

**Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee
June 10, 2011 Meeting Notes**

NEXT MEETING DATE: JULY 22, 2011

Attendees: George Ponte, ODF; Kreg Lindberg, OSU; Boyd Wickman, PNW Research Station; Bonnie Lamb, DEQ; Molly Brown, BLM; Nancy Gilbert USFW; Chuck McGrath, Grazing Permittee; Clay Penhollow, CTWS; John Allen, DNF; Michael Mouzong, RO; Garth Fuller, TNC; Glen Ardt, ODFW; Mollie Chaudet, DNF; Michael Keown, DNF

Agenda:

0900-1000 – Greetings, reintroductions, round robin

1000-1100 – Subcommittee Updates

- Recreation
- Restoration
- Rechartering
- Travel Management Update

1100 – 1130 – Possible field visits this year - brainstorm list

1130 – 1150 – Open Public Forum

1150 – 1200 – Wrap up – logistics for next meeting July 22, 2011

Topic: New Charter

- A new PAC charter was approved on March 28, 2010 by the Department of Agriculture
- Four PACS were reauthorized; originally there were 12 PACS chartered under the NWFP.
- The charter is approved for a 2-year period. The purpose and scope is the same.

Topic: PAC Purpose and Principle (handout)

- Possibility to review the purpose and principles at a PAC retreat later this year. For now the PAC is guided by the existing statement.
- The PAC needs to insure that its activities are reflected in the key principles in the existing statement

Mollie leads a discussion of the key principles:

1) Information sharing/field visits to insure the PAC is up to date.

- 2) Collaboration facilitation. For example, Travel Management
- 3) Review of specific plans and provide comments
- 4) Provide connection to communities. For example the Tribes and the lower Deschutes. To ensure PAC participation
- 5) Monitoring of activities associated with the NWFP; help to start other collaborative efforts
 - The PAC needs to provide a forum to facilitate feedback between interested communities and provide efforts to meet the intent of 1-5 above.

Topic: Round-robin

Boyd Wickman

- Wanted an update on the status of the Lookout Mountain Research Project (EXF EIS done by the Bend-Fort Rock RD)
- John Allen gave an overview of the project. Federal court upheld FS decision. Project could go to the 9th Circuit Appeals Court. The litigation centered on NEPA issues: range of alternatives and cumulative effects and the fact that the project will cut trees in the 90-160 year old range; some groups do not want trees in this age range harvested. Boyd pointed out the area is used by 3 research Stations, 3 universities, and up to 15 research scientists.

Bonnie Lamb

- DEQ is involved in La Pine on the Ground Water Protection Committee. DEQ was working with the County around this issue. This effort that has a very long history. Latest effort is to use a citizen advisory committee; the goal is to provide protection of ground water quality and to develop recommendations. The issue is nitrate contamination of ground water. A meeting will be held June 15 at 6PM. DEQ will work with the citizen committee because the County could not arrive at a solution to the issue. Local citizens wanted more a more public process to resolve this issue. A web site is available.
- There will be a meeting on June 16 in Pendleton to develop new toxic rules for human health issues. The outcome would be a comprehensive set of rules. There will be an Environmental Quality Commission presentation.
- Blue green Algae: a toxic strategy has been completed. The question is how to move forward with this issue at Odell Lake? There is a data gap to completely understand this issue. Funding is needed to close the data gap.
- Started to do TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) modeling work on the Deschutes River(temperature modeling/Ph/dissolved oxygen/sediment)

Molly Brown

- Ongoing effort to conduct clean-up effort on the Burlington Northern site on the Deschutes River
- There is a vacancy for the River Manager position
- Energy applications are ongoing on the lower Deschutes River on private lands; hydro at Oak Springs and other wind energy sites.
- Cline Butte Vegetation Management Project: public meeting on June 27. Work is around Eagle Crest Resort.
- Cline Butte EA: received a grant; will install signs that define appropriate use; will use Heart of Oregon crews. An appeal is ongoing.
- Redmond Airport: Congressman Walden wants to use BLM lands for airport expansion.
- Canal trail; Redmond to Smith Rock State Park; some resource issues need to be resolved.
- BLM is working with the Deschutes Land Trust to conduct fuels reduction work. Will create partnership.
- District Herbicide EA; goal is to complete by 2012. EA will add the use of 13 new herbicides.

Nancy Gilbert

- Bull trout critical habitat designation; final rule has been issued. Currently redoing draft recovery plan for bull trout and northern spotted owl.
- Greater Sage Grouse: warrants TES status, will go to Candidate list. Will work with private land owners around this issue.
- Eagle Rule: new regulations for “take”; rule will define disturbance effects; provide guidance for wind generation projects and provide permit regulations for “take” including tribal use. The rule should provide for stable populations over time.
- Migratory Bird Populations: new regulations for wind turbine projects.
- Oregon Spotted Frog: Candidate species; USFW sued over time spent on candidate species list.

Chuck McGrath

- Provided an overview of grazing interests and restoration work he has completed on his ranch. Possible field trip to review restoration efforts. Money is available for partnerships.

Clay Penhollow

- Unemployment is about 60% of reservation. In “good times” unemployment is around 40%. A new casino will add up to 200 new jobs. Will open in 2012.

- Biomass with the NESCO; USFS and BLM as possible biomass sources.
- Tribal Telephone Company will add 20 jobs.
- Currently conducting a baseline survey on Forest and Range lands. A settlement agreement will provide \$30 million to fund this effort along with restoration crews.
- Tribe has a good leadership team at present. New modeling suggests that timber harvest needs to be at 30MMBF/year; mill needs 55MMBF/year to stay open.
- Cascade Crossing Transmission Line will cross reservation

Garth Fuller

- Energy related items: collaborative formed to look at energy and restoration issues in eastern Oregon; regulatory groups will look to the collaborative for guidance. Focus will be on shrub steep habitat (grouse) and energy site interactions. TNC offers resource overviews and mitigation measures for all species. TNC will develop a program of work for the collaborative to meet regulatory agency and conservation needs.
- TNC has a focus on the Upper Deschutes River and Crooked River flow study. TNC will conduct a water flow analysis (historic vs. current use patterns. Hope to have science guide policy decisions. Some concern over how information would be used in the political process.
- DOE is conducting a nation wide analysis for the installation of hydroelectric plants. Looking at Deschutes River. Study will look at new sites and restoration of old sites. DOE will adapt existing structures to provide clean energy. This should provide money for further restoration. Currently no USFS input. Will need BLM/USFS coordination. Garth will provide a follow-up.
- Ground Water Dependent Ecosystem Study: The study will identify wetlands/seeps/springs to refine ground water dependent biodiversity; will use remote sensing and existing data. Will also be ground truth mapping of modeling effort.

Glen Ardt

- Wolves and Ranching: OFW will implement wolf plan as written. Wolves will be killed if violation of plan guidelines.
- Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy: new mitigations are in place; involved the Associated Oregon Counties. Conflicts with sage grouse core habitat areas. Issue is conservation vs. economic growth. Oregon has intact sagebrush ecosystem compared to other areas.
- Young Property: 586 acres in the La Pine area. There is an application for development; development would fragment wildlife habitat. Deschutes land trust/USFW/OFW looking at how to manage area

George Ponte

- 100 anniversary of ODF

- State of Oregon: ODF funding restored/monitoring funding restored
- Central Oregon Fire Budget approved: normal staffing for fire season
- ODF Sisters Thinning Crew working with DNF: participatory agreement, ODF may have to provide soft money
- Senate Bill 360 would look at reevaluation of lands located within the WUI
- ODF concern over slash generated from juniper treatments; ODF needs to evaluate risks
- Gilchrist State Forest: more funding to acquire more lands; money for acquisition to purchase private lands to add to the state forest
- Doug Decker is the new state Forester

Kreg Lindberg

- Madison Conference: collaboration as an emphasis
- USFS Planning Rule: provided comments, planning rule benefits sustainable recreation
- Oregon State Parks: 10-year data collection for a state wide surveys

John Allen

Forest level issues;

- Water
- Recreation – PAC can help with this issue
Restoration: large scale landscape focus (PAC can help here too). Major topic for DNF staff
- Children’s Forest: emphasis on central Oregon environmental education for youth and adults. FS grant for coordinated approach to education. Need funding for coordinator, look for grant money. Work with NGOs and schools, goal is an educated citizenry
- IRA Budget: new integrated budget line item, Intent is integrated outcome for decisions

Topic: Subcommittee Updates

Recreation: John Allen

- Use PAC plus citizen advisory committee (working group under PAC) for sensing and understanding

Role:

1. Be strategic
2. Address rapidly developing issues

Future:

1. Produce sustainable recreation document to act as a framework for discussion
2. Forest Plan revision input (DNF possible target for Plan revision)

Restoration: Garth Fuller and Nancy Gilbert

(Three handouts)

- Deschutes Collaborative Forest landscape restoration: Project Overview
- PAC Recommendations to DNF on Forest Restoration
- Deschutes Skyline Collaborative Charter

Rechartering: Mollie Chaudet

- Five open positions on PAC
- Will advertize for open positions

Travel Management: Glen Ardt and Mollie Chaudet

- FEIS/ROD within next few months
- Map: focus on public education first year
- TOT forthcoming
- Travel Management Monitoring Subcommittee (handout)

Recreation and Restoration Subcommittees need to talk about possible field visit locations for the July field trip. Sanford Creek as potential fall visit.