

Minutes

Crook County Natural Resource Committee

November 18, 2020

Committee Members Present: Lynne Breese, Steve McGuire, Teresa Rumble, Ston McDaniel, Frank Porfily, John Dehler, Andy Gallagher, Tim Deboodt

Members absent: Trent Smith, Mike Lunn,

Guests present: Johanna Kovarik (FS), Kevin Keown (FS), John Gautney (Sheriff)

Public Present: Melinda Kestler, John Breese,

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Steve McGuire @ Crook County 4H building.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Minutes:

Lynne moved to accept the October 14th, 2020 draft minutes. John seconded. Motion passed.

Teresa moved to approve the September 9th minutes (no quorum in Oct to approve). Ston Seconded. Motion passed.

Agency Reports:

Kevin Keown provided the FS update. Final EA for the Draft Decision Notice was published on the Wild Horse Management plan. Jan 4th is the deadline for filing objections. (Crook County will not be providing any comments).

The Frog Fire restoration efforts are moving forward. Log decks created during suppression efforts are out for bid and bid opening will be November 23rd. Danger tree project is working on 13 miles of road. Presale efforts are underway. The plan includes a pre-bid notice to be published soon, targeting mid-December but is weather dependent, allowing those interested in the work the opportunity to tour the area.

Bellwether project status was reviewed. Contractor briefings are scheduled with the FS. Reviewing scoping comments and responses. Contract work ends at the end of December with reports due. FS will work with partners once it has received this work to finalize the project.

Black Mountain project is still in litigation. Walton Lake objection resolution meetings were held. FS hopes to issue final decision notice by the end of the year. Ston asked about the time frame for Walton Lake Decision. Kevin responded that the Regional Office had provided its input and the decision is coming soon from the local office. Frank asked Kevin to clarify the discussion (from Ochoco Collaborative meeting he was at earlier in the week) about whether or not the FS would be cutting trees

over 21" with root rot? Kevin responded that the draft decision included removing all fir regardless of size in 3 units where laminated root rot infection is present; removal of large young fir trees in commercial thinning units in limited circumstances (around developed site and entrance road).

Sunflower Project draft EA is due to be out soon. No date given.

NO BLM report

Prineville Reservoir No Wake Zone Proposal

Sheriff Gautney address the Committee in regards to the proposal to create a new "no wake zone" from the north shore at the State Park to the south shore (Roberts Bay). Sheriff Gautney explained that with the closing of the Prineville Resort, there is now only 1 working marina located at the State Park. The Sheriff's office is now using the boat docks at the State Park. As a result of the narrowness of the channel (as described above), boat traffic is creating large waves that are posing damage to boats tied to these docks.

There was a request to the State Marine Board to establish an addition zone, to slow traffic through this area and reduce damage to boats using the State Park's docks.

Sheriff Guatney stated that since the docks at Jasper Point were not currently in use, the no wake zone for that area was not currently being enforced. Teresa asked about whether or not this enforcement action would be permanent and Sheriff Gautney indicated that no enforcement would continue as long as the Resort area was not in use. There are still conversations between BOR and State Parks going on in regards to the long-term use of the Resort.

Ston indicated that he strongly supports the proposal to create this new no wake zone.

Good of the Order and Member reports:

The only standing committee is the Transportation committee. Eric Bush who lives on the north side of Prineville Reservoir continues to have trespass and resource damage issues due to individuals not abiding by BLM travel management rules. There is a meeting with Eric and BLM officials scheduled for the morning of December 4 (Friday). Committee members are invited to attend.

Teresa reported that she did not run again for City Council. She indicated that as of January 1, 2021, she would not be representing the City as a member of the Committee.

Tim indicated that the current terms for Committee members Ston McDaniel and Mike Lunn were expiring the end of 2020. As in the past, each member was contacted and asked about their desire to continue as a member of the Committee. Both Ston and Mike indicated that they would like to stay on the Committee and that their names be submitted to the County Court for reappointment. Tim said that both names have been forwarded onto the Court for their action.

Public comment: No public comment

Teresa moved to adjourn. John Seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 9th, 2020