

RAC Field Trips (continued)

watershed. Title II monies have been used for designing a replacement structure, and construction has started on the new, fish-friendly design. Next stop was the Silver Lake Ranger District, where the RAC members were shown some of the fire rehabilitation work underway following the Silver and Toolbox fires of 2002. This is a busy area now, with the salvage of burned trees, aspen restoration, and hazardous fuel reduction projects underway. The RAC members all benefited from the opportunity to meet with Ranger Carolyn Wisdom and her staff in the field.



Paisley Weir Project field trip 2004

RAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2001-2004

- Gary Johnson
- Hank Mroczkowski
- Sherm Radtke
- Alan Withers
- Craig Ditman
- Fred Rasmussen
- Mary Baker
- Bill Duke
- Anita Ward
- Charles Wells
- Richard Brown
- Craig Bienz
- Clair Thomas
- Pete Talbott
- Jane O'Keeffe
- Steve West
- Don Gentry
- Susan Baker-Schloth



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What is the Fremont-Winema RAC?

The Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) was chartered by the Secretary of Agriculture as part of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. This RAC is a group of 18 Oregon citizens representing a broad range of viewpoints and experiences, all committed to improving relationships between those that use the National Forests and those who manage the forests.

The primary responsibility of the RAC is to recommend projects that improve watershed conditions on the Fremont-Winema National Forests, based on proposals generated by the Forest Service, landowners, non-profit groups, and the general public. This RAC has identified the following characteristics of what they consider to be high-quality projects:

- Provide long term watershed benefits
- Restore watershed conditions
- Be innovative, but not controversial
- Provide local jobs
- Exhibit collaboration through funding with partners
- Be cost effective and show effectiveness of design
- Meet the intent of the legislation

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Find us on the web at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/fremont/rac/index.html>

The Committee consists of 15 members from the following 3 categories...

Category One

- Organized labor
- Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle, commercial recreation
- Energy and mineral development
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area

Category Two

- Nationally- recognized environmental organizations
- Regionally or locally- recognized environmental organizations
- Dispersed recreation
- Archaeological and historical interests
- Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups

Category Three

- State elected office holders
- County or local elected officials
- American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas
- School officials or teachers
- Citizens representing the affected public at large

Putting Local People to Work at Ecosystem Restoration

Fremont-Winema National Forests

The Fremont-Winema National Forests cover 2.3 million acres of land in Klamath and Lake Counties. Our local population is traditionally quite connected to the land, with our livelihoods and recreational pursuits dependent on natural resources and the public lands that provide them.

This is a tremendously diverse landscape, from the Cascade Mountain peaks on the west to the edge of the desert and shrub steppes on the east, where the rivers run into the Great Basin of the interior west.

The people of southeastern Oregon live here, at least in part, because of this tremendous land-

scape – the resources it provides, the recreational pursuits it allows, the spiritual rejuvenation that open space provides.

Also counted among these resources are the financial resources that we can use to manage and restore these landscapes. The Title II program under the Secure Rural Schools Act provides a pool of dollars the public can help us decide how to spend on management of this land.

Our local Title II program on the Fremont-Winema National Forests has consistently been among the top three largest in the country.



Mt. McLoughlin



Photo of the Chewaucan watershed above Paisley

Title II Dollars– What They Mean for Our Counties



Putting Local People to Work

Each year, the Fremont-Winema RAC recommends projects for funding that put nearly \$3.0 million to work in Lake and Klamath Counties. This RAC places a high priority on projects that use the local workforce, have a long-lasting effect on the health of the land and the waters of southeastern Oregon, and are cost effective.

All the contracts using Title II dollars in Lake and Klamath Counties are advertised with local-preference language, meaning that the bidders on these contracts must show how they plan to hire and train local workers on these projects. As a result, 112 Title II contracts have been awarded, totaling 4.75 million to Klamath and

Lake county contractors over the past 3 years. Local contractors have been able to complete thinning projects, instream improvements, road closures, noxious-weed spraying, culvert replacement, seed collection, riparian plantings – the list goes on and on.

New Fremont-Winema RAC Members

The first three-year term of members of the Fremont-Winema RAC expired in January of 2005. New member recruitment was initiated in the summer of 2004 by the Fremont-Winema National Forests and Klamath and Lake counties, and in January of 2004 Under Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Mark Rey appointed 14 members, 5 of which are new, to our RAC. The new members of the RAC are:

Lani Hickey, Category 3, Citizens at Large. Lani works for the Klamath County Department of Public Works, and has been involved with the Title II program and the RAC through the Klamath County weed control program.

Al Switzer, Category 3 Replacement, Local or County Elected Official. Al is the new chair of the Klamath County Board of Commissioners, and as a replacement member will be ready to fill in if any of the Category 3 members should find it necessary to resign before the end of their term. Al takes the place of Susan Baker-Schloth.

Melvin Dick, Category 3, Local or County Elected Official. Melvin is a Lake County Commissioner and takes the place of Steve West on the RAC.

Fred Rasmussen, a previous replacement member, will be returning as a voting member in Category 1, representing Energy and Mineral interest. Fred lives in Aloha, Oregon and works for PacifiCorp as a Property Agent. Fred will be replacing Craig Ditman.

Jane O’Keeffe, is a returning RAC member, but is now taking a new position in Group 1, representing Commercial Grazing Interests. Jane previously held a position in Group 3 as a local or county elected official.

“I would like to thank the RAC for all of their hard work– they are a model of collaboration, and are a joy to work with.”

~ Bill Aney



RAC Field Trips

One of the most fulfilling (and fun) parts of being involved with the Fremont-Winema RAC is the chance to visit projects on the ground. The RAC sets aside two days each summer or fall to visit completed, proposed or ongoing projects in Lake and Klamath Counties.

Last summer, we spent one day on the Chiloquin Ranger District looking at several projects: a proposal to rebuild the Head of the Williamson Campground, a willow planting project on the Williamson River, a spring protection project at Buckhorn Springs, and the Chiloquin Community Fuels project near the Chiloquin town site. Ranger Rick Ragan and his

staff engaged in some far-reaching discussions with the RAC members about their projects, and we all came away with a better understanding of the issues facing the Chiloquin District and ways that the Title II program can address some of these issues.

We spent the second day, in Lake County, on the Paisley and Silver Lake Ranger Districts starting with a visit to the Paisley weir. This dam has provided water for irrigators since the early 1960’s, but effectively blocks the upstream movement of redband trout searching for their spawning grounds in the headwaters of the Chewaucan

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How to Propose a Project

Title II dollars can be used for a wide range of projects having a positive effect on the land, water, vegetation, and infrastructure of the National Forest lands in Klamath and Lake Counties. Even projects on private lands can be funded with Title II dollars, as long as the project benefits the resources on public lands.

Every spring, the Fremont-Winema National Forest calls for project proposals, and collects all of the proposals for consideration by the RAC. The RAC website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/fremont/rac/index.html>) contains a copy of the project proposal form, as well as background information, meeting notes and photos, etc.

The Fremont-Winema RAC is very supportive of innovative projects on both federal and private lands. If you have an idea about a project you’d like to propose, or have questions about the process, contact Bill Aney in Paisley at the Paisley Ranger District Office (541) 943-4401 or 3114 waney@fs.fed.us.

