

Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

November 7, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 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 November 7, 2024. 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	Absent	Absent
Sean Clarke	Developed Outdoor Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle User Groups, or Commercial Recreation Activities	Present	Virtual
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	Present	In-person
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	Absent	Absent
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	Virtual

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
Paul Willard	District Ranger	Present	In-person
Aaron Stockton	District Ranger	Present	In-person

General Audience	
Name	Position/Title
Travis Okelberry	Project proponent
Jim Breeze	Project proponent
Jill Breeze	Project proponent
Laurel Baum	Project proponent
Helen Lau	Project proponent
Bruce Bernard	Project proponent
Elle Robinson	Project proponent
Hannah Pauly	Project proponent
Brigitte Ranne	Project proponent
Michael Plank	Project proponent
Holly Giard	Project proponent
Steve Baker	Project proponent

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No written comments were received.

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome

- Welcome, brief introductions, and review of the agenda

Opening Remarks DISCUSSION/UPDATES TOPICS

- To avoid a conflict of interest, Committee members will abstain from participating in discussions related to prioritization of funding where a conflict of interest may occur. Members reviewed ethics information and discussed involvement in any of the proposed projects.
- Request for new RAC member nominations.

Addressing Public Comments

The entirety of the meeting was open to the public, with two public comment periods at 10:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m.

No public comments were made.

Deliberation/Voting

Discussion and prioritization of Yakima County Title II projects

Vice Chairman Kevin Clements: What is the prioritization for projects in Yakima County?

Victoria Wilkins: The Meadow Project is listed as #1 as it impacts streams and watersheds.

Kevin Clements: The Crow Lake project can be considered as addressing watersheds too.

Keith Goehner: I move we fully fund Project #2 Crow Lake Way Horse Camp; fully fund Project #3 Yakama Nation Youth Conservation Corps; fully fund Project #4 Meadow Protection; and partially fund Project #1 Rimrock Retreat Fire Repair at \$57,095.

Al Murphy: I second the motion.

Discussion amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed.

Meghan Craig: I move that if any additional funding becomes available it would go toward fully funding the Meadow Protection project.

Ketith Schlemlein: I second the motion.

Discussion amongst RAC members.

Elisa Lopez: I move to amend the motion to cap additional funds to that project at \$10,000.

Brian Laurence: I second the amended motion.

Discussion on the amended motion.

Vote taken; motion fails.

Keith Goehner: I move that if any additional money becomes available it be used to fully fund the Rimrock Retreat Fire Repair project.

Al Murphy: I second the motion.

Discussion amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed.

Discussion and prioritization of Chelan County Title II projects

Elisa Lopez: I move to prioritize our top priority projects as projects #1 Common Crupina, #2 Road 6910, and #4 Crupina Eradication as the top three projects.

Kieth Schlemlein: I second the motion.

Discussion amongst RAC members.

Q: Does the Forest Service have any priority projects?

A: The two Crupina projects and the road project. Law enforcement support is also a very important project.

Vote taken: Motion fails.

Discussion amongst RAC members about projects and amount of money to allocate to projects.

Keith Schlemlein: I move we fund project #1 Common Crupina at **\$17,500**, project #2 Road 6910 at **\$30,000**, and project #4 Crupina Eradication at **\$13,000**.

Al Murphy: I second the motion.

Discussion amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed.

Elisa Lopez: I move we fund Icicle Creek Invasive Plant Control project at \$12,000.

Ken Tolonen: I second the motion.

Discussion amongst RAC members.

Vote taken; motion fails.

Keith Goehner: I move we fund the NYC Nason Ridge Trail Maintenance project for **\$18,000**; Chelan County Sheriff's office partnership project for **\$20,000**; and allocate the remaining **\$8,811** to the Icicle Creek Invasive Plant Control project.

Al Murphy: I second the motion.

Discussion occurred amongst RAC members.

Vote taken: Motion passed.

Ken Tolonen: I move if additional funds become available, they be used to fully fund the Trailhead Sign project at \$5,000.

Elisa Lopez: I second the motion.

Keith Goehner: I amend the motion to add that if additional money becomes available it would be allocated to the Icicle Creek Project to fully fund it.

Al Murphy: I second the amended motion.

Discussion-none.

Vote taken: Motion passed. If additional money becomes available it will be used to fully fund the Trailhead Sign project at \$5,000. After that occurs and if there is still money available, that money would be used to fully fund the Icicle Creek Invasive Plant Control Project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 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 11:40:38 -08'00'

Designated Federal Officer Victoria Wilkins

Brandt Cappell

Digitally signed by Brandt
Cappell
Date: 2024.11.20 12:48:08
-08'00'

Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee Chairperson Brandt Cappell