



Fremont–Winema Resource Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2004

**Present:**

*Alan Withers  
Anita Ward  
Bill Duke  
Chuck Wells  
Clair Thomas  
Craig Ditman  
Don Gentry  
Gary Johnson  
Hank Mroczkowski  
Mary Baker  
Pete Talbott  
Sherm Radtke  
Craig Bienz  
Bill Aney*

**Absent:**

*Jane O’Keeffe  
Steve West  
Susan Baker-Schloth  
Fred Rasmussen  
Rick Brown*

**Guests:**

*Carolyn Wisdom  
Jim Walls  
Steve Mooney  
Joy Augustine  
Amy E. Thrasher  
Gary Hennings*

The FY05 Project Proposal Review Meeting was held on June 10-11, 2004 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The June 10 meeting was held at the Forest Supervisor’s office at 2819 Dahlia Street, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

RAC Chair Chuck Wells called the meeting to order at 10:00am

**Agenda review and Housekeeping:**

The RAC approved the agenda, and reviewed minutes from the July 2, 2003 meeting. Minutes were amended to show that stunts are working with

Clair on the Drews Watershed Monitoring Project, not the Chewaucan.  
Chuck

Clair Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes for July 2-3,2003 as amended.

Hank Mroczkowski seconded the motion, it was passed.

Craig Bienz was introduced to the committee as a new Replacement member, Group 2.

**Old Business:**

***Project summaries 2002,2003, and 2004.***

Bill handed out copies of the updated status of all project previously recommended by the RAC, showing the name of the contractor as requested by the committee.

There are 119 projects. Of these, 84 are awarded, 35 are in prep. Of the awarded projects, 67 are to local contractors.

Bill mentioned it is difficult finding local thinning contractors.

The Guzzler Maintenance project from 2002, unable to work on this project as it has been too dry. Bill will talk to the person in charge of the project.

Bill informed the committee that the 5% they allowed over the contracts, has not been used.

Bill, Overhead rate of 3.8% off the top will not change this year. This translates into approximately \$115,000 that the Forest Service uses for administration of the Title II program. Bill gave the committee a break down of the overhead budget.

A group from the RAC traveled to Reno for the national convention, and travel expenses were covered by National Forest funds, not Title II.

Change to the *Charter* the name is ***Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Council.***

Bill presented to the RAC a proposal for changing the bylaws. The change would allow a member who had to miss a meeting to designate another member to vote in their place.

Discussion:

Clair Thomas felt if members aren't here, they shouldn't be able to vote.

Pete Talbott felt that at least you would be able to move forward if this bylaw was amended.

Chuck Wells stated that if a member is absent and missed the discussion that they shouldn't be allowed to vote.

The committee wanted to keep pushing for the replacements to be used in case there was a lack of quorum.

Hank Mroczkowski mentioned that, Page 5 of the bylaws read that if a member missed two meetings (unexcused) they could be excused from the RAC.

Pete Talbott moved to adopt the bylaw amendment, that if a member was unable to attend the meeting they could still vote by proxy.

Hank seconded the motion.

There was more discussion regarding absenteeism and meeting the quorum. *The amendment is passed 7-3. Chuck Wells signed the original and it was entered into the records.*

#### Update on Projects

Winter Rim Salvage Project: Bill informed the group that the decision was appealed by the ONRC, citing roadless areas as their reasoning.

The appeal was finally settled out of court by dropping the northern 25% of the project. This was agreeable to the ONRC.

The Toolbox EIS sold sales are in court, with a request for a temporary restraining order. The judge has not issued his decision.

Gary Johnson gave an update on the logging progress on the Winter Salvage project.

Clair Thomas would like to visit this area when it is complete. (Field trip)

Break.

11:15 meeting was resumed.

#### **New Chair elections.**

Hank Mroczkowski nominated Bill Duke.

Clair Thomas seconded.

Anita Ward nominated Pete Talbott.

Pete declined.

Clair Thomas made a motion to close nominations.

Gary Johnson seconded.

The committee elected Bill Duke by acclamation.

*Bill Duke is the new Chair.*

## **On Going Projects**

### *Lake County Resource Initiative- Jim Walls and Clair Thomas*

Project is now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> season, as of the middle of May, were 300 plots established.

At the request of the Forest Service, Richard Hart provided an analysis of the coil compaction data collected by this project as a way of evaluating the effectiveness of subsoiling. The report concludes by recommending that subsoiling be abandoned as a method of reducing soil compaction in skid trails.

The monitoring project would like to make their data easier for the general public to understand. At this time they are trying a new mapping system. The monitoring crew is down by three from the original crew, but they have hired one new member and will try it with this crew. They are trying to get more kids involved but no one from North Lake or Paisley applied for the ASE program, which is used as a source of employees for the monitoring program. Clair assured the group he would continue to pursue hiring kids from all areas of the county. Could use some good contacts.

Clair explained to the committee how the questions asked by the Forest Service are being answered.

There was much discussion on how the monitoring should be done and the data should be presented.

Bill Aney explained you cannot have the Forest Service and a Project Group both monitor the same project and the design wasn't to tell the Forest Service what to do but to inform the public.

Clair shared that four projects in the science fair used the data from this study and that \$70,000 worth of scholarships were awarded because of this.

### *Paisley Weir Project – Update by John Merwin*

Project is moving along; the LCRI has stepped up and is helping out.

Engineering is about done, final plans expected in 10 days. Oregon

Department of Fish and Wildlife has had a lot of input. Have about \$33,000 left of the \$133,000 Title II monies for engineering and design.

NEPA will be complete in 3 weeks. Department of State Lands permit almost done.

Received no negative public input.

ODOT has agreed to furnish the rock.

Pete Talbott, “when this is done will you have fish in the upper Chewaucan?”

Answer, “ Yes.”

John informed the group they would need more money to finish. There is a FY05 Title II proposal for construction.

*Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch Break*

**Evaluation of '04 Proposals: Klamath County, Bly, Lakeview, Paisley and Silver Lake R.D.**

**Public Proposals – Q/A Session**

**Jim Walls** E-L –502, Video Monitoring For the RAC

There was much discussion on what a great tool this would be to educate the public on the RAC and what it is doing.

**Roland Gangstee** E-K- 501 Work Camp

E-K-502 Restoration/ Corrections (feeding of crews)

Roland explained to the group that Title III dollars could not cover these projects as they are asking for equipment items. These are not covered under Title III.

There was a typo correction on the budget revision page it should read \$5641.30 not \$541.30.

It was suggested by Anita Ward that we take a tour of the area next fall, maybe for one of the field trips.

**Lani Hickey** E-K- 504 Klamath County Weed Mapping

This project would create a mapping data system for noxious weeds.

They are requesting a server, software and maintenance.

The committee asked questions regarding the use, and who would have access to the information also the cost of a server.

**E-K 505 Map Noxious Weeds on County Roads**

Need one employee May – September, with materials to travel the roads throughout the county and map the noxious weeds.

Discussion on how the information would be used.

The \$15.00 per hour for the employee – the group wanted to know if this was justified.

Laney assured them that they were seeking someone qualified to do the job at that rate, someone who would not require training.

**Bill Aney for Rick Ragan** W-K-11-501 Highway 138 Fuel Reduction

There was discussion on the cost per acre. Bill explained that with piling there is always more expense. The group inquired about chipping. It is agreed that utilizing anything is a good idea.

**The committee reiterated the request for more maps with the projects!**

W-K 11-502 Cub Scout Ladder Fuels

Similar project to the last one. No merchantable product as this is cleanup after the sale.

W-K- 11-503 Jack Creek Meadow Restoration

Much discussion about what habitat is to be improved.

W-K-11-504 Middle Jack Old Growth

This one has a possibility of stewardship. Merchantable product should offset the project costs.

With both of the above projects there was discussion about what is the best method - burning slash or leaving.

W-K 11-505 Three Buttes Ladder Fuel

This is to finish up a project. Discussion, good project.

**Steve Mooney** W-K-12-501 Airstrip Riparian Meadow

FY05 NEPA planning

FY06 implementation

W-K-12-502 Lone Pine PCT Plantation

Precommercial thinning.

Better to do it now than wait as to avoid the similar occurrences as the Winter and Silver fires.

W-02-306 Bayhouse Fuels Harvest

Reintroduce fire to 500 acres, trying to break up fuels, to avoid another large fire.

WK-12-401 Hog Creek Meadow

Request for implementation. Want to get water back out into meadow.

WK-12 –406 Rosie Natural Fuels Mechanical

Removal of small material, prep work to reintroduce fire.

WK-12-503 Rosie Natural Fuels Underburn

Are trying to get contractors to do the underburn, so far have used the Forest Service and the BLM.

WK-12-504 Yosshouse Natural Fuels

NEPA is complete

Burning treatments contracted.

W-2-301 Thousands and Thousands of Willows

Stabilize banks.

Establish vegetation.

Cooler water.

\$10,000 to finish the project.

WK-12-405 Hog Mill Riparian and Aspen Enhancement

Need to do this in small portions.

WK-12-403 Ladder Fuel Reduction

Same conditions as Rosie.

Not enough money to pay for the work.

Chuck Wells asked if the Forest Service would ever catch up with the fuel loading workload.

Steve answered when you look at the acreage, there is more work than money or time to do it, but we are going in the right direction. We want to break up the forest, so we don't lose everything in a large wildfire.

W-2-005 Head of River Restoration

This project needs to be done. Has always been a request but never done.

**Joy Augustine** WK-13-501 Southgate/ Scoria

Fuels reduction- would like to partner with Crater Lake National Park.

Same ground, whip-falling, thinning, and burning.

If the committee accepts this project make it a priority in FY06.

W-13-402 Rocky Point Community Fuels

Cost of contracting going up.

**Amy Thrasher-Gibson** FK-01-502 Barnes Valley Old Growth and Forest Restoration

Prices are higher because the ground is steeper.

Fuel reduction in old growth stands.

NEPA should be completed by the end of summer.

Higher cost because of steep terrain.

**Bill Aney** FL -02-501 UTC Thinning Understory

Cutting trees too small to be merchandisable.

3-year project.

Can fund any portion.

Discussion resulted in a unanimous belief from those participating more needs to be harvested.

**Bill Aney for Mike Nevill** F-3-005 Native Plant Prop/ Culture

100#'s of pounds of grass seed available now.

Two out-plantings, with more this year in the Paisley seed orchard. Will use an herbicide against weeds.

If the CAM project were funded would like to do willows as well.

Mike is trying to use local farmers to grow seed.

FL-03-501 Happy Camp

Unpaved road from Happy Camp to Dairy Camp saturated certain times of the year.

Would like to raise the road and change a couple of small culverts.

Save on maintenance.

FL-03-401 Aspen/ Meadow Enhancement

Previously funded a portion of this project.

Juniper old growth will not be removed. The NEPA for this project includes a good, comprehensive definition of old growth juniper.

The juniper will be cut and then later burned, putting the area in condition for a prescribed burn at a large scale.

**Carolyn Wisdom** FL-04-501 Toolbox Reforestation

Because of the fires from 2002, there is a need to restore areas burned so severely that there is no seed left.

Plant at low-end density.

Plant near streams, adjacent to but not in riparian areas

The project will encompass up to 2000 acres, but any portion of the requested funding will help.

There was a lot of discussion regarding the urgency in this project and the importance of the planting.

#### FL-04-502 Woodpecker Monitoring

Before the fire they monitored two woodpeckers, since the fire 33 have been spotted.

This is optimal habitat. Would like to preserve it to study.

This study has already begun and when it is complete the data will be published.

#### FL-04-503 Silver Creek Large Woody Debris

The fire of 2002 eliminated the woody debris in the streams and on the banks. Project to replace debris on a six-mile stretch. 50 to 100 structures primarily in Silver Creek.

#### FL-04-504 Silver Fire Riparian Restoration

Areas burned so hot that the vegetation is not returning.

7-10 acres of willow planting.

FFA in North Lake County is active in this project.

#### **Bill Aney for Sarah Malaby F-0-001 Noxious Weed Suppression**

In Lake County we have overwhelmed the contractor.

Need for an additional contractor, as there is much more to do on this.

They are collecting data, using a GPS to permanently track the noxious weed locations

#### **Bill Aney for Mark Nigh WK-0-502 Plant Material Collection**

Tens of 1000's of individual plants now growing in the IPA nursery.

#### W-0-002 Noxious Weed Suppression

Same as Noxious Weeds for Klamath

E-L-501 Thomas Creek Flow Information (Bob Squires not present for this project)

Measuring stream flow and temperature, would like to hire a high school student to help.

Group discussion; is there enough work to justify hiring help?

E-L-502 Certificate of Advanced Mastery

Paisley school would like to do a CAM in Natural Science and would use these funds to have a natural resources crew working on the National Forest Use for monitoring the Weir and other projects.

This would replace the YCC crew currently run by the Paisley RD.

E-L-505 Abatement of Non Native Plants- Sycan Marsh (TNC)

Contract with Forest Service to treat thistles and canary grass.

Formally had 7 weed species, now down to 3.

The weeds previously sprayed are gone but new ones have been spotted.

E-L-506 Forest Restoration and Monitoring

Bird monitoring - response to fire.

TNC paid for thinning and burning.

Project is split in two along county lines.

Data would be useful across both forests.

### **Items for the next RAC round of project proposal evaluation**

*Chuck Wells suggested that maybe the committee should award at least half on some of the larger projects rather than rating them low because of the requested dollars and not funding them at all.*

*Clair mentioned that the committee had suggested a check off box for projects that would take partial funding.*

*Anita Ward suggested a public access link from the Forest Service site to the Chewaucan monitoring project. Bill Aney assured her this could be done.*

*RAC wants Table 1 (cost analysis) to show only the money being requested in this fiscal year.*

Meeting adjourned @ 4:30 pm