

Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

October 31, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 2:45 PM (Pacific Time)

MEETING MINUTES

Each SRS RAC is established pursuant to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 as amended, 16 U.S.C. sec. 7125, hereafter referred to as the SRS RAC Act as amended; codified in Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334),, and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 10.

In accordance with the established provisions, the Wenatchee-Okanogan RAC convened for this public meeting on October 31, 2025. The meeting was held at the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters Office at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA and was open to the public/to join virtually via Teams Meeting or in person.

A *Federal Register* notice <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/16/2024-22666/wenatchee-okanogan-resource-advisory-committee> was published on October 16, 2024, providing general information and public participation details for the meeting. Meeting details were posted on the committee website: (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/okanogan-wenatchee/working-with-us/committees>) per the FRN.

Committee website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/okanogan-wenatchee/working-with-us/committees>

General inquiries: For status of meetings, information on how to become a member of the RAC, or other questions, please contact RAC Coordinator Robin DeMario by phone at 509-664-9292 or via email at robin.demario@usda.gov

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ACRONYMS

- **DFO** – Designated Federal Officer
- **USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture

MEETING AGENDA

Item #	Topic
1.	Welcome and one-minute review of agenda
2.	Opening Remarks and Introductions
3.	RAC Business
4.	Review of proposed projects/Deliberation/Voting on Proposed Recommendations/ Motions voting actions/results of voting procedure
5.	Public Comments
6.	Closing Remarks

MEETING ATTENDENCE

Quorum was met per Charter.

Committee Members			
Name	Category/Represented Industry	Attendance	Attendance Type
Al Murphy	Organized Labor or Non-Timber Forest Product Harvester Groups	Present	In-Person
Ken Tolonen	Federal Grazing Permit or other land use permit holders, or representative of non-industrial private forest land owners	Present	In-Person
Keith Schlemlein	Commercial Timber industry	Present	In-Person
Brandt Cappell	Energy and Mineral Development or Commercial or Recreational Fishing Groups	Present	Virtual
Sean Clarke	Developed Outdoor Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle User Groups, or Commercial Recreation Activities	Present	In-Person
Meghan Craig	Dispersed recreation activities	Present	Virtual
Powys Gadd	Archaeological and	Present	Virtual

	Historical Interests		
Brian Lawrence	Nationally Recognized Wild Horse and Burro Interest, Wildlife or Hunting Organizations, or Watershed Associations	Absent	Absent
Kevin Clements	Nationally Recognized Wild Horse and Burro Interest, Wildlife or Hunting Organizations, or Watershed Associations	Present	In-Person
Amy Ramsey	Affected public at large	Present	Virtual
Elisa Lopez	Affected public at large	Present	In-Person
Keith Goehner	State-Elected Office or County or Local-Elected Office	Present	In Person
Bruce Whitmore	Area School Officials or Teachers	Present	Via phone

USDA Staff			
Name	Position/Title	Attendance	Attendance Type
Tara Umphries	Forest Supervisor	Present	In-person
David Farmer	Deputy Forest Supervisor	Present	In-person
Victoria Wilkins	DFO/Public Affairs Officer	Present	In-person
Robin DeMario	Public Affairs Specialist	Present	In-person
Deborah Kelly	Public Affairs Specialist	Present	In-person
Sonja Hartmann	Partnership Coordinator	Present	In-person
Chris Furr	District Ranger	Present	In-person

General Audience	
Name	Position/Title
Josh Gewirtz	Project proponent
Amie Staggs	Project proponent
Larry Hudson	Project proponent
James DeSalvo	Project proponent
Allen Jircik	Project proponent
Jen Gradisher	Project proponent
Tony Craven	Project proponent
Nicky Pasi	Project proponent
Kelly Baraibar	Project proponent
Grant Golden	Project proponent

Landon Decker	Project proponent
Raymond Beaupre	Project proponent
Mark Teshera	Project proponent
Cole Denison	Project proponent
Helen Lau	Project proponent
Steve Baker	General public
Skip Franze	General public

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No written comments were received.

Comment from Mr. Franze with the Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Assoc. Mr. Franze shared that each year on the third weekend in September, his group volunteers to pick up trash from the forest. He asked how his group could help the Tonasket Ranger District remove the trash dumped there. He said his group could organize an operation to help pick up trash, they provide manpower, dumpsters, but the expensive item is disposal of tires.

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome

- Introductions of Committee members
- Welcome comments from Acting Forest Supervisor Tara Umphries and Deputy Forest Supervisor David Farmer
- Reviewed agenda
- Reviewed ethics statement
- Elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- Reviewed bylaws

Opening Remarks DISCUSSION/UPDATES TOPICS

The Wenatchee-Okanogan Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) convened for a meeting at 9 a.m. on October 31st, 2024, at the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters office, with an option to attend virtually via Teams meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a chairperson, hear monitoring reports from previous Title II project recipients, hear from Title II project proponents and discuss Title II project proposals, and make funding recommendations on Title II projects.

Addressing Public Comments

The entirety of the meeting was open to the public, with two public comment periods at 11:25 a.m. and at 1:40 p.m.

Deliberation/Voting

Discussion and prioritization of Okanogan County Title II projects

Chairperson Brandt Cappell: I call for a motion.

Kevin Clements: I move we approve project #2 Sno-Park Plowing for \$15,000, project #3 Road Maintenance for \$22,000, and project #9 Trash removal for \$8,000 to be fully funded.

Kieth Schlemlein: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed to fund the Sno-Park Plowing project for **\$15,000**; the Road Maintenance project for **\$22,000**; and the Trash Removal project for **\$8,000**.

Kevin Clements: I move that we fully fund project #8 Pasayten Trial Maintenance for \$45,094.

Al Murphy: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed to fully fund the Pasayten Trail Maintenance project at **\$45,094**.

Keith Schlemlein: I move that we fund project #5 Cub Creek Trailhead & Bridge Trailhead Toilet at \$50,000. If additional funds become available then it would be funded in full.

Kevin Clements: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Amy Ramsey: I move to table the discussion.

Al Murphy: I second.

Vote taken: Motion to table the motion passed.

Keith Schlemlein: I move we fully fund project #4 Okanogan County Weed Management for \$40,000.

Ken Tolonen: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Keith Schlemlein: I amend my motion to fund project #4 Okanogan County Weed Management at \$30,000.

Elisa Lopez: I second the amended motion.

Vote taken: Motion to fund Okanogan County Weed Management project at **\$30,000** passes.

Sean Clarke: I move to fully fund project #6 Twisp Front Country Trail Maintenance for \$44,903.

Amy Ramsey: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion failed.

Elisa Lopez: I move we fund project #6 Twisp Front Country Trail Maintenance project at \$32,000.

Kevin Clements: I second.

Vote taken: Motion passed to fund Project #6 Twisp Front Country Trail Maintenance project at **\$32,000**.

Amy Ramsey: I move we fully funding project #5 Cub Creek Trailhead & Bridge Trailhead Toilet and project #7 Crew Leader Support with any remaining funds to go to project #1 North Summit Trailhead Improvement project.

Meghan Craig: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion failed.

Kevin Clements: I move we fully fund project #5 Cub Creek Trailhead & Bridge Trailhead Toilet for \$94,400 with the remainder going to project #1 for \$89,546 . If additional funds become available, they would be allocated to project #1 until it is fully funded.

Keith Schlemlein: I second.

Vote taken: Motion passed to fund project #5 Cub Creek Trailhead & Bridge Trailhead Toilet for **\$94,400** and project #1 North Summit Trailhead Improvement for **\$89,546** (if additional funds become available, they will be used to fully fund this project).

Amy Ramsey: I move if additional funds become available after funding all the funding motions the RAC has voted on today, that these projects be fully funded in this order: fully fund #1 North Summit Trailhead Improvements, fully fund #4 Okanogan County Weed Management, fully fund #6 Twisp Front Country Trail Maintenance, and then fully fund #10 Prescribed Burning project.

Kevin Clements: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed.

Discussion and prioritization of Kittitas County Title II projects

Kevin Clements: I move that we fund project #2 Thorp Mountain Lookout Restoration at \$31,000 and project #3 Meadow Protection at \$11,043.

Al Murphy: I second.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed to fund project #2 Thorp Mountain Lookout Restoration for **\$31,000** and project #3 Meadow Protection for **\$11,043**.

Kevin Clements: I move if additional funding becomes available, those dollars would be used to fully fund project #2 Thorpe Mountain Lookout and then fully fund project #3 Meadow Protection.

Keith Schlemlein: I second

Vote taken: Motion passed.

Closing Remarks

Next meeting date reminder, please let Robin DeMario know if you cannot attend the meeting. Request for applicants to fill the soon to occur RAC member vacancies.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m. Pacific Time.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

VICTORIA
WILKINS

Digitally signed by VICTORIA
WILKINS
Date: 2024.11.20 11:40:05 -08'00'

Designated Federal Officer Victoria Wilkins

Brandt Cappell

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Cappell
Date: 2024.11.20 12:47:26
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Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee Chairperson Brandt Cappell