:00 AM Welcome/Call to Order (Elizabeth Burghard)

- Discussion and RAC feedback from Monday's meeting.



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Q. Clarification regarding the cautionary comment regarding future forecasting for fire relief. We were talking about not using county funds in another county, because we think that county may need it. (Dino)

A. Looking at the regulations, there is no fixed rule, but the tie to the counties is apparent. With the deadline to distribute funds being 2023, and as the DFO, I would have a difficult time two years in advance of the deadline to agree with your recommendation to cross county lines with “X” amount of funding. Regarding fire related needs, projects still need to meet the criteria of benefiting of O&C lands and contribute to the health and sustainability of the land. Each of the DMs will be sharing when we get to counties where we see potential needs, specifically on O&C lands.

If there were funds that would be going back to treasury, then it would be a different conversation. If there has been groundwork where some of the counties share a watershed and they have worked collectively in the past, that would be something to consider for future projects. In a RAC this large and covering an area so broad, it can be a bit of a slippery slope to cross county lines. Where projects cross county boundaries, it’s perfectly fine to do. In the spirit of striving to follow the regulations and the intent, it’s that question of what can we do and what should we do. The funds do not all have to be spent for this round.

9:40 AM Project Presentations

Jackson County

- Siskiyou Upland Trails Association
BB-Jack-Ash Sterling Mine Trail (Joy Rogalla)
Amount funded: \$41,275

Q. Are the other 10 miles a multi-use trail or a road? (Jack)

A. Part of it is Anderson Butte gravel road and part of it is BLM which is open to motorcycles. Some of the trail is on part of the roads.

Q. Database for trail maintenance costs, would you be willing to share that? (Jack)

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have volunteers that help maintain the trail and how much time is spent? (Dino)

A. Over the years volunteers have spent many thousands of hours maintaining the trail. A group of about 25 people go out once of month from November to April. Then there’s a smaller group that go out to do further maintenance.

- The Understory Initiative
CC-Mardon Skipper Habitat (Kathryn Prive)
Amount funded: \$46,943

Q. Do you have a minimum amount that you can work with? (Dino)

A. We could work with a minimum of \$44,688.



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Q. *How do you plan on raising the water table? (Jack)*

A. We would use low tech strategies, putting woody debris in the creek areas, using beaver dam analogs which is essentially building up structures to slow down the flow of water and raise the water table. The NEPA work has been done on BLM land, so there is support in that capacity. Vesper meadow site that has connectivity with BLM lands, there is funding in place to do a beaver dam analog on private property. This proposal will help us add to the overall connectivity for a larger habitat area, not just private land.

Q. *Has the BLM or your organization looked into the causal factors why the stream channels are drying up in the first place? (Matt)*

A. There are a lot of different reasons. There is heavy grazing pressure in that area and that can lead to lower water holding capacity in the native soil. Overuse of riparian areas and grazing can lead to soil erosion and then degradation can happen.

Bureau of Land Management

DD-Moon Prairie Road Maintenance – this project has been withdrawn.

- FF-South Obenchain Fire Fence Construction
HH-Table Rocks Native Plant Restoration (Amy Meredith)
Amount funded: \$10,000

Q. *What kind of fencing will you use and how long? (Dino)*

A. It will be a rangeland fence and about 6.3 miles of fencing.

- Bureau of Land Management
HH-Table Rocks Native Plants Restoration (Molly Allen)
Amount funded: \$15,000
- Rogue River Watershed Council
EE-South Fork Little Butte Creek (Lance Wyss)
Amount funded: \$82,000

Q. *Who will be doing the work? (George)*

A. We have contractors hired for the riparian rehabilitation, large wood placement, and the engineering. Everything is in place.

- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
GG-Table Rock Youth Habitat Restoration (Shane Jimerfield)
Amount funded: \$15,685

Q. *Who is the contact for your program? (Jack)*

A. Sasha Joachims.



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10:23 – 10:33 AM Break

10:33 AM Jackson County

- Discussion and funding recommendations for Jackson County projects.

➤ **Motion made by Dino Venti to fully fund Round 2 proposals, Jack LeRoy seconds the motion.**

Suggestion by Jack for the RAC hear the merits of the projects submitted in Round 2 and decide on funding you recommend for those projects, then revisit Round 1.

Pat reached out to applicants from Round 1 and asked them to let her know if they did not need further funding. Those applicants who got funding were removed from the spreadsheet.

To simplify the process, we let the applicants from Round 1 that they did not need to submit a new application, they will be considered in the mix so the RAC would not have to sit through a dozen more project proposals. (Elizabeth)

Q. Do projects from Round 1 have first priority? Did they have an opportunity to resubmit?

A. Yes, they did. They had asked us if they needed to resubmit an application and we said they did not need to resubmit. (Pat)

Pat shared that Round 1 applicants were informed about this meeting and many of them are in attendance today to answer any questions from the RAC. Applicants from Round 1 were informed about this meeting and invited to attend if they would like additional funds for their projects.

➤ **Dino Venti moves to withdraw his earlier motion to fully fund Round 2 projects. Jack LeRoy seconds the withdrawal.**

Applicants from Round 1 were asked to provide updated numbers which were incorporated in the spreadsheet to be considered for funding.

Suggestion by Lance to fund projects from Round 2 at the minimum amount as we did with Round 1 until we can clean the process up. Craig supports this as a motion.

Suggestion by Jack to proceed to Round 2, discuss the merit of each project and consider an amount for those knowing that there is additional funding for Round 1 projects. Samara Phelps supports this suggestion.

➤ **Motion made by Jack LeRoy to review each project for Round 2 and determine our recommendations for funding at this meeting. Lily Morgan seconds the motion.**

Vote: Yes by majority vote.

➤ **Motion passes.**



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Elizabeth: If the RAC is not able to consider final funding for Round 1 applicants, the BLM will find a method to reach out to applicants and get any information, so at a future date any considerations that are necessary can be made.

- Funding recommendations for Jackson County.

➤ **Motion made by Dean Finnerty to fully fund the Round 2 proposals for Jackson County as they stand. Dino Venti seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes; Dean-yes; Dino-yes; Samara-yes; Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes, Ken (absent); Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-no, Mike-yes, Bob-no, Kevin (absent), Lily-no.

➤ **Motion fails.**

Motion made by Lily Morgan to recommend funding the South Obenchain Fire Fence project (FF) at the full level. Samara Phelps seconds the motion. There was discussion and Lily Morgan rescinds the motion.

➤ **Motion made by Lily Morgan to fund the South Obenchain Fire fence project (FF) at the minimum level. Jack LeRoy seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes, Ken (absent), Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike-yes, Bob -yes, Kevin (absent), Lily-yes

➤ **Motion passes.**

➤ **Motion made by Dino Venti to minimally fund the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association project (BB). Mike Kennedy seconds the motion.**

Jack LeRoy recommends to fully fund the project (BB).

➤ **Amended motion by Dino Venti to fully fund the Siskiyou Uplands Trails Association project (BB). Mike Kennedy seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-no, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes; Ken (absent), Stan (absent); George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes; Mike-yes, Bob-no, Kevin (absent), Lily-yes

➤ **Motion passes.**

➤ **Motion made by Matt Swanson to fully fund the South Fork Little Butte Creek project (EE). Jack LeRoy seconds the motion.**



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Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-no; Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes; Ken (absent), Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike-yes, Bob-yes, Kevin (absent), Lily-yes.

➤ **Motion passes.**

➤ **Motion made by Jack LeRoy to fully fund the Table Rock Youth restoration project (GG). Mike Kennedy seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes, Ken (absent), Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes; Mike-yes; Bob-no; Kevin (absent), Lily-yes

➤ **Motion passes.**

➤ **Motion made by Jack LeRoy to minimally fund the Table Rocks Native Plan Restoration project (HH). Craig Pope seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-no, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes, Ken (absent), Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike-y, Bob-y, Kevin (absent) Lily-y.

➤ **Motion passes.**

Motion made by Matt Swanson to fully fund Native Seed Coop project (II). Jack LeRoy seconds the motion. The motion was rescinded due to clarification from the proponent, they were not looking for funding from Jackson County.

➤ **Motion by Matt Swanson to fully fund the Mardon Skipper habitat restoration project (CC). Mike Kennedy seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-no

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes, Ken (absent), Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike-y, Bob-y, Kevin (absent), Lily-no

➤ **Motion passes.**

12:10 PM Lunch

12:45 PM Meeting called to order. (Elizabeth)



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Role call for RAC members:

Cat 1: Lance Powlison, Dean Finnerty, Dino Venti, Samara Phelps, Jack LeRoy

Cat 2: Matt Swanson, Edwin Anderson, Ken McCall, George McKinley, Stan Vejtasa (absent)

Cat 3: Mike Kennedy, Kevin Christiansen, Bob Main (absent), Lily Morgan (absent), Craig Pope (absent)

Kyle: We have one person missing from Category 3 to have a quorum, but both Bob and Lily are showing as present in the meeting space. There are no funding decisions for about 10 minutes, so do we want to move forward with the county presentations? All of the RAC members have received the project proposals in binders ahead of the meeting, so if they are not here presently, they should have an idea of what is contained in the proposal.

Elizabeth: Mr. Chair, how would you like to proceed?

Chair Dean Finnerty would like to move forward with the presentations.

Q. This morning, the group were discussing staff providing a map of fire effected areas to help us in deliberations with projects. Has the staff been able to put something together? (Dean)

A. We were unable to do maps, however we are committed to giving a snapshot of fire impacts in counties. With Jackson County, all of the unmet needs for BLM projects were presented in the funding presentation round that we are aware of at this time.

Q. Will you flag those as we move forward? (Dean)

A. Steve Lydick from the BLM is in attendance and can provide information to the group. (Elizabeth)

Q. To Steve Lydick: Are there any fire recovery issues in Curry County to bring to the attention of the group? (Elizabeth)

A. We do not, both Curry and Coos Counties fortunately escaped what the other counties experienced in 2020. (Steve)

Project presentations, continued:

Curry County

- Curry Watersheds Nonprofit
H-Kermit Creek Fish Passage (Matt Swanson)
Amount funded: \$25,570
- Curry Soil and Water Conservation District
I-Small Stream Monitoring (Robbie Lascheck)
Amount funded: \$16,620
- Discussion, funding recommendations for Curry County projects.

Matt Swanson has a conflict of interest on both Curry County projects and will abstain from voting.



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- **Motion made by Jack LeRoy to fully fund both projects. Samara Phelps seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt (recuse), Edwin-yes; Ken-yes; Stan (absent); George-yes

Cat 3: Craig (absent); Mike-yes; Bob-yes, Kevin-yes; Lily-yes

- **Motion passes.**

Klamath County

- Bureau of Land Management
QQ-Aerial Seed Sagebrush Restoration (Steve Hayner)
Amount funded: \$14,000

RR-Weed Treatment Sagebrush Restoration (this project was withdrawn)
- Discussion, funding recommendations for Klamath County projects.

Q. *Would like to get an update on the motion that was passed about the Round 1 projects. (Ken)*

A. Update from Heather Whitman as Acting DFO: Applicants from Round 1 projects that were not fully funded were invited to attend this meeting to answer any questions from the RAC as their projects would be on the spreadsheet for consideration. However, this morning, the RAC made a motion and it carried, that the RAC would not be reviewing Round 1 projects at this meeting, and staff will find a different solution for going through the projects from Round 1 that were not fully funded.

- **Motion made by Ken McCall to fully fund the Aerial Seed Sagebrush Restoration project (QQ). Jack LeRoy seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig (absent), Mike-yes, Bob-yes, Kevin-yes, Lily-yes

- **Motion passes.**

Coos County

- Wild Rivers Coast Mountain Bike Association
D-Blue Ridge Trail System Maintenance (Eddie Kessler)
Amount funded: \$71,685

Q. *Is the project scalable? (Lance)*

A. The items that are listed with “restore” require major work and are their highest priorities.

Q. *Volunteer based stewardship is critical in having the volunteer manpower to take care of basic maintenance. (Dino)*



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A. We do have volunteers maintaining these trails, however there is an overwhelming amount of work to be done, especially due to logging operations.

Q. *It's understandable that you need help with the heavy lifting, what is your plan for maintaining them after that work is done? (Jack)*

A. Once the heavy work has been done, we will hold monthly work parties to keep it maintained.

- Coos Forest Protective Association
E-Elk Mountain Smoke Detect Camera (David Brown)
Amount funded: \$83,008

Q. *There was mention that 50 percent is private timber. Is the match fund coming from private landowners? (Lance)*

A. Yes, it would. 50 percent will be coming from CFPA.

Q. *Are there other sites with detection cameras in the area? (Edwin)*

A. Yes, there are currently eight sites, this will be the ninth site. It will be a stand alone system, however it will also be integrated with the other cameras in the system as well.

- Coos Watershed Association
F-Matson Creek Native Seed Nursery (Edward Cope)
Amount funded: \$20,814
- Coquille Watershed Association
G-Woodward Creek Culvert (Rushal Sedlemyer)
Amount funded: \$93,849

Q. *What is the approximate cost of each of the culverts? (Bob)*

A. Total quote was about \$61,000 for the culverts, not including taxes and delivery fees)

- Discussion, funding recommendations for Coos County projects

Mike Kennedy will need to abstain from the decision for the project proposed by CFPA for the Smoke Detection camera.

➤ **Motion made by Bob Main to fully fund the CFPA Elk Mountain Smoke Detection Camera project (E). Samara seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance yes, Dean yes, Dino yes, Samara yes, Jack yes

Cat 2: Matt yes, Edwin yes, Ken yes, Stan (absent), George yes

Cat 3: Craig (absent), Mike (recuse), Bob yes, Kevin yes, Lily yes



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- **Motion passes.**
- **Motion made by Dino Venti to fully fund the Blue Ridge Trail System (D). Ken McCall seconds the motion.**

More discussion on the project with a recommendation from Lance Powlison to amend the motion to minimally fund the project.

Samara Phelps recommends to fund at less than the full amount.

- **Dino Venti amends the motion to minimally fund the Blue Ridge Trail System (D). Ken McCall seconds the amended motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean yes, Dino yes, Samara yes, Jack yes

Cat 2: Matt-no, Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan (absent), George-yes

Cat 3: Craig (absent), Mike yes, Bob yes, Kevin yes, Lily yes

Matt Swanson voted no, because he recommends funding at over the minimum amount. Would like to revisit this decision later.

- **Motion passes.**
- **Motion made by Matt Swanson to fully fund the Matson Creek Native Seed Nursery project (F). Mike Kennedy seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance yes, Dean yes, Dino yes, Samara yes, Jack yes

Cat 2: Matt yes, Edwin yes, Ken yes, Stan (absent), George yes

Cat 3: Craig (absent), Mike yes, Bob yes, Kevin yes, Lily yes

- **Motion passes.**
- **Chair Dean Finnerty brings forward a proposal to fully fund the Woodward Creek Culvert project with the remaining amount to go to fund the Blue Ridge Trail project (D). Bob Main seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance yes, Dean yes, Dino yes, Samara yes, Jack yes

Cat 2: Matt yes, Edwin yes, Ken yes, Stan (absent), George yes

Cat 3: Craig (absent), Mike yes, Bob yes, Kevin yes, Lily yes

- **Motion passes.**
- **Motion made by Dean Finnerty to fully fund Woodward Creek Culvert with the remaining amount towards the Blue Ridge Trail System (D). Bob Main seconds the motion.**



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Lily Morgan makes a motion to accept the amendment with a full slate. Dino Venti seconds the motion.

No objections, all motions pass.

Douglas County

- Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) (Terry Luecker)
J-Archie Fire Post Rest
Amount funded: \$99,935

N-Glover Estuary
Amount funded: \$99,952

Q-Paradise Creek
Amount funded: \$46,257

Y-Walker Creek
Amount funded: \$78,980

X-Upper Umpqua Fish Passage
Amount funded: \$97,352

AA-Yellow Creek Rest
Amount funded: \$76,914
- Smith River Watershed Council (Jen Feola)
K-Coon Creek Fish Passage
Amount funded: \$79,060

O-Herb Creek Fish Passage
Amount funded: \$89,172

V-Sweden Creek Fish Passage
Amount funded: \$69,172

Z-Wasson Creek Blackberry Remove
Amount funded: \$38,000
- Bureau of Land Management (Daniel Dammann)
L-East Jackson Streambank Restoration Phase I
Amount funded: \$64,000

S-Rock Creek Flow Monitoring
Amount funded: \$120,000
- Bureau of Land Management
T-Rock Creek Restoration Phase II (Jeff McEnroe)
Amount funded: \$165,000



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- Elk Creek Watershed Council (Lee Russell)
M-Ellenburg Creek Habitat
Amount funded: \$91,091

R-Parker Creek
Amount funded: \$82,294
- Klamath Bird Observatory
P-Oak Landowner Guide (Jaime Stephens)
Amount funded: \$48,044
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
U-Salmon Life Cycle Monitoring (Erik Suring)
Amount funded: \$89,600
- Coquille Watershed Association
W-Twelve-mile Creek Road Improvement (Cyndi Park)
Amount funded: \$79,253
- Discussion, funding recommendations for Douglas County projects.

➤ **Motion made by Lily Morgan to vote on the projects as a slate to fully fund. Ken McCall seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack-yes

Cat 2: Matt-yes, Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan (absent), George (absent)

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike-yes, Bob-yes, Kevin (absent), Lily-yes

➤ **Motion passes.**

2:50 PM - Loose end wrap-up

Thanks to everyone for doing a great job today. On Friday, we will start at 9 am and cover Lane, Linn, Marion, Benton, Lincoln, Polk, and Clackamas Counties.

3:00 PM Adjourn

Day 3 – Friday, May 21 from 9 AM to 3 PM

RAC members roll call:

Cat 1: Dean Finnerty, Chair, Dino Venti, Samara Phelps, Jack LeRoy (absent), Lance Powlison

Cat 2: Matt Swanson (absent), Edwin Anderson, Ken McCall, Stan Vejtasa, George McKinley

Category 3: Lily Morgan, Co-Chair, Kevin Christiansen, Craig Pope, Bob Main (absent), Mike Kennedy (absent)



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9:00 AM Welcome/Call to Order (Elizabeth Burghard, DFO)

Recap of discussion regarding Round 1 proposals from Wednesday and options available to the RAC.

Discussion by the RAC on how they want to proceed.

Elizabeth: We asked that you look at two of the projects from Round 1 at this meeting. This is from the RACs request at the December meeting.

Decision for today, do you want to revisit the proposals from Round 1 at the June meeting?

Just for your information, almost half of the underfunded projects from Round 1 were in Jackson County. There is still money left in that county.

Comment from Kyle: The recording of the last RAC meeting has been edited down into videos of the presentations by county including the discussions for each county. If any RAC members would like to review any of the presentations prior to the June meeting, we have all of the videos available by county which will be easy to find.

George McKinley recommends the RAC have monthly updates to discuss key issues to help the group in advance of these meetings. Dean Finnerty supports this idea, something we should consider.

- **Motion made by Dean Finnerty for the RAC to spend time at the June meeting (Day 2) to revisit Round 1 and Round 2 proposals that did not get fully funded. The agency will make sure the proponents are available with their updated information and prepared to answer questions. Ken McCall seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack (absent)

Cat 2: Matt (absent), Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan-yes, George-yes

Cat 3: Mike (absent), Bob (absent), Kevin-yes, Lily-yes, Craig-yes

- **Motion passes.**

10:00 Break

10:05 Project proposals

Lane County

Pat reviewed the spreadsheet for Lane County which will have five project proposals. As a reminder to the RAC, the estimated funds available is \$139,156. The total request for all five projects is \$373,836.

- Long Tom Watershed Council
TT-Long Tom Head Waters Restoration Phase 2 (Jed Kaul)
No funding recommended.

Q. *How many miles of habitat will this open up? Any other species such as coho? (Dean)*

A. About 1.2 miles of headwater habitat. Cutthroat and lamprey only.



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Q. *Are there any steps in scalability between the maximum and minimum requested? (Dino)*

A. Yes, \$25,000 is our minimum request, we could get the design done for the culvert replacement for another \$15,000, so \$40,000 total would be a mid-range amount we could use for the project.

- Kalapuya High School, Bethel School District #52
SS-Kalapuya Youth Corps (Stefan Aumack)
Amount funded: \$42,771

Q. *How many students have you put through this program? (Dean)*

A. About 45 students during the school year, and in the summer, we are running between 8 and 16 students. Estimate about 160 for the summer program over the last 10 years.

- Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development
UU-Pure Water Partners (Lily Leitermann)
Amount funded: \$60,000
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
VV-Rattlesnake Butte Oak Enhance (Lindsay McClary)
Amount funded: \$34,281
- Siuslaw Watershed Council
WW-Riparian Revegetation and Monitor (Jesse Jones)
No funding recommended.
- Discussion, funding recommendations for Lane County projects

Dino Venti would like to move the minimum funding over for the Kalapuya High School. These projects are important since it is cultivating stewardship to young people that will be taking over in the future.

Samara Phelps suggest that we move the minimum funding over to the Pure Water Partners project. Their fire response is timely and aligns with our priorities.

Lily Morgan supports the youth project with Kalapuya High School. Dean Finnerty would like to fund at more than the minimum.

Stan Vejtasa would like to fund the Rattlesnake Butte Oak Enhancement project at the minimum level.

- **Motion made from Craig Pope to vote as a slate based on the amounts listed in the funded amount column on the spreadsheet. Dino Venti seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance (recuse); Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack (absent)

Cat 2: Matt (absent), Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan-yes, George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike (absent), Bob (absent), Kevin-yes, Lily-yes

- **Motion passes.**



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Linn County

- Linn County Board of Commissioners/Linn County Juvenile Department
YY-Linn Co Juvenile Dept Work Service (Robert Perkins)
Amount funded: \$60,000

Q. *About the Linn Co Juvenile Dept Work Services project. In the spreadsheet, it is listed as going across Linn and Marion counties. Since we are going to look at Marion County next, would like to clarify how it serves Linn and Marion counties before making a funding decision. (Samara)*

A. In Round 1, we were funded solely out of Marion County funds. Those funds will be utilized to serve youth in the Little Fork North corridor and the Little Santiam corridor in the communities such as Lyons, Mill City, and Stayton. We are asking for Linn County funds only to serve the youth of Albany, Lebanon and Sweet Home. (Robert Perkins)

- Institute for Applied Ecology (from Round 1)*
99-Linn Oak Basin
Amount funded: \$80,000

*The RAC requested to revisit the Oak Basin project (99) from Round 1 at December's meeting to recommend funding. Becca Brooke summarized the questions that were asked at this meeting, Monday, May 17.

- **Motion made by Lily Morgan to fully fund both projects, Linn Co Juvenile Dept Work Service project (YY) and the Oak Basin project (99) from Round 1. Craig Pope seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack (absent)

Cat 2: Matt (absent), Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan-yes, George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike (absent), Bob (absent), Kevin-yes, Lily-yes

- **Motion passes.**

Marion County

On the agenda, we had identified Marion County, but as you heard from Robert Perkins, the Marion County request was removed and the project was funded in Linn County. (Pat Johnston)

Benton County

- Marys River Watershed Council
A-Reese Creek Phase 1B (Kathleen Westly)
Amount funded: \$65,492

Q1. *On the crossings being taken out, is this road access and is there other access? (Lily)*

A. It is a historic logging road and the landowners do not intend to use it anymore, so it is essentially being decommissioned at all of the crossings. It is on private land.



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Q2. *Do we normally fund projects on private land? (Lily)*

Clarification: The criteria is if there is a benefit to O&C lands.

A. The BLM lands are upslope where there is spawning habitat for cutthroat in Reese Creek. The project is geared on supporting cutthroat, lamprey, and freshwater mussels.

Comment from Pat: All of these projects were reviewed by technical specialists to make sure that the Federal nexus has been met according to legislation.

Q. *Is there scalability for this project? (Lance)*

A. We set up the project so we could get all the machine work done at one time. The focus is to get all of the machine work done. If there is a concern about closing roads, we would scale that back which would reduce the total about by \$9K.

Q. *Related to the road, is it connecting to public lands or is there other access to get up above? (Lily)*

A. No it is not a BLM road, but the BLM benefit because of the reduction of sediment to the cutthroat stream that extends into the O&C lands. (Tony Spitzack? (sp)

Q. *Would like more clarification. (Lily)*

A. The roads cross tributaries to Reese Creek which is cutthroat stream. The creek extends on to BLM land as well as the cutthroat. (Tony Spitzack, BLM)

- Team Dirt
B-Team Dirt Trail Maintenance (Marc Bell)
Amount funded: \$49,932

Q. *How many volunteer hours does Team Dirt bring in for the trail system? (Dino)*

A. We have over 500 volunteers logging in 18000 hours of volunteer time. We have 20 crew leaders who have been our only volunteer base during COVID.

Q. *Is it scalable beyond the minimum request? (Dino)*

A. Essentially, our costs are working out at about \$50,000 for a mile of finished trail at this level. We have up to two miles that we can get completed that is available on the map, however we would really like to get half of that done because we don't have the volunteer base and equipment to finish the rest of it without a professional build team.

- Discussion, funding recommendations for Benton County projects.

➤ **Motion made by Dino Venti to minimally fund the projects. George McKinley seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack (absent)

Cat 2: Matt (absent), Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan-yes, George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike (absent), Bob (absent), Kevin-yes, Lily-yes

➤ **Motion passes.**



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Lincoln County

- Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP)
XX-NORP Nursey Youth Labor (Maysa Miller)
Amount funded: \$16,242

Q. *Is the project scalable? (Dino)*

A. Yes, the weekly rate is \$1000 for about 200 hours for the youth.

- Discussion, funding recommendations for Lincoln County projects
- **Motion made by Ken McCall to allocate the remaining balance of \$16,242 to fund this project. Dino Venti and Ken McCall second the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-yes, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack (absent)

Cat 2: Matt (absent), Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan-yes, George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike (absent), Bob (absent), Kevin-yes, Lily-yes

- **Motion passes.**

Polk County

No Presentations – all projects were underfunded from previous round.

Clackamas County

- AntFarm
C-Molalla River Corridor and Sandy River Basin (Two Foxes Singing)
Amount funded: \$195,584
- Discussion, funding recommendations for Clackamas County projects.

- **Motion from Dino Venti to fully fund the project. Ken McCall seconds the motion.**

Vote:

Cat 1: Lance-y, Dean-yes, Dino-yes, Samara-yes, Jack (absent)

Cat 2: Matt (absent), Edwin-yes, Ken-yes, Stan-yes, George-yes

Cat 3: Craig-yes, Mike (absent), Bob (absent), Kevin-yes, Lily-yes

- **Motion passes.**

Question from Dean about the two projects the RAC was going to hear from at this meeting, we heard from one, we haven't heard from the second one yet.

Pat: The second project was for a road decommissioning project in Coos County which was withdrawn by the BLM.



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Next Steps

June 24-25 is our next RAC meeting.

Our next meeting will be hosted again on Zoom. Thank you for your patience with our digital technology.

Primary topics we will be discussing will be recreation fee proposals from NW OR District and Roseburg District. Kyle will send out the fee proposals to RAC members early next week, please review the business plans for a robust discussion on the proposals.

Based on the vote this morning, the RAC will also be voting on projects that were underfunded or unfunded from Round 1 and Round 2 on the second day of the meeting.

Kyle, Elizabeth, Pat will work with Dean to make sure RAC members have all of the information needed to come to the meeting prepared.

Reminder, please let Kyle know ahead of time if you are unable to attend all or part of the June meeting.

Closing remarks:

Elizabeth: Thank you to Dean for leading everyone through discussions the past three days.

Dean: Wish we could meet in person, I think these deliberations go much better if we were together. Hopefully that will happen one day, but it was fun, we had some spirited discussions and got some good work done.

Elizabeth: Thank everyone for your work over the past three days. Appreciate the discussions that were held and how you handled working through the challenges that we had.

12:10 PM Adjourn