

Minutes

Crook County Natural Resource Committee

November 9, 2022

Committee Members Present: Mike Lunn, Lynne Breese, Cliff Kiser, Steve McGuire, Frank Porfily, John Dehler, Tim Deboodt

Members absent: Trent Smith, Casey Kaiser, Andy Gallagher, Jace Rhoden

Guests present: Lisa Clark (BLM),

Public present: John Breese, Gayle Hunt, Melinda Kestler

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Lynne moved to approve the Committee minutes as presented from October 14, 2022. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Agency Reports:

Lisa Clark (BLM Acting Area Manager) provided a handout of activities. She discussed the current status of solar farm applications the District has received or is expecting to receive. Lisa provided discussion on the District's prescribed burning activities this fall, road maintenance issues and a sage grouse update. Lisa reported that the Paulina/12 mile unit had hit soft targets for grouse management. Soft triggers are a result of a declining population in the management unit. Triggers cause the agency to explore what are the reasons for the decline.

BLM is working on removing approximately 6000 acres of juniper in the habitat area. Questions from the Committee were asked about the Brothers/Wagon Tire population. This area is under a hard trigger. BLM is removing juniper south of Hwy 20, working with ODF&W to remove juvenile trees since last treatments (done in the 1990's). BLM would like to try prescribed fires to control juvenile trees but concerns about sagebrush loss limit its application.

Tim will send the current ODF&W statewide sage grouse report out to Committee members.

It was reported that all Rangeland Fire Protection Associations have signed new firefighting agreements with BLM which will allow for sharing of firefighting resources across ownerships.

Mike Lunn asked Lisa if the new Forest Service guidelines for prescribed fire impact BLM's program. Lisa Clark responded that it did not but that BLM is taking new precautions, making extra efforts to reach out to adjoining neighbors. Frank asked if the incident in Grant County involving FS prescribed fire getting onto private lands was an issue for BLM. Lisa reported that the big impact was how burn bosses were rethinking their job duties. It has the possibility of having a significant impact on them trying to do their jobs. Frank wondered if it might result in more logging and less burning.

Lisa also reported that an agreement had been signed with Oregon State Parks for maintenance of the Roberts Bay area (Prineville Reservoir). The BLM had updated its agreement with the County for weed spraying and that Jimmy Eisner (BLM) had taught a riparian class at OSU Cascades that ended with a field trip to Bear Creek.

Tim handed out the Forest Service report provided by Shane Jeffries. Committee asked Tim to ask Shane when he would be coming back to the Committee meetings to participate in person. Gayle Hunt expressed interest as a citizen in having the FS represented at these meetings. She felt that this was one of the best ways for the public to stay informed about local FS activities and future project proposals. John Breese also expressed a desire to have the FS present. He shared his belief that in order to build trust with all the public land management agencies, a two-way conversation is required. He felt part of the problems with attitudes in Grant County is a result of the lack of 2-way communication.

Frank reported on the **McKay Creek Tour**. This was a joint tour between Forest Service, the Ochoco Forest Collaborative and the Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Frank said that it was a very good tour, he liked what he saw and heard. He thought the sites treated had responded very well and expressed concern that the lack of funding was keeping the FS from being able to do more.

Good of the Order:

A review of the Committee's process for filling vacancies was held. Tim reported that the County was advertising the application process and that it closed on December 2nd. The Committee will have up to 4 positions open by the end of the year.

Lynne reported that she had wild turkeys in her front yard and anyone who wanted to could come get them.

Public Comment:

None

Mike moved to Adjourn. Cliff seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

New Meeting location for December: COCC Crook County Open Campus Building, 510 SE Lynn Blvd.