



## Western Oregon Resource Advisory Committee Meeting Notes



**December 5 - 6, 2023**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

### **Attendees:**

\* Present

### **RAC members:**

- Bree Yednock – joining later.
- Dino Venti - local business owner, restauranter, outdoor access advocate. \*
- Tom Carsten - Retired Marine \*
- Samara Phelps - Chair for the group \*
- Sarah Rockwell - Research Biologist – bird and habitat interest. \*
- Sue Martino - Retired School teacher, Head of Hensel Garden \*
- Sophia Kaelke - Oregon engagement officer with Trout Unlimited \*
- Ken McCall – not joining Tuesday, maybe Wednesday.
- Randy Smith - Fish and Wildlife Biologist with Forest Service in Coos Bay \*
- Tasha Davison - Teach SWO Coos Bay Community College Biology \*
- Mike Kennedy - Natural Resources Manager of Confederated Tribes of Siletz \*
- Dylan “Jack” Edwards - ODFW Willamette Valley Assistant Biologist \*

### **BLM**

- Heather Whitman - Designated Federal Official (she will be helping Samara and I run the meeting) - District Manager Roseburg District \*
- Stephanie Messerle - Title II Coordinator and Fish Biologist for Oregon/Washington \*
- Kyle Sullivan - Public affairs specialist for Medford District and Zoom Support. \*
- Ann Chappel - Program Analyst – Management Program Analyst for Oregon State Office. Tracking Spreadsheet. \*
- Lauren Blankenship – NW District Administrative Support Assistant – Notetaker. \*
- Robin Kaltenbach – NW District Records Manager – Notetaker. \*
- Elizabeth Burghard - District Manager for Medford District \*
- Jen Smith – Representing for Elizabeth Burghard \*
- Dennis Teitzel – District Manager for Northwest Oregon \*
- Steve Lydick – District Manager Coos Bay District \*
- Matthew Baily – Umpqua Field Manager in Coos Bay support for Steve Lydick and Stephanie Messerle\*
- Charity Glade - District Botanist in NW Oregon District. Based in Salem \*
- Amanda Huffman – Wildlife Biologist, Medford District \*
- Megan Harper – Public Affairs Specialist and RAC coordinator \*
- Ryan Kay - District Natural Resource Officer in Roseburg \*
- Todd Forbes – District Manager for the Lakeview District \*
- Mike Limb – Acting Field Manager in Klamath Falls \*

## Welcome / Introductions

Heather Whitman, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

### Samara Phelps -

- Voting procedures/quorum (Megan Harper)
- Feedback from members on process (Samara Phelps) –

- What questions do you have before we start:

*Q: Looking at funding for just 2024 or for more than one year? Would like to see priorities.*

*A: We prioritize by district.*

**Point Made:** *Heather Witman: Funding how 2.9 million is distributed. Appears to be smaller amounts in each county. Funds are distributed based on presence of federally owned land congress authorizes based on revenue that is generated on that land. Determined by formula (made by Congress) that is established by BLM. Historic Revenues for eligible federal lands as well as county lands. Funding was distributed last spring for funds we are discussing today. Last year more projects were approved in some counties than funds available for those counties. So, we made an adjustment to account for the past distribution of funds. The counties that have less this year than last year will rebound to balance out for next year.*

*Q: Dino: Did we have an excess of funds – did we over distribute the funds? Was it a use it or lose it?*

*A: Heather: The RAC can make determinations of funding for those distributions. If you want to make a recommendation for one county to another the RAC is not prohibited from doing so. There is no expiration on this funding. But the legislation must be authorized for this money to be carried over.*

*Q: Samara: Now there is a pot of funds what do we do with the pot? What you are saying is that for this cycle the funding is authorized and will not be lost but if the legislation isn't authorized, we could lose it.*

*A: Yes, correct.*

**Point Made:** *At least 50% of title 2 funds must be distributed to road maintenance, decommission and stream restoration projects.*

*Q: Samara: Hard to qualify what is the definition of restoration/ road maintenance etc.*

*A: There is a potential for change in what qualifies under the law but for this session we are fine.*

*Q: Dino: road maintenance, decommission – does not include building new roads?*

*A: Heather: Correct, to maintain current structures, not new roads.*

*Q: Samara: Percentages clarification: within each congressional approval or within the history of the RAC?*

*A: Heather: The history of the RAC.*

**For category 1 and 2: everyone needs to agree.**

### **For category 3: one dissenting option it will still pass.**

**Megan Point Made:** *Funding for this year goes on agreement with partners. Maybe be this year's money but they can implement it over phases or next several years.*

*Q: Tom: Doesn't see the salary, materials and supplies breakdown by the BLM? Is there BLM Input into that?*

*A: Heather: With proposals that come in with grants and agreements staff. There is no requirement to break down detail in their proposal.*

*Q: People seeking grants can hear discussions about their proposals?*

*A: Yes*

*Q: Tom: Some of them include salaries for funding? For contractors?*

*A: Heather: It could be for salaries of people who are not on board yet. Our existing staff is funded.*

*Q: Tom: Culvert Design proposal is costly, is there a template for a breakdown of the costs?*

*A: Heather: More complicated. Not all culverts are straightforward. If similar projects, we can follow the same guidelines to save on cost.*

*Q: Sarah: Grant rules for funding projects located on private property? Can we consider those?*

*A: Heather: There must be a benefit to the ONC or Coos Bay or Wagon Road Lands. They did make that connection in the review.*

*Q: Samara: If through the process we approve the funding level, can we go back and change that tomorrow while still convened?*

*A: Heather: Someone must make a motion to do that and be seconded.*

*Q: Samara: Limited funding and we fund for less than the full amount – do they have to submit a whole new application to get funding?*

*A: Heather: Yes, would have to submit a new funding request packet.*

### **Break and resume at 10:10 AM**

#### **Title II project application discussion and funding recommendations**

- Benton/Lincoln (10 mins)
  - Mary's River Watershed Council (5 mins)
    - 2\_Recovering System Processes in Shotpouch Creek Phase III

**Presentation: Kathleen Westly:** *The bulk of the project is in Lincoln County. Top aquatic predator is cutthroat trout, pacific lamprey, winter steelhead, beaver. Stream restoration project. Have been working on this project for 13 years. Flood plain connection. Add large wood to previous treated regions and add new log structures to increase side channels and off channel coves – key for cold water refusion for fish swimming upstream in summer provide cold water. Improves cold water contributions. BLM district providing permitting and staff.*

- **Discussion & funding recommendation (5 mins)**

### **Discussion:**

Q: \$245,000 adding Lincoln and Benton together. Would that fund it totally?

A: Kathleen: We would want to look for additional funding for plant establishment later. – look for another source to fund that.

Q: Dino: Most of the work is in Lincoln County but is being funded out of Benton. You had talked about some funds being restricted because they were used in different counties, does this play into that?

A: Heather: If work crosses counties – the funding doesn't need to be distributed by percentage of lands or such. You can fund the whole thing out of Benton or Lincoln.

A: Charity: The benefits would show up in Benton County because it would be downstream of where the work is done.

Q: Asks how to do the math on the two projects can be possible be funded. How much is coming out of Tillamook/ Lane?

Samara: Fully expend Benton County for this project and bring this project back in when discussing other counties.

**Tasha makes the motion to fully fund from Benton.**

**Mike seconds. There is funding asked for from Benton County.**

**Calling vote: yes: IIIIIIIII no's:0**

**Passes**

- Clackamas (20 mins)
  - AntFarm, Inc. (5 mins)
    - 3\_AntFarm Supports the Molalla River Corridor

**Presentation: Two Foxes Singing / Nunpa:** Offices in Sandy, Estacada, and Molalla. Youth work. Molalla river corridor, noxious weeds, maintenance, camp clean ups. Have 160 youth working. BLM indigenous youth working. 6 youth budgets but more like 30 kids as part time employees.

Q: Dino: Is this scalable?

A: Nunpa: Ability to squeeze down or up based on need. The work level can change some, but minimal amount goes towards infrastructure, mostly towards salary. We don't have a minimum need.

- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (5 mins)
  - 4\_Clackamas Priority Weed Management 2023

**Presentation: Samual - Weed wise program manager:** Noxious weed control and management. Priority weeds, sensitive habitats, BLM land: Molalla River corridor, post burn work. Salmon River and Sandy River BLM land. Mitigating noxious weeds on BLM lands. Not all lands have been surveyed yet so don't always have specific locations. Consequences for not receiving funding: Risk disruption of continuous treatments and follow up – reduce seed bank. Don't want to lose prior investment. Does that scalable amount cover that scope? Yes, we can be flexible but that is our low end to keep that work going.

- **Discussion and funding recommendations (10 mins)**

**Discussion:** Both projects speak to restoration and watershed health. Multiple supporters of the youth AntFarm.

**Sophia makes the motion to approve the funding as is in the spreadsheet.**

**Mike seconds.**

**Vote: Yes: IIIIIIIII no's: 0**

**Passes**

- Lane (45 mins)
  - Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (5 mins)
    - 41\_Carnine Upland Oak Prairie Restoration Phase 2

**Presentation: Reilly Newman:** *Native Oak Ridge 326-acre property. Protected by conservation easements. Asking for 2 prescribed burns on 13-acre footprint over 5 years. Reduce Non-native grasses and establish native upland prairie/oak savanna species. Seed golden prairie. Ready to seed fire in 2024. Have fire liability and fire insurance. Have landowner outreach for smoke. Increase habitat, partnerships, and restoration.*

*Q: Samara: Is this a rock bottom cost for you?*

*A: Reilly: The rock bottom dollar is for one burn and follow up treatment. Through this funding it would provide the second burn and the 3-year return burn.*

- Lane County Sheriff's Office (5 mins)
  - 42\_Lane County Sheriff's Office Work Crew Debris Cleanup

**Presentation: Josh Mars:** *Pick up trash on public lands. Entirely inside Land County. Civic and volunteer groups go out to clean up, but more is needed. No BLM employees currently. Fund Inmate work crew. Minimum low-end cost. Money would break down by day. Deputy Salary, Gas for truck, and trip duties.*

- EcoStudies Institute (5 mins)
  - 43\_Revitalizing Ecocultural Fire in Prairie and Oak Habitats

**Presentation: Ka-Voka Jackson:** *Revitalizing. Chamali is 293 acres of mixed woodland, savanna and upland prairie. Considered an anchor site under conservation easement held by McKenzie River Trust. Legacy trees throughout the property include. Significant site for Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program – helps students connect to the land- most of the programing happens here. Work crew and host lead for fire practitioner training.*

- Siuslaw Watershed Council (5 mins)
  - 44\_Sniffer Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Enhancement
- Institute for Applied Ecology (5 mins)

**Presentation: Caleb Mentzer:** *Culvert project, Siuslaw watershed. Productive coho stream and truffle area. Replace old culvert with a new one. Not currently passing sediment very well. There is some scalability with the price of culverts. Bottom number \$30 - 40,000 would be lowest – have other organizations willing to fund to 50%.*

- 45\_Protecting and Enhancing Rare Prairie and Oak Habitat (multi-county: Lane/Yamhill/Linn/Benton)

**Presentation: Andrew Esterson:** *Multi county proposal. Build upon previous restoration work. 5 sites currently in restoration or in a 5-year assessment. All 5 sites currently host or capacity to host BLM sensitive species. All in different phases of restoration. Mechanical and manual treatments. Host AmeriCorps with help in removing wood. 2 Yamhill sites 3 Lane County sites and then planting plugs in inhouse greenhouse in Beton County.*

- **Discussion and funding recommendations (20 mins)**

**Discussion:**

*Q: Sophia: Project 43, You are applying and getting a grant and NOAA grant that would contribute to cost. Would those grants impact that minimum amount?*

*A: Ka-Voka: I don't think so, there was a line item for monitoring that was going to be matched but these grants should be able to cover that.*

*Q: Dino: For project 43 they said there would be a thinning on 30 acres. Is that going to create sellable timber? And would that be able to offset any of these costs?*

*A: Ka-Voka: The 30 acres fuel reduction would create burn piles, so no sellable timber from that part of the property.*

*Discussing the multi funded projects, minimums of proposals, consider project (45) getting funded from Yamhill which will have extra funds.*

*Making decisions to full funding from counties we haven't heard from yet – postpone dividing up / funding before hearing the presentation.*

**Tom: Motion to pause voting on funding multi county projects until the end of the presentations. – This was amended to the above.**

**Motion to vote on funding (41 – 44) given the funds in collum “G”.**

**Randy Seconds.**

**Yes: IIIIIIIII No: I**

**Does not pass because of confusion.**

- Linn/Marion (10 mins)
  - Linn County Board of Commissioners/Linn County Juvenile Department (5 mins)
    - 46\_ New Beginnings Garden Native Plant Nursery (multi-county: Linn/Marion)

**Presentation: Robert Perkins - Juvenile Probation Officer, New Beginnings Garden:** *Multiple partners, Horticulture Program facilitated through Ponderosa Creek School Serves youth from Linn Benton, and Lincoln counties who are 12-18. Ask of \$27,000 for 9,000 container grown trees and shrubs. Per plant cost of \$3.00. Is scalable. Multiyear continuation of funding.*

- **Discussion and funding recommendations (5 mins)**

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Motion: Mike fully fund this project.**

**Tom seconds.**

**Vote: yes: IIIIIIIII no's: 0**

**Passes**

- Tillamook (10 mins)
  - Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (5 mins)
    - 47\_Incarcerated Youth Salary for NW OR Restoration Partnership (multi-county: Tillamook/Lincoln/Lane)
    - Discussion and funding recommendation (5 mins)

**Presentation: Asa Skinner - Native Plant scientist:** *Centered around the nursery. 30 restoration entities. Riparian restoration, high meadow restoration. Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership. Incarcerated Youth Salary. Camp Tillamook. Goals: Reestablish native species, restore maintain and improve wildlife and fish habitat. Watershed restoration and maintenance, improve forest and ecosystem health, control noxious and exotic weeds, stewardship education and community engagement. 10,000 hours of youth (16-24, felony sex offenders) labor, subsidize plants for 400 acres riparian habitat and 5 miles of stream. Working with incarcerated population allows to produce plants at a low cost. In 2023 gave youth a raise and added 1 full-time position.*

**Discussion of Tillamook, Lincoln and Lane projects:**

*Q: Tom: Clarity on (47) funding.*

*A: Asa: It costs \$60,000 a year to pay the youth directly. I'm asking for that over a 2-year period because we are working within this funding and with other anticipated funding so having 2 years to spend that money helps to make sure we don't have gaps in funding.*

*Discussion of dividing up monies. All other projects within Lincoln were funded fully from Benton.*

**Sophia motion to fund (47) fully from the funds available from funds in Lincoln and Tillamook County.**

**Tasha seconds.**

**Vote: Yes: IIIIIIIII no's: 0**

**Passes**

- Yamhill/Washington (10 mins)
  - Tillamook Bay Community College (5 mins)
    - 48\_Outdoor Stewards Oregon Internship Program (multi-county: Yamhill/Washington)

**Presentation: Megan Deane McKenna - Dept head of Forestry National Resource at Tillamook Bay community college:** *Modeling from a program that supports future stewards in natural resources. Place*

students with BLM employees for internships. Provides students with 10 weeks of experience that they can incorporate their next year. FS, Oregon Department of Forestry, BLM – all collaborating.

**Discussion:**

Q: Heather: project may not qualify for title II project funding. Doesn't benefit work on the ground in a direct way. There may be some issues in extending the title 2 funding on this project.

Mike: What is the process for making the determination.

Heather: It is my role to approve or disapprove. BLM has the final decision authority.

Megan: Not funded by title II. Janet Satter with the BLM is open to speaking about this program as well.

Randy: Suggests making funding recommendations and later determine if it's eligible or not after.

Tasha: Asking if we can fund this contingent on these changes being made.

Heather: No, projects are submitted and cannot be edited.

Sarah: The proposal says Implementing erosion control, restoration projects etc. Is the work happening on BLM land or elsewhere.

Megan: Working on BLM land.

Janet Satter: It does meet title II requirements. Students join BLM employees to work in the forest and get 1:1 experience with BLM employees and land. It's beneficial for BLM as it is difficult to recruit staff. Bringing on local students is helpful for the community. All fit into the priorities of this funding.

Samara: Recommending Randy's suggestion to call a vote.

**Mike: Motion to fully fund this with available money using remaining balance in Washington county and take the rest from Yamhill. (this would reduce amount in lane county).**

**Second: Tasha.**

Q: Tom: If BLM decides that this money cannot be used what happens to the funds?

A: Heather: Then the funding would be available for the next time RAC considered title II funding.

**Sophia: Mike amends motion to fully fund with amount that is available in Washington.**

**Tasha seconds.**

**Vote: Yes: IIIIIIIIIII no's 0**

**Passes**

**Come back from break at 1:15PM**

- Discussion and funding recommendation (5 mins)
- Discussion: Project review process - did it work? Any modifications needed?

**Title II project application discussion and funding recommendations**

- Jackson (65 mins)
  - Klamath Bird Observatory (5 mins)
    - 28\_Birds and Blackberry Improving Riparian Restoration Practices (multi-county: Jackson/Josephine)

**Presentation: Sarah Rockwell: Himalayan Blackberries removed but birds to use it for habitat. Birds are declining. We don't know if Himalayan Blackberry removal is known whether to be harmful or not. BLM**



supports removal of blackberries in their projects so this study would determine if that should continue to be done.

- Rogue Basin Partnership (5 mins)
  - 29\_Rogue Basin Invasive Weed Coordination, Outreach and Mapping Project (multi-county: Jackson/Josephine)

**Presentation:** None

*Q: Randy: If we were to fund, is there a funding split between counties?*

*A: Mark Linton: In the past I would ballpark 60% Jackson 40% Josephine. There are three objectives, the first is awareness among landowners and the public. The second objective is strengthening surveying, mapping and data management capabilities and the third objective to continue ongoing treatment and eradication efforts for some priority species.*

- BLM Medford District (5 mins)
  - 30\_Big Butte Creek Gravel Augmentation and Large Wood Project

**Presentation: Rose Hanrahan - Fish Biologist Med. District Office:** *Arial photo with log placement and an area that they would like to put their gravel. Upper Rogue Watershed is an immediate need to restoration. Ecological uplift for Coho Salmon. The stream has rarely had beneficial flows to transport beneficial bedload due to because of water diversions for domestic use. It is also deficient in large wood and spawning gravel – so wanting to add those in. This is a low dollar and high return. Chinook, steelhead and Pacific lamprey. Several years ago, we saw immediate results from OFW adding spawning gravel.*

*Q: Randy: Other measures in place to retain or add back water to summertime flows?*

*A: Rose: We have focused on this area to add wood to slow down and activate the water. Some of our other partners like Trout Unlimited are working to get water rights reappropriated. For this watershed the BLM is limited as we have ONC ownership. So, relying on our partners to help return waters back to the stream.*

- Applegate Partnership, Inc. (5 mins)
  - 31\_Cantrall Buckley Park Vegetative Management and Improvement Project

**Presentation: Nathan Gehres:** *This is for a county park. One of 3 access points to the river that runs through the park. Lots of community buy in. Will cover 38 acres, blackberry removal, trail restoration. The only park that is associated with the school (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders). Students learn about ecology of the river. Removal of Blackberries will also protect land against fire. Conifer species die off can become a hazard to users of the park.*

*Q: Tom: Scalable?*

*A: Nathan: We need 3 years of treatment for success and allow native species to establish. So not scalable.*

- The Understory Initiative (5 mins)
  - 33\_Mardon Skipper Habitat Monitoring and Restoration Actions

**Presentation: Jeanine Moy:** *Vesper Meadow, Pumpchance, Moon Prairie - builds on 10 years of work. Meadows drop to 5-10% of what they were 10 years ago. Will monitor the habitat and monitor their needs. Causes of habitat degradation – floodplains, noxious weeds, loss of wet meadow, creek incision and floodplain desiccation. They are indicators of meadow health. Monitoring, Restoration Actions, Public Engagement.*

- Rogue River Watershed Council (5 mins)
  - 34\_South Fork Little Butte Creek Ecological Restoration

**Presentation: Lance Wyss:** *3 project locations: Started treating Armenian Blackberry, riparian restoration. Treating noxious weeds and adding wood.*

- Lomakatsi Restoration Project (5 mins)
  - 35\_Tribal Workforce Development in West Bear All-Lands

**Presentation: Marco Bey:** *Restoring ecosystems sustaining communities. Wildfire Protection Project. Wants to layer in a tribal workforce training program. Collaboration between federal and state agencies. Tribal ecosystem restoration partnership program since 1999. Employees and tribal members training and receiving certifications. Would love a strong partnership with the BLM. They have support of tribal governments. Build Indigenous fire knowledge – layering in fire service professionals into the program.*

- **Discussion and Funding Recommendations (30 mins)**
  - Josephine (25 mins)
    - Applegate Partnership, Inc. (10 mins)
      - 36\_Mungers Creek Instream Habitat Restoration
      - 37\_Provolt Recreation Large Wood Project
      - 38\_Watts Toppin Irrigation Efficiency Project

**Presentation: Nathan Gehres:**

- **Mungers creek:** *One of 3 creeks that holds water throughout the year. Hoping to get logs and boulders to create riffles. Outside of FEMA mapped floodplain. Important salmon stream.*
- **Provolt Recreation Site:** *Large wood project. Previously a dairy farm and then a seed orchard. Now want to put large wood in addition to previously planted native plants. Want a post assisted log structure and weave other logs into them and log clusters providing an escape for fish in the summer.*
- **Watts Toppin:** *Fish passage barrier and irrigation efficiency project. Oldest water rights on the stream. Original estimate was low and needs more funding. Will replace ditch with buried pipeline to reduce water loss. One of the most important salmon stream especially in SW Oregon.*

Q: Mike: *the last two are not scalable? Want to clarify minimum request.*

A: Nathan: *Mungers is not scalable. Provolt is not scalable.*

Q: Tom: *Watts lists options 1 and 2 on a timescale, if not scalable how can you make it cheaper?*

A: Nathan: *This is the only one the irrigators will support so that's the minimum.*

- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (5 mins)
  - 32\_Late Mungers Monitoring

**Presentation: Terry Fairbanks - Executive Director at Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative:** *Integrated Vegetation Mgmt. for resilient lands environmental assessment objectives: Maintain healthier forests resilient to wildfire and drought, protect adjacent communities from large scale fires. Needing Collaborative monitoring. Providing field trips. Not implementation. Will be doing surveying work. We can do pre and post monitoring depending on funding.*

○ **Discussion and Funding Recommendations (10 mins)**

Jackson and Josephine County: Discussion of pulling funds to and from.

*Q: Tasha: I know the speaker for 34 had voiced concerns about the amount, I wonder if that addressed their concerns?*

*A: Lance Wyss: I appreciate this, everyone else got fully funded except for the Rouge River Watershed Council.*

*Sarah: We noticed that yours is for a 5-year project, and we are allocating more than enough for 3 years. So, it's bringing it more into scale as these other projects are 2–3-year projects.*

**Motion: Mike Kennedy – fund Josephine and Jackson projects as the spreadsheet shows.**

**Sue and Dino – seconds.**

**Vote: Yes – 111111111111 No – 0**

**Passes**

Break (10 mins)

**Public Comment Period:** No Public Comments, will check back in.

**Title II project application discussion and funding recommendations**

- 39\_IYS Kids Summer Youth Experience

**Presentation: Bethany Osborn - Integral Youth Services Operations Director:** *Work with at risk youths by working in the woods helping with fire prevention within the work to learn program. Helps kids facing homelessness. Job skills. Want to expand to work with 18+ in the fall.*

*Q: Tom – how do you get the homeless you?*

*A: Bethany: The schools identify kids who might be battling homelessness. We run homes teaching life skills and transitional skills.*

*Q: Tom – is the program working?*

*A: Bethany: Absolutely!*

*Q: Mike – limited funds within county. Is your project scalable?*

*A: Bethany: We can do something with anything. We'll get creative.*

*Q: Tasha – Could you use less than 25K?*

*A: Bethany: We can do something. We don't want to lose partnership with BLM. Working with BLM gives kids time outdoors they don't normally get.*

**Checked in on Public Comment:** No comments. Will check back in.

**Presentation: Tyler Stewart:** *BLM Lakeview District. Fixing fences burnt over during Gulch Fire. Asking minimum \$48K. Needing to fall dead trees. Helping Wildhorse and burro lands.*

Q: Mike: So, if you can only get \$25K, can you make use of it?

A: Tyler: I would have to see if a contractor would do the work for less money. It's expensive to make it to the site.

Q: Tasha: Any overlap with other counties? Can we get youth corps out there to the site and help with the project?

A: Tyler: The IYS crew does have an agreement for fence repairs. Is out of Klamath County.

- 40\_Klamath River Canyon ACEC Fencing
- Discussion and Funding Recommendations (15 mins)

**Motion: Mike – We fund the entire amount to Project 39.**

**Tom – seconds.**

**Vote: Yes – IIIIIIIII No – 0**

**Passes**

**Checked in on Public Comments:** No comments.

Returned to Lane, Benton, Yamhill, Washington, and Tillamook

Lane County -

Save Project 27 until RAC hears Douglas County Project proposal.  
Project 27 can be funded with Lane County Dollars

Anna Chappel will send out voting spreadsheet.

Q: Tom: Send out county funding amounts that we'll go over tomorrow?

A: Megan: Yes.

**Close-out discussion** (Heather Whitman)

**Heather:** *We appreciate your patience and commitment to discuss these projects. If there's anything you need, feel free to contact us and let us know. Bring calendar tomorrow to schedule future meetings.*

**Samara:** *Thanks everyone. Great work! If you need anything, please reach out.*

**Meeting adjourned 3:54 pm.**

**December 6, 2023**

9:00 AM – 3 PM  
Virtual via Zoom

**9:00 AM Welcome/Call to Order**

- Roll Call
- RAC History – Heather Whitman
- Meeting called to order.
- RAC: Feedback from yesterday

**9:15 AM Title II project application discussion and funding recommendations**

- Curry (20 mins)
  - Curry Soil and Water Conservation District (7 mins)
    - 12\_Forest Road Surveys in Sixes Subbasin –

**Presentation: Drew Harper:** *Will conduct road surveys on FS roads. FS roads sources of sediment in stream network. Identify areas of concern, go back to landowners to discuss what was found and come up with fixes. Min of 35K.*

- 13\_Willow Creek Restoration 2023

**Presentation: Drew Harper (joined by Robbie Lascheck):** *Complex instream habitat and promote functional riparian zones. Improve water quality and fish habitat. 87K in Matched funding.*

*Q: Randy: Willow has a match, why doesn't FS Road Surveys have a match?*

*A: Robbie: We didn't include a match in this Phase. If we find areas of concern, we will investigate matches.*

*Q: Tom: Was previous work on Willow Creek Title II Funded?*

*A: Drew: Some.*

*Q: Tom: how did the previous project work?*

*A: Drew: So far as good. Good habitat created. Riparian is a slow process to see change...takes time. Shrubs and trees are growing.*

*Q: Bree: FS Road Surveys are just surveys – what's the chance your found issues will be fixed later?*

*A: Drew: I'm confident that if we do find issues, we have a history of addressing those issues.*

*Q: Sophie: I see you have an Oweb grant, did you get it? Does it impact your request amount?*

*A: Drew: Yes, it was approved. It does not impact our request amount.*

- **Discussion and Funding Recommendations (13 mins)**

*Q: Tasha: Are either of these projects okay to be partially funded?*

*A: Drew: Fully Fund Willow Creek first. Anything left over can go to Road Surveys.*

- Coos (60 mins)
  - BLM Coos Bay District (10 mins)
    - 5\_Brummet Creek Road Rehabilitation –

**Presentation: Glen Huff:** *Brummet doesn't get a lot of commercial use, it's not a high priority, but I know there's a lot of local use, fire access, hunting, and fishing. We'd like to see maintenance to get it back up to a safe condition.*

*Q: Tasha: We don't have much funding – can you use this small amount (\$2,000) to do any good?*

*A: Glen: We could make a pass with the machine and cut the brush down but that's about all. Probably not of much use due to mobilization costs.*

- 9\_Coos Bay District Invasive Plant Control Seasonal Crew Member (multi-county: Coos/Curry/Douglas)

**Presentation: Goldie Warnacke:** *We only have one employee; we need a seasonal to help with weed removal. SRS funds help fund team last year.*

*Q: Sarah: How scalable is your project?*

*A: Goldie: Any help is great!*

*Q: Mike: What percentage is in other counties?*

*A: Goldie: Depends on sale plans.*

- 10\_eDNA sampling for Special Status Aquatic Species (multi-county: Coos/Curry/Douglas) - Coquille Watershed Association

**Presentation: None.**

*Q: Bree: Is this technique shown to work?*

*A: Jeff Jackson: Assume they have experience running these samples if they are there.*

- 6\_Dement Creek Road Improvements - Coos Watershed Association (7 mins)

**Presentation: Ryan Motley:** *Watershed assessments showed issues. This funding would be for road improvements.*

*Q: Could 2K do any good?*

*A: Ryan: Yes! We can do some work.*

- 7\_Shotgun Tributary Stream Crossing Upgrade Development

**Presentation: Allison Tarbox:** *Focus watershed for BLM – need to fix crossings. Highlighted as priorities. Start on tributary crossing. Prevents juvenile and adult fish passage. Looking for funding for designs, will go out for funding to implement later.*

*Q: Tom: Culverts are very expensive. Have we moved on to a better solution or are we [going to have to] repair these in a few years?*

*A: Allison: We're hoping for an imbedded culvert – we're looking to move toward bridges. It's all depended upon the design.*

Q: Tasha: Would 2K be useful to you?

A: Allison: Probably not, 2K will not get far.

- 8\_South Coast Native Grass Seed Production

**Presentation: Ed Cope:** Growing seed to reintroduce native grass when we disturb soils with project work.

Q: Tasha: Would 2K be useful?

A: Ed: No, nothing meaningful I could do with that amount.

- 1\_Coos Bay-Northwest Youth Corps Youth Stewardship  
(multi-county: Coos/Curry/Douglas) Northwest Youth Corps (5 mins)

**Presentation: Amanda Wallace:** Funding used for work hours for campground clean ups, noxious weeds removal, habitat restoration.

Q: Tom: Where are the people coming from?

A: Amanda: Anywhere.

Q: Bree: How scalable, is 2K enough?

A: Amanda: Not really. That's only about a day of crew work.

- Discussion and Funding Recommendations (30 mins)

**Motion: Tom – Leave Coos County funding - Money be retained until next go around, not enough to be worth it to most projects.**

**Seconds – Randy**

**Tom Withdraws his motion after more discussion.**

**Amended Motion: Tasha – 2K Coos Funding to project 11.**

**Seconds - Sophia**

**Vote: Yes – 11111111111 No – 0**

**Passes**

**Motion: Mike – fund Curry as is in spreadsheet.**

**Seconds – Sophia**

**Vote: Yes – 11111111111 No – 0**

**Passes**

**10:45 AM Break**

**10:55 AM Title II project application discussion and funding recommendations**

- Douglas (95 mins)
  - Partnership for Umpqua Rivers (13 mins)

- 22\_Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2024-2025
- 24\_Wolf Creek Splash Dam Removal and Restoration Design
- 25\_Yellow Creek Instream Restoration Phase II
- 26\_Yellow Creek Tributary Culvert Design

**Presentation: Kevin Keller:**

- **Umpqua Basin:** Core monitoring program. Data used by public and multiple agencies.
- **Wolf Creek Splash Dam:** Coho struggling to get over splash dam.
- **Yellow Creek Instream:** Place logs into stream, creating fish habitat. RAC previously funded phase 1.
- **Yellow Creek Tributary Culvert:** Designs and permits for appropriately sized culvert. Current culvert is too small and failing.

Q: Samara: Which of these projects is most important?

A: Kevin: Project 22 is our top priority with Project 24 second priority.

Q: Sophia: Funding first project at full amount or how would you break it down?

A: Kevin: We have scalable options there. If we could meet each of those amounts, that would be good.

Q: Bree: Wolf Creek Splash Dam – who put the dam in and when? Is there match by landowner?

A: Kevin: We received match from ODFW. Current Landowner is Rosburg land products, they gave us a letter of support. Dam was put in in the 1940's, was the site of a log pond.

Q: Bree: Yellow creek phase II – did you get Oweb funding?

A: Kevin: We have not applied yet.

- Elk Creek Watershed Council (7 mins)
  - 15\_Cox Creek Portuguese Broom Control
  - 18\_Pheasant Creek Fish Passage Improvement

**Presentation: Lee Russell:**

- **Cox Creek:** Improve coho habitat. Removal of Portuguese broom. Survey for Portuguese broom.
- **Pheasant Creek:** Replace 2 coho culverts. Removal of gravel.

Q: Mike: Cox isn't scalable – can you handle a smaller amount?

A: Lee: Project 18 no. Project 15 – yes, can be broken down into different phases.

Q: Randy: Which is your Priority project?

A: Lee: Project 15

- Smith River Watershed Council (13 mins)
  - 16\_Herb and Sweden Creek Instream Restoration
  - 19\_Smith River Basin: Noxious Weed Surveying, Mapping, and Control
  - 20\_Smith River Priority Passage Design
  - 23\_Wasson Ranch Blackberry Control

**Presentation: Brian Jenkins and Matt Magel:**



- **Herb and Sweden Creek:** Will address passage at five undersized culverts and removal of three structures. Rac previously funded projects in these areas. Fish ladder doesn't pass fish any longer, plan to remove it.
- **Smith River Basin, Noxious Weed:** Develop a management strategy and treatment strategy.
- **Smith River Priority Passage Design:** Adding more woody debris into streams to create spawning habitat.
- **Wasson Ranch:** Reduce weeds from getting into the forest. Reduce black berries along the river and replace with big leaf maples. Previous caretaker started blackberry removal. 5-6K needed.
  - BLM Roseburg District (7 mins)
    - 17\_Hubbard Creek Instream Enhancement
    - 21\_Soggy Bottoms Stream Restoration

**Presentation: Daniel Dammann:**

- **Hubbard Creek:** Stream restoration, logs and boulders.
- **Soggy Bottoms Stream:** Wet meadow area. Rock popcorn flowers threatened species. Stabilize the head cuts. Implement some beaver dam structures. \$8K can be used for head cutting issue.

Q: Sophia – which project is your priority?

A: Daniel: Project 21.

Q: Bree: For project 21, are the designs done?

A: Daniel: Designs are done, RAC funding would help with permits.

Q: Sarah: Give us some highlights of your project as a reminder.

- The North Umpqua Foundation (5 mins)
  - 27\_Invasive Crayfish Monitoring of the North Umpqua

**Presentation: Denise Dammann:** Subbasin (multi-county: Douglas/Lane) - Survey for what species of crayfish are present.

Q: Bree – Have you used these surveys before – are they successful?

A: Denise: Yes, they are working. I don't want to waste time or money.

Q: Tom – ODF and ODFW aren't listed as partners?

A: Denise: I have letters of support from both in my packet.

Q: Randy – Minimum request?

A: Denise: \$3,150.

- **Discussion and Funding Recommendations (45 mins)**

**Motion: Mike – Funding Douglas County Project 15, 20, 21, 22 and Lane County as spreadsheet shows.**

**Seconds – Tom and Sue.**

**Vote: Yes – 111111111111 No - 0**

**Passes**

**12:15**            **Lunch**

**1:15 PM**            **Title II project application discussion and funding recommendations**  
**Yamhill – See project 45 in Lane County**

**Motion: Sophia – Fund Lane County project 45 at the amount of 109,931 out of Yamhill funding.**

**Seconds – Tasha**

**Votes – Yes – 11111111111 No - 0**

**Passes**

**1:30 PM**            **Public comment period - No comments, Check back in.**

**1:31**                **Next Steps in Title II Process**

- Ann will send finalized spreadsheet.
- Chair will draft a letter to DFO stating what the RAC recommended.
- DFO drafts memo of approval.
- Approved applicants will get informed.
- BLM Program officers will initiate assistance agreements – due 2/29/2023.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> round of allocation – Next Spring – working on notice of funding opportunity to be posted in January.
- Interest in some sort of instructions on how to apply.
- Idea of a training session to assist folks with applying.
- Example of solid title II application.
- Review of RAC Committee Duties
  - Upon the request of the DFO, develop recommendations for BLM with respect to land use planning, classification, retention, management, and disposal of public lands within the area for which the advisory council is established and such other matters as may be referred to it by the DFO.
  - Review projects proposed by participating counties and persons via title II of the SRS Act.
  - Propose projects and funding concerned under 7123 of the Act to the Secretary.
  - Provide early and continuous coordination with appropriate land management agency officials in recommending projects consistent with purposes of title II of the Act.
  - Provide frequent opportunities for citizens, organizations, Tribes, land management agencies, and other interested parties to participate openly and meaningfully, beginning at the early stages of the project development process under title II of the Act.
  - Monitor projects that have been approved under Section 7124 and then advise the DFO on the progress of the monitoring effects.
  - Make recommendations to the Secretary for any appropriate changes or adjustments to the projects being monitored by the Council.
- Topics, potential meeting dates (Megan Harper)

- Forestry Topics
- Field Trips to see Title II Projects on the ground.
- Status update on monies already approved.
- Mill Tour
- In person meeting
- First part of April
- May
- Coos Bay and North Bend area.
- Molalla Coordinator Rec Fee Increases.
- Megan Harper will send out a doodle poll by 12/8 to determine availability.

**Public comment period** - No comments, Check back in.

**1:50 PM      Feedback**

- More room on spreadsheet to take notes.
- Not all presentations are formatted the same.
- Add in time for questions, don't take away their presentation time.
- Presentations are super valuable.
- Knowing how much funding each county has to offer is helpful in thinking through this process.
- Having folks with multiple projects prioritize them, is helpful.
- Seeing pictures is impactful.
- Hit the high points.

**Public comment period** - No comments, calling it.

**2:00 PM      Agency and member updates**

- Mike Kennedy is retiring May 3<sup>rd</sup>. RAC will need a new Tribal Coordinator.
- BLM updates, member organization updates sharing and discussion (Heather Whitman, Samara Phelps).
  - 1 vacancy in each category of the RAC.
  - We received applications.
  - Their applications are being vetted by Head Quarters and Washington DC Officer.
  - Need to go back out to get a Category 1 member.
  - Medford: Revising Resource Management Plan for the Siskiyou National Monument.
  - Roseburg: Doing an amendment to Western Oregon Resource Management Plan. Reach out to who you represent to see their take on it.
  - Roseburg: In the process of putting together an Environmental Assessment for Rec Sites.
  - Tom: Issues with BLM removing cash boxes from campgrounds. Moving toward credit card machines. Public should be able to occupy campsites with no shows. Most campsites there is not cell service so you can't check out a site on Rec.gov from the campground. There's been lots of complaints across the country of full empty campgrounds, yet they are reserved, but didn't show. Camp hosts should be able to approve the public stay in a site if no one showed up. Forest Service has been giving camp host

the autonomy to release sites, when there's a no show. Cash envelopes need to be provided to the public. (Let's make this a discussion topic at a future meeting with Rec who can answer questions and educate – Samara).

**2:50 PM**      **Close-out discussion**

**Megan Harper:** *Thank you so much to those applicants that had a wholistic view of the funding, understanding how many projects there were for funding and being willing to tell the RAC their least amount to still get good work accomplished and how flexible their budget was. It helped the RAC make tough choices and make the process smoother.*

**Samara:** *Appreciate what everyone contributed to over the past few days. This process takes a village, thank you Village.*

**Heather:** *We appreciate all the work done before the meeting. There's lots of projects to read through. Everyone did their homework, and the process went smoothly. Looking forward to in person field trips. If there's anything that pops up (feedback, process, ideas, topics) please reach out anytime.*

**2:50 PM**      **Adjourn (Heather Whitman)**

