

**Winema and Fremont Resource Advisory Committee
Minutes for September 12, 2002**

Present: Jane O’Keeffe
Pete Talbot
Alan Withers
Gary Johnson
Bill Duke
Sherm Radtke
Don Gentry
Hank Mroczkowski
Mary Baker via phone from Summer Lake

Rick Brown
Steve West
Fred Rasmussen
Craig Dittman
Anita Ward
Clair Thomas
Chuck Wells

Guests: Jane Cottrell Deputy Forest Supervisor –Fremont/Winema Nat’l Forest
Ray Romero Chemult District Ranger
Ed Brown Chemult Ranger District
Patty Westgate Fremont/Winema National Forest
Rick Ragan Chiloquin District Ranger
Richard Hart Lake County Resources Initiative
Luke Dary Lake County Resources Initiative
Alex Plato Lake County Resources Initiative

Agenda Review and Introductions:

RAC member introduced to guests from Winema National Forest. Chuck Graham Forest Supervisor had planned to attend but was unable. Jane Cottrell Deputy Supervisor attended meeting both days.

Discussions:

- People are being recruited for replacement members in categories that are lacking replacements. Information on how to apply available on the Web. Susan Baker-Schloth has resigned from Group C (3) RAC is trying to fill in with people from Klamath County to keep the balance with Lake County.

Review and Approval of Minutes for Meetings:

February and Field Trips in June and August minutes were approved and accepted.

NEPA Review, FACA Chartered Group:

DFO Aney presented a power point presentation on the NEPA process. See Bill Aney for copy of NEPA presentation and Winter/BAER (Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation) presentation. DFO Aney also gave a power point presentation on the Winter/Toolbox Fire and BAER. Rehab work includes contour falling, fence repairs, pond rehab, culvert replacement, water bar construction, wattle placement, weed control and aerial seeding.

Discussions and Decisions:

- Chairperson Thomas proposes a two-day field trip to Paisley Ranger to view burned area on Winter Rim.
- Some concern by RAC members as to if they have enough time or expertise to propose an action.
- Members want to be involved at some level but would rather let the specialists decide what needs to be done. May be out of RAC members’ ability, due to the complexity of the area.

- Some members see this as an opportunity to be involved in the NEPA process. Because the RAC is a chartered group they could help decide what direction the process takes.
- Discuss the possibility of forming a sub-group of members that have the time and are interested in participating.
- Sub-group will be comprised of a balanced representation of all groups. Committee to organize field trip will be O'Keeffe, Talbot, Baker, Aney, Duke and Thomas.
- RAC can be involved in setting side boards for proposed action as per law HR 2389 (sec 205(a) 2).
- Proposed action could include reseedling, salvage logging, close or repair roads, replanting trees, rebuilding Fremont Lookout Cabin etc.
- Sub-group could also be involved in developing alternatives to proposed actions.
- RAC members not involved will be kept informed via the Internet.
- Try to tie in date for field trip w/sustained yield meeting Oct 10 and 11th.
- Aney and Duke will work together to contact the specialists so they can be available for field trip.
- RAC members that want to participate are:
Group A (1) Withers, Johnson and Rasmussen
Group B (2) Baker, Duke, Ward and Brown
Group C (3) Talbot, Thomas and O'Keeffe

Review of Process and Progress of 2002 Work:

See handouts summary of FY02 Fremont/Winema Title II Projects, cost spreadsheet and progress spreadsheet.

Discussions and Decisions:

- DFO tells RAC members because some project contracts cost were too high, projects couldn't be done. This resulted in a rollover of 2002 dollars to 2003 budget.
- Some Districts reduced acres in contract to be completed, other Districts looked for other monies to fill gap in funding.
- RAC members want to know why over budget and how Districts arrived at contract cost.
- DFO explains projects like PCT (thinning) District have experience in estimating but some projects they have no background data to use for cost analysis.
- Discussion to give DFO the authority to approve projects even if they exceed contract amount.
- Motion made and passed to give DFO the authority to approve projects up to 5% over contract cost.
- DFO does not need to contact chairperson for approval to exceed cost by 5%.
- Patty Westgate who is handling RAC Budget can keep track of what DFO approves and dollar amount spent on projects.

Report from Lake County Resources Initiative:

Presentation given by Richard Hart and two Lake County students on Chewaucan Monitoring effort in summer of 2002.

Discussion as follows:

- Richard Hart established areas of interest, once database is created on Web you will be able to view and track changes on any specific geographic location-crew has surveyed.
- Plots are not located within Winter/Toolbox Fire, but are flagged within upper Chewaucan watershed.
- Crew have placed a ½ mile transect on Morgan Creek, a large untreated block of land within the watershed. Plan to re-read transect in following years.

- Monitoring plots could have national interest. Hart has been in contact with Colleges that have expressed interest in the project.
- Crew has installed base line plots in some of RAC Projects i.e.: culvert replacements, Recomb old growth thinning, Dairy Creek and prescribed burn area in Chewaucan watershed.
- Field season work has ended due to the landscape getting too dry to do any more readings.

Sub-group causing to identify “Unsupported” Projects:

Discussions and Decisions:

- RAC members want to identify projects that they don't support and give Forest Service direction as to the types they want to see.
- Some members don't want to identify unsupported projects before sponsors have had a chance to defend.
- Questions about why there are projects that involve burning when there is fire plan money available. Because smaller urban areas are not receiving enough money to do the needed work.
- Decision to rank out projects and not fund projects they don't support even if there is money available. Money could roll over into next years funding.
- Sub-groups will identify projects they don't support, when group reconvenes. They will vote out projects they don't want to rank them out for funding. These projects will be removed from list. Districts will be informed so they don't spend any more time developing and submitting these types of projects.
- Gentry and Mroczkowski will be absent from meeting on 13th, while they can have input, they will not be able to vote.

RAC members broke into sub-groups to identify unsupported projects and discuss supported projects. Members were given corrections on some projects. Two new projects were also handed out. One is external project, the other a project from Chemult.

Members will meet tomorrow at 8:00.