

**Notes**  
**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council Meeting**  
**August 12, 2024**

**Monday, August 12, virtual meeting:**

**RAC members,** Brett Seward, Alison Cole, Tom Batty, Stan Sheperdson, Michael O’Casey, Mary Jo Hedrick, Joe Tague, Mark Salvo, Tom O’Leary, James Williams, Kristen Shelman, and Don Hodge

**Agency representatives:** Designated Federal Official/Lakeview District Manager Todd Forbes; Lisa McNee, Lakeview PAO/RAC coordinator; and Mary Goodin, notetaker.

**Public:** None

Called to order at 9:07 a.m.

This was a special meeting for the RAC to decide on what or if to comment on the [Lakeview Resource Management Plan Amendment](#).

Todd had opening remarks and ground rules.

3 primary issues to discuss:

- Lands with Wilderness Characteristic Management
- Off-highway Vehicle Allocation/Designation
- Livestock Grazing Management

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristic Management**

Mary Jo Hedrick – [Presented an idea via Powerpoint for group discussion](#).

BLM’s Alternative C Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Management. [Map W-4 Proposed Lands Managed for Wilderness Characteristics - Alternative C](#)

- Category C: 26 & 4 partial areas protected (green) (411,033 acres ~12%)
- Category B: 71 & 2 partial areas balance (purple) (1,161,199 acres ~36%)
- Category A: 5 & 3 partial areas not-protected (orange) (74,529 acres ~2%)
- No new WSA recommendations

Recommend Supporting Alternative C LWC Management.

1. Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention) for Category C & B LWCs.
2. Excludes Major ROW, Solar & Wind Category C LWCs.
3. Avoids Minor ROWs within 98% of LWCs.

4. Establishes 300' (paved & gravel) & 100' (natural surface) Category C boundary road setbacks.
5. Excludes Major ROW, Solar & Wind within 300' & 100' Category C boundary road setbacks.
6. Visual Resource Management Class II for Category C LWCs & Class III for Category B LWCs.
7. Locatable minerals (e.g., metals, gemstones, lithium & uranium) open to mining subject to UUD (unnecessary or undue degradation) in all Category LWCs.
8. Leasable minerals (e.g., oil, gas, geothermal) "No Surface Occupancy" in portions of Category C LWCs.
9. Excludes salable minerals development (e.g., sand & gravel) in Category C LWCs.

A "straw poll" was held to see if members agreed on recommended supporting Alternative C. – there was not a quorum to support.

#### Mary Jo Hedrick – Recommended Modifications to Alternative C LWC Management

1. Exclude minor ROW from 100' set back from natural surface Category C boundary roads.
2. Exclude Major ROW, Solar & Wind from Category B LWCs.
3. Exclude salable minerals development (e.g., sand & gravel) from Category B LWCs.
4. Exclude surface occupancy for leasable minerals from entire Category C & B LWCs.
5. Analysis withdrawing locatable mineral development in WSA & Category C LWCs.

Discussion continued.

Kristen Shelman had some questions on "setbacks."

Several members, including James Williams and Kristen Shelman recommend changing the word "Exclude" to "Avoid" in BLMs Alternative C.

Tom O'Leary does not support Alternative C.

Michael O'Casey would like to recommend #2 saying "Avoids" and remove #5 from recommendation.

Mary Jo Hedrick and Mark Salvo do not support changing #2 to "Avoids". Recommends removing #2 and #5 from the RAC recommendations.

Another "straw poll" was held to see if members agreed on recommended supporting Alternative C with changes to #2 and #5 to say "Avoid" instead of "Exclude" – there was not a quorum to support.

A motion was made by Michael O’Casey and seconded by James Williams to Remove #2 and #5 from the RAC recommendation to support Alternative C Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Management – there was not a quorum to support.

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Descent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Joe Tague	Thomas O’Leary	
Allison Cole	Brett Seward	
Michael O’Casey		
Mary Jo Hedrick		
Mark Salvo		
Don Hodge		
Stan Shepardson		
Kristen Shelman		
Thomas Batty		
James Williams		

Break from 11:15 to 11:30 a.m.

**Off-highway Vehicle Allocation/Designation**

Michael O’Casey – Presented his recommendations on Off-highway Vehicle Use

BLMs Alternative C:

1. Motorized vehicle use limited to existing or designated routes across the planning area.
2. Prohibits cross country travel (exception for livestock permittees).
3. Maintains special recreational permits in all Category LWCs.
4. Maintains motorized vehicle use closure in Fossil Lake ACEC.
5. Maintains motorized vehicle use to designated routes in Lost Forest RNA & ISA.
6. Maintains mule deer winter range seasonal motorized vehicle closure.

Michael O’Casey recommends Supporting BLMs Alternative C with the following modifications:

- Allow continued motorized vehicle cross country use within the designated Sand Dunes WSA area.
- Implement additional measures (i.e., enforcement, signage & interactive maps) to exclude cross country travel in the Fossil Lake ACEC & Lost Forest RNA & ISA.
- Clarify exception for motorized travel access for emergency fire suppression, including cross country travel in closed or limited areas for certified members of local Rural Fire Protection Associations.
- Initiate travel management planning as soon as possible.

Discussion:

Tom O’Leary would like to see permittees and their employees added to bullet three (above.)

Brett Seward asked for clarification on roads.

A motion was made by Michael O’Casey and seconded by Don Hodge to recommend BLMs Alternative C with the suggested modifications –a quorum supports.

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Descent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Joe Tague		
Allison Cole		
Michael O’Casey		
Mary Jo Hedrick		
Mark Salvo		
Don Hodge		
Stan Shepardson		
Kristen Shelman		
Thomas Batty		
James Williams		
Thomas O’Leary		
Brett Seward		

A motion was made by Michael O’Casey and seconded by Mary Jo Hedrick to extend this meeting to 1 p.m. - Motion PASSED.

### **Livestock Grazing Management**

Joe Tague – Recommended Modifications Alternative C Grazing Management Rangeland Health Standards

1. Maintain current grazing management.
2. Modify if a pasture/allotment is not meeting Rangeland Health Standards due to current grazing to include adjusting grazing management in addition to removal of grazing.
3. Clarify the process to monitor and assess when Rangeland Health Standards are met or making significant progress to resume grazing.

Brett Seward – had issues with voluntary relinquishment. Specifically, that the BLM tells permittees when and where to graze. Why would BLM hold permittees accountable?

Mary Jo Hedrick – Does not support Alternative C. She wants to maintain current grazing standards.

Thomas O’Leary – Supports Alternative A.

A motion was made by Thomas O’Leary and seconded by Kristen Shelman to recommend Alternative A in relations to Range Land Heath. – there was not a quorum to support.

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Descent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Joe Tague	Mark Salvo	Thomas Batty
Michael O'Casey		Allison Cole
Mary Jo Hedrick		
Don Hodge		
Stan Shepardson		
Kristen Shelman		
James Williams		
Thomas O'Leary		
Brett Seward		

Discussion continued.

Mark Salvo – Wants to support Alternative C with the relinquishment options. He is concerned that the most recent assessment do not show good trends in range land health.

Mary Jo Hedrick – Recommended Modifications to Alternative C Grazing Management Voluntary Grazing Permit Relinquishment

- Implement voluntary grazing permit relinquishment program anywhere in the planning area as described in Alternative D
- Continue to accept voluntary relinquishments of grazing permits/leases.
- Evaluate allotment to determine management:
  - Create reserve common allotment,
  - Grazing to meet vegetation or fuels management objectives,
  - Designate area as unavailable to livestock grazing,
  - Allocate forage to another resource.
- If a permit is voluntarily relinquished within existing 202 WSAs grazing would be reduced or eliminated for the life of the plan.
- There are 406,250 acres (~12% of the planning area) of WSAs that could potentially become reduced or unavailable for livestock grazing.

A “straw poll” was held to see if members agreed on recommended supporting Alternative D as it relates to voluntary grazing permit relinquishment – there was not a quorum to support.

### **Lands with Wilderness Characteristic Management**

Before the 1 p.m. cut off time, the RAC decide to return to the Lands with Wilderness Characteristics discussion.

A motion was made by Mary Jo Hedrick and seconded by Mark Salvo to support the Map W-4: Proposed Lands Managed for Wilderness Characteristics - Alternative C – there was not a quorum to support.

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Descent</b>	<b>No longer on call</b>
Joe Tague	Thomas O'Leary	Brett Seward
Michael O'Casey		
Mary Jo Hedrick		
Don Hodge		
Stan Shepardson		
Kristen Shelman		
James Williams		
Mark Salvo		
Thomas Batty		
Allison Cole		

James Williams – Supports the map but is concerned about Diablo WSA and access.

We reviewed the meeting notes.

Mark Salvo will draft the RACs recommendation letter and send out for review.

Next meetings: September 24 and 25 RAC meeting in Burns.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.