

# Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee

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## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 29, 2015

**Time:** 09:00 am

**Location:** Deschutes National Forest Headquarters  
63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, Oregon

### **Attendees:**

Ed Keith	John Allen	Woody Starr
Shane Jeffries	Valerie Maxwell	Elly Young
Ken Fahlgren	Erik Fernandez	Teresa Kubo
Marilyn Miller	Paul Anderson	Beth Peer
Nancy Gilbert	Dave Elpi	Lauren DuRocher
Chuck Arnold	Dana Whitelaw	Jerry Hubbard
Carl Backstrom	Garth Fuller	Adele McAfee
David Stowe	Carol Benkosky	Gery Ferguson
Dennis Oliphant	Beth Peer	

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This is the first meeting of the PAC since the new charter was approved in May 2015. Many of the members are new to the committee, so the purpose of the meeting was to get to know one another, become familiar with the purpose and principles of the PAC, and to begin identifying where the committee would focus their work over the next year.

John Allen provided a welcoming message to the committee, describing the area the PAC covers and providing general information about its inception and accomplishments over the years. Challenges ahead for this landscape that the PAC could help shape: Landscapes with fire and hazardous fuels; population growth (Deschutes is fastest growing county in Oregon) puts stress on delivering amenities including recreation; and climate change which shapes how we think about managing landscapes.

After a brief review of the PAC's history, the group reviewed the Purpose and Principles of the PAC, most recently described in 2007. Some small additions are made in the text and the document is now dated 9/29/2015. Please let Beth know of any concerns with the way the document was edited. Many in the groups reiterated the importance of partnerships.

### **Focus Areas**

The intent is to identify three or four topics or issues that can be taken up over the next 12 to 18 months. Subcommittees and working groups will typically be formed to work on details, bring information back to the larger group.

Overall thoughts on identifying focus areas:

- Consider a mix of project scale and type.
- Don't jump to solutions before fully fleshing out the problem.
- Structure topics so that work/projects can be scaled to Forest Plan revision.
- Use best available science, tools, and analysis methods available.
- Connect to collaboratives already in place. Identify overlap, leverage or build on their work.
- Review past work to ensure we're not reinventing the wheel on any process already in place.
- Define terms (e.g. "sustainable recreation").

Include both tangible projects that can be completed and broad scale policy projects for the long term.

Think "base hits" vs. "home runs."

### **Sustainable Recreation**

Forest Service perspective: sustainable recreation has social, environmental, and economic goals. The Forest has seen an increase of visitation; there is an opportunity to shape the future for the Ochoco NF and get out ahead of the curve and also help the Deschutes NF catch up. Some items are in need of more immediate attention such as sustainable trails, wilderness campsites, etc., while other issues are longer term.

Need to identify "sustainable" with a common definition so that we are all discussing the same thing (e.g. there are ecological, economic, and social sustainability).

Sustaining the landscape: tie together useful products for the forest Service to scale up to Forest Plan revision.

- Develop principles that can apply to smaller scale projects.

Landscape recreation use planning

- Use mapping: where, type, how much, etc.
- Include other recreational uses such as hunting and wildlife viewing, rural community use.

Public/Private partnerships

- Fostering those partnerships and bridge gaps between groups.

Past work on the topic (e.g. Green Lakes)

- Beth will pull up all records and try to summarize prior to next meeting.