

## **Minutes**

### **Crook County Natural Resource Committee**

**April 10, 2019**

#### **Committee members present:**

Steve McGuire, Frank Porfily, Lynne Breese, Ston McDaniel, Teresa Rodriguez, John Dehler, Trent Smith, Mike Lunn

Committee member absent:

Andy Gallagher

#### **Public present:**

Phil Paterno, Kevin Keown (FS), John Breese, Lois Hoffman, Janet Miller, Cliff Kizer, Teal Purrington (BLM), Wayne Elmore, Michelle McSwain, Eric Bush, Amanda Roberts (BLM), Karlene Richmand, Melinda Kestler, Slater Turner (FS), Johanna Kovank (FS), Douglas Gould

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Lynne Breese @ Crook County COCC Open Campus Building, Prineville

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Review of Minutes:** Teresa moved to approve minutes. Ston seconded. Motion passed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Eric Bush, a BLM permittee addressed the committee about a problem he is experiencing with OHV traffic north of Prineville Reservoir about ¾ miles NE of Jasper Point. He has had the allotment since 2003. He is experiencing vandalism (cut fences, gates left open, public use of private road, negative impacts on the resource). The committee responded with questions, wanting to know how the County can help? Ston moved to form a subcommittee to look at OHV rules on both BLM and FS administered lands, initially looking at enforcement issues around illegal use of OHV's on public lands. Trent seconded. Motion Passed. Committee members are Ston, Trent and Mike. Forest Service contact will be Chris Joosens (Recreation Program Manager) and Joe Wilcox, BLM Law enforcement. Tim will schedule the subcommittee meeting by the end of April.

#### **BLM Report:**

Teal Purrington, BLM NEPA Coordinator provided an update on BLM projects. Handouts are attached to these minutes. Teal introduced Amanda Roberts, Acting Asst. District Manager.

#### **Forest Service Report:**

Kevin Keown and Slater Turner provided an update on FS projects. The Forest maintains a schedule of proposed projects on their webpage. <https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110607>

Black Mtn Vegetation Management Plan, the FS is responding to comments, Final EIS is projected to be out by mid-May.

Bear Creek AMP, 3 allotments on the north slope. Out for internal review, public comment by mid-May.

Wild Horse EIS – Projected for public review in June (Big Summit herd)

Blue Mt Forest Resiliency Project. In regional review for moving it forward.

Joint Chiefs Project (south Ochoco's and Maury Mtn area). Did not get funded, FS will try again with next cycle.

Walton Lake Campground is working with the Forest Collaborative in setting up meetings for public outreach. Meetings to be scheduled.

Torrefaction update. Plant in John Day is scheduled to be operational by July 2020. Ochoco Forest hopes to provide materials to this plant through restoration projects.

Murders Creek Horse Herd. Frank asked about the trespass horses onto the Ochoco's. Kevin provided the background on this herd (territory on the Malheur NF) and the trespass issues onto the Sunflower Allotment in the Ochoco's. Trespass is affecting permittees and the resource. Kevin reported that the Ochoco is working with BLM and the Malheur Forest to improve communication and the associated management issues.

Frank asked about logging in the Ochoco's, where is it occurring. Kevin reported that the Black Mtn. EA includes commercial logging as well as the Blue Mtn Resiliency project could produce commercial timber in the Mill Creek area. Lookout Mtn timber harvest is moving forward but winter snows in February caused a shut down for a while.

Kevin introduced Johanna Kovarik as the acting District Ranger for the Paulina District.

### **Guest Presentation:**

Teal Purrington, BLM NEPA coordinator for the Prineville District made a presentation to the committee on NEPA. She reviewed the original act (8 pgs.) and stressed that it affects all federal agencies. The Act requires the Agency to make informed decisions and provide the public with what they are intending to do. NEPA is triggered any time the agency is going to take an action.

Handouts for presentation are attached.

Many changes in the NEPA process have occurred over the years. Teal provide the group with a copy (electronic) of the NEPA Handbook and Citizen's Guide (2007).

The committee asked questions about writing effective (substantive) comments. Teal reviewed what was required for "standing" and how comments are received and responded to.

### **Committee Activities:**

Trent asked about the proposed hydro project on Bowman Dam. The committee requested that the City and OID come and make a presentation about the project and reservoir operations.

Teresa asked about wolves in the County and Trent reviewed the activities of the County's Wolf Committee. Trent indicated that at the state level, funding for wolf projects was in question. Several livestock kills have been investigated in the County but no confirmed kills have been verified. Steve asked about the natural resource policy around invasive species and would this pertain to the wolf issue? Crook County is limited since we are west of Hwy 395 and still considered in the area where wolves are federally listed as endangered.

John Dehler shared that the County was going through a plan review of all EFU and Forest zoned lands in the County and that the planning commission was holding a hearing on the review tonight during their regularly scheduled meeting @ 6 p.m.

Steve moved to adjourn. Ston seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 p.m., Conference Room – Crook County COCC Open Campus building, 510 SE Lynn Blvd. Prineville