



Notes for June 19, 2006 Fremont-Winema RAC

9:10 am Hank Mroczkowski, the chair welcomed the Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to their annual prioritization meeting. The RAC introduced themselves to visitors in the room.

Amy Gowan Designated Federal Official (DFO)

welcomed all who were present, summarized accomplishments since the January meeting, noted general housekeeping items, and then gave a short update on the status of SRS Re-Authorization which is still on the table of the House and Senate awaiting review.

Lani Hickey shared information she acquired regarding her knowledge of reauthorization from the Deschutes DFO, who had just returned from a trip to Washington D.C. He said there may be a one year emergency re-authorization.

Hank offered up his resignation from the RAC. His job is now relocated to the Portland, Oregon area. Nominations were made for the new chair.

Sherm nominated Gary Johnson, who respectively declined stating time conflicts as the reason for his decline.

Anita Ward nominated Sherm Radtke. Sherm also declined.

Melvin Dick nominated Pete Talbott to serve as chair for the 2007-2008 term. Gary Johnson seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed. The vote was taken and Pete Talbott was unanimously elected as the new Chair. Hank and Pete agreed that Pete would reside over the meeting beginning after the first break.

Bill Duke made a motion to approve the Jan. 5, 2006 meeting minutes. Anita seconded and the minutes were approved.

Karen Shimamoto, Fremont-Winema Forest Supervisor, addressed the RAC.

She expressed her appreciation to the RAC members for their diligent work in awarding millions of dollars to fund very worthy projects. *"Be proud of what you have done!"* Karen then presented awards to the RAC, as well as to Cindi and Amy, for their contributions.

Karen gave a brief *overview on the history of the Rural Schools Act of 2000*. The counties who now benefit from these dollars will struggle should we not see reauthorization. Title I dollars go to our schools and roads. Title III dollars are assigned to emergency services and other types of projects that have a great impact to our counties.

The option to sell public lands to fund this program has been laid out by this administration. These parcels of land slated for sale were identified some time ago. The barrier seems to stem from the fact that some of the lands identified in the sale fall in the eastern United States and most of the dollars would be going to the Western portions of the U. S.

Final note... stay tuned.

Karen awarded *Fred Rasmussen and Brett Johnson* with their letters of appointment from Mark Rey. She followed by reading a note to the RAC from Mr. Chuck Wells, who wanted to show his appreciation for the kind words of his fellow members. Chuck resigned last year for health reasons.

Amy Gowan, DFO and the RAC Coordinator, Cindi Nolan presented a brief *update to the RAC regarding the status of a few past projects*. Cindi reminded the group that a packet of reports were mailed to the RAC in May that summarized the progress of previously funded projects. At that time Cindi requested that the RAC contact her or Amy if they had specific questions.

An update was given on the funding level for the Lone Pine project funded in 2006. It is now fully funded with monies that have been returned to the pot for saving on various projects that came in under budget.

Ric Rine, Deputy Forest Supervisor, explained the process the Forest Program Managers used when they met in March to evaluate and prioritize proposals from internal proponents. He showed how they weighted projects according to the criteria set, and explained that high priority watersheds are determined by certain conditions on the ground. He reminded the RAC that this internal system was not expected to be used by the RAC and should only serve as context or as a reference, as needed, during caucusing and prioritization tomorrow.

Craig Bienz wanted to know how the Forest's process and criteria for identifying priority watersheds relate to the private projects being considered by the RAC and how they might fit in with the priority watershed and the criteria set by the program manager's team.

Amy answered by saying that the identification of priority watersheds by the Forests, and their associated watershed analysis, simply offers context for the RAC's evaluations and project funding priority

recommendations. Knowledge of the Forest's internal criteria may be especially useful if RAC members are interested in how a proposed project integrates into the restoration needs of the watershed as a whole.

Karen shared that it is the RAC's choice to use this information as they want. The importance is the benefit to the entire watershed. Watersheds share both private and public lands. The internal process in no way is meant to suggest bias of public lands over private land projects.

The following discussion regarding Ric's presentation revealed that there was consensus that the forest service priority watershed and internal review process provided important context for their decisions and that any project that had a significant positive impact on a watershed was a good project.

Project Proposals were reviewed and questions were asked of District Rangers and/or project proponents:

Bly

- *WK-01-702/FL-01-701 Barnes Valley Old Growth Projects both on Klamath and Lake County. Brian Watts - representative present for these projects.*

NEPA is complete. The funds are requested as it may be difficult to complete this work with only the forest appropriated dollars. Stands have developed an understory that would possibly create a crown fire should a fire break out. There are approximately 1 500 stems per acre.

Anita - cost per acre is different, why? Is the slashbuster more expensive than chainsaw treatment?

Brian will get the answer (next day answer was that 90% of acres on Klamath county side was treated by slashbuster in comparison to only 20% on Lake County side. Cost per acre for manual treatment is \$1.10/acre vs. \$301/acre for the slashbuster).

- *FK-01-703 South Fork Fuels - Brian Watt*

Anita is this old growth?

It is a little of both old growth and 2nd growth. This is a large project. There are no timber sales slated for this area.

Lakeview

- *FL-02-701 Cotton Wood Creek Phase 3 - Jimmy Leal*

We would like to raconteur and reconstruct the trail.

Pete- Couldn't trail and recreation dollars help with this?

Jimmy - we have some of those dollars but we still need the requested amount.

Craig Bienz - would you accept partial funding?

Jimmy - yes

NEPA is to be completed by July.

- *W-11-701 Three Creeks- Brian Watt*

Reduce stress on large trees. We may use commercial treatment at a later date.

Chiloquin

- *W-12-701 Lone Pine - Rick Ragan District Ranger*

Question: budget page, contract administration is higher on some of these projects. Why?

Brian Watt - Some projects have admin fees from forest appropriated dollars and on some projects we were not able to access those dollars.

Anita - in the Lone Pine area is this overstocking? Should you not overstock so we don't have to continually thin?

Rick - We are not over planting anymore.

Don Gentry - Cultural sites have to be identified and this increases cost.

Gary Johnson to Rick Ragan, Do you prefer crumb or an entire project funded? No real answer documented. But made the RAC is aware they will take partial funding on any of the projects and do what they can with the funds.

Gary - Do you stand by the ranking given the projects from the Forests program managers?

Rick - Yes

- *WK-12-702 Ninemile Natural Fuels and WK-12-703 Ninemile North Natural fuels*

Why the cost difference on these two.

Rick - they will be treated with different prescriptions.

External Lake County

- *E-L-701 Bridge Creek Juniper Thinning - Tom O'Leary*

330 Acres will be thinned/ 115 belong to the Forest Service.

NEPA will be complete Dec. 2006

Rick Brown - do you plan to change the management here so as not to regrow?

Tom- yes, we plan to continue with eradication.

- *E-L-702 Cottonwood Creek Watershed Restoration (phase 4) - Marci Shrader*

Anita - NCRS is doing the NEPA?

Marci - Yes, they have helped out a lot in Lake County.

- *E-L-703 Sycan Weir 2 - Craig Bienz*

Pete - Do you have matching funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)? Funds are still pending.

How many weirs are on this area? 3

Anita - do you have a special contractor in mind?

Craig - No, we are asking the expertise of the Fish and Wildlife on this.

What if OWEB denies your request for funds?

Craig – the regional representative says it has a great chance of getting approval.

Anita – No NEPA completed?

Craig – this is just a design and would not need the NEPA.

Lani – if this were funded, how would you fund the implementation?

Mary – why isn't the Nature Conservancy paying for this?

Craig – we are just looking for a design plan.

- *E-L-704 Sycan Weir 3 – Craig Bienz*

We believe that these weirs as they are now are impediments to fish movement. By changing them we will remove doubt that these fish can move through the system as they desire.

- *E-L-705 Paisley Town Weir – John Merwin*

We need these funds to complete rock structures and to build step pools.

The weir that we have been using will be removed this August. Oct. 14, 2006 we are having a barbeque for all the supporters of this project. Please plan on attending. The large woody debris was not really a problem.

Sherm – have all the RAC projects we have previously funded met their objectives?

John – Yes

Anita – The dollars requested for monitoring are high, will you accomplish this monitoring with the Paisley School, LCRI?

There was much discussion on the monitoring.

- *E-L-706 Chewaucan Monitoring – Jim Walls*

The group will offer training on how to use this information on the web site.

Anita – In the last five years is there anything significant to tell us?

Jim- Reports on old growth and sub soiling have come to the following conclusions ...

Old growth areas need to be thinned and treated.

Sub soiling may not be necessary.

Anita – how long do you need to do the monitoring?

Jim- Depends on what you're looking at.

Sherm – do you have a program or do you want to go out and do the monitoring?

Jim- Doing the monitoring.

Anita- Do you think you have too many plots?

Jim- Maybe, but we have narrowed it down to the data we need.

- *E-L-707 Trail #160 Maintenance – Keith Brown*

Is this Maintenance?

Keith – Yes, new trails on the areas that are totally eroded.

NW Youth Corp would not be able to fund this with out the Title II dollars.

Pete – Can you do this project in 4 weeks?

Keith – We will get it done even if it took more than four weeks.

Gary – what is the day use history on this area?

Carolyn Wisdom Silver Lake/ Paisley Zone Ranger – this is the highest trail use in this particular area.

- *E-L-708 Paisley School Certificate of Mastery – Mark Jeffery*

Pete – Equipment? Wouldn't you have some of this on hand? Such as hard hats?

Mark – yes, we would

Anita – Monitoring, is this redundant to the Chewaucan Monitoring?

Mark – no, a lot of ours will be done during the summer and the school year.

Melvin – What about transportation?

Mark – We are working on this with the FS.

Can you share personnel?

Mark – we accessed many specialists on the forest in the 2005 season, when we were previously funded.

- *E-L-709 Sycan Winter Rim Fence – Anna Kerr*

Anita – \$2160 for a coordinator? Yes, this is for COR and will be covered by the FS

\$1000 in-kind is from the watershed board.

Budget questions... [clarified on the second day...](#) [Marcy Shrader and Anna Kerr verified the landowners will share in the cost of the materials.](#)

External Klamath County

- *E-K-709 Sun Pass signs – Andrea Rabe*

Klamath County commissioners sent this project to Title II for funding.

NEPA how does this work on state lands? You could do the lowest level of EA if trail exists.

The trail already exists. The project is just to make the signs.

- *E-K-710 Lake of the Woods signs same as above... except this is to include placing the signs.*

Complete layouts are done.

Same questions as above project.

There was a comment made... these types of projects are usually exempt from the NEPA process.

- *E-K-701 Twenty One Reservoir bitterbrush planting –*

Steve Hayner was not present. Cindi will request answers from Steve before tomorrow's meeting.

Clair – After treating and burning the juniper in this area – doesn't bitterbrush come back?

[Steve says no, it does not just come back.](#)

- *E-K-702 Ish Tish Creek – Faye Weekly*

The property where this project is to be implemented may be repossessed. Can ODFW make the land owner do something on their own property? Faye- No

- *E-K-703 Native Grass, shrub and Forbs seed - Richard Roseberg*
We want to develop the technology to grow and produce native grass, shrub and forbs seed.
Karen – is anyone else doing this in Lake and Klamath County
Yes, but he wants to develop a better technology.
Anita – what kind of equipment will you need for seed cleaning?
Richard explained various types that could be used.
What is the shelf life of a seed cleaner? Approximately 40 years

Lakeview District – Brian Watt

- *FL-02-702 UTC Pre-commercial Thin*

No questions

- *FL-02-703 Stateline Pre-Commercial Thin and Fuels Treatment*

Brian Watt – Originally 1600 acres we are down to the last 136 acres.

Prices have increased before burning was \$120 an acre and thinning was \$290 an acre. Now it runs \$300 and up.

Chainsaw lop and scatter 3-5 years before treated.

\$40,000 is entirely for mechanical work.

- *FL-03-702 Paradise Creek Fish Passage – Dave Hogen*

This is the number one priority culvert replacement on the forests.

Pete – Was it after Dairy Creek was completed that this became the #1 culvert for replacement?

Dave – no, I think there was a push from OWEB and others to do the work in the Chewaucan watershed.

FYI: the RAC / title II dollars paid for the NEPA and the design for this project.

- *Carolyn Wisdom Update on Hager Mt Project from FY06 – Report from Gary Warburton (Cindi will make copies for RAC to view during the meeting the following day).*

A decision will have to be determined at that meeting to either return the funds to the RAC. Or to accept the new implementation plan from Gary to re enforce the fire line around that area.

- *E-K-704 Sycan Weir 6 fish passage*

There are eight partners – lots of supports

Pete – not a lot of financial partners

Craig – Fish and Wildlife (both state and federal) and the TNC

Anita – 45 miles does this include the other two weirs?

Craig – Yes

Gary – if the fish are going down, aren't they going up?

Anita – monitoring is high

Craig – we (the TNC) have already spent \$30,000 just in radio transmitters and we will be putting in another \$80,000.

- *E-K-705 Upper Williamson Species Enhancement – Dannette had car trouble and was unable to attend (Kent Russell will take questions to Dannette).*

Anita – didn't we agree the 1000's of willow didn't work?

Anita – monitoring is high

Anita – Can not read the word on the picture

- *E-K-706 Klamath River Weed Eradication*

Lani – NEPA would be difficult and expensive (aprox. \$50,000)

In lea of funding this would we fund doing an inventory?

They cannot tier off of Fish and Wildlife's EA.

Anita wants Collins Products as a participant.

- *E-K-707 Crane Creek Headgate – Shannon Peterson could not be in attendance as she had conflicts in her schedule.*

Who is paying for the monitoring? Fish and Wildlife

Connectivity is difficult on the west side

- *E-K-708 Mike Love Sprague River Channel Stabilization – Mike Love was not in attendance as he was not aware of the meeting (There was a mis-communication between parties). Kent Russell spoke to this project*

Kent Russell – Mike just wants to do good things for the area.

NEPA – timeline would be difficult @ 12 months

Would have to do a stand alone EA.

Question as to when they would have the funds from Fish and Wildlife for the NEPA.

Chiloquin Ranger District – Rick Ragan

- *W-12-705 Road 5808-060*

RAC – Rating for this project really high from the Program Managers

Dave Hogen – this project just really met well with all the criteria.

- *W-12-706 PCT Plantation Rock and March*

Pete – a scatter group of block will it really make a significant difference?

Rick – Area's are adjacent to other projects.

- *W-12-707 Yosshouse natural Fuels*

Had a commercial thin and harvest and this is just to clean up.

Sherm – continuation of an 06 project?

Rick – yes, I believe so

Funded in 06 for \$1 61,000

Anita – would you take partial funding?

Rick – yes

Klamath District – Rick Ragan

- *WK-13-701 Rock Creek large Wood*

#1 Internal Rating from Program Managers

Gary – is it necessary to use a helicopter rather than in stream excavator?

Dave Hogen / Rick Ragan – The area is an extreme area to get into and you don't have to rip up the bank.

Anita – who is the owner of the property?

Dave – Dr. Winter of Red Stream Ranch, but the project will occur on all FS land

Rick – if we can secure the part on FS land by reserving the sediment. When they start work below on private land it will be more stable.

- *Forest Wide both lake and Klamath County WK-0-701 and FL-0-701 Forest Road Danger Trees – Rich Kehr*

Rich Kehr – Funding to treat the road miles to RAC funded projects. Keeping access open to get to these project work areas.

Back log of work is significant – therefore we are trying to find funding through the Title II dollars to assist us in getting caught up.

Melvin – Isn't there a dollar value to any of these trees?

Rich- We will be going through the process to evaluate that.

Pete- If we have 1200 miles, aren't you going to be jumping around to just do 230 miles?

Rich – We have listed roads leading to the RAC project areas. We would do these roads with Title II dollars.

Pete- What is the window before you have to start shutting roads down?

Rich – we are trying to deal with this aggressively so as not to have to close roads/ Closing roads would cause a public uproar.

Some could be done with timber sales and maybe some can be salvaged.

Pete – again, when would you have to close these roads?

Rich – a year maybe two

Pete – Would that stop Forest Service Administration work?

Rich – yes, if we can't provide safe access to the forest we would have to close the roads.

Clair- how big is a tree to be hazard?

Sherm – There are many dangerous tree along the trails as well. Why are they able to hike them?

Fred – if you could bring in revenue from the sale of these trees – would that be returned to the RAC (Title II)?

Rich – we are looking at stewardship contracting, but they are not in place now.

We could remove the trees just on the Lakeview district now (we are ready).

Gary – A lot of the trees are too far gone to be merchantable. Maybe less than 50% we could get salvageable material out of.

Gary – Suggestion to the Forests... Get on a salvage program when the trees are still merchantable.

- *Discussion on WK-0-702 and FL-0-702 Noxious Weed Suppression Projects - both Lake and Klamath Counties.*

Group in favor of these projects.

There was no public in attendance so there was no comment period needed

Adjourned @ 4:30.

Note: Karen Shimamoto entered the room after leaving for a conference call after the meeting was adjourned. She answered questions about the Regional Danger Tree policy and said that roads could be closed if determined not to be safe due to existence of unmanaged hazard trees.