

Minutes

Crook County Natural Resources Committee

July 8, 2026

Committee Members Present: Bill McCormack, Frank Porfily, Lynne Breese, Calista Songstad, Tim Deboodt, Melinda Kestler, Cliff Kiser, Mike Lunn, Laura York, Andy Gallagher, Steve McGuire, Kim Vogel

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: Robbie Piehl (FS), Jeff Marzal (FS), Slater Turner (USFS), Susie Hermreck (County Commissioner), Greg Jackle (ODFW) Jodie Stiffman (Oregon Living with Fire), Dr. Jenn Fenton (Oregon Living with Fire), Lisa Clark (BLM), Stacey Long (FS),

Public Present: Gayle Hunt

Meeting was called to order @ 1:00 p.m. by Chair Steve McGuire

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Calista moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Seconded. All members voted yes, no nays, motion passed unanimously.

Agency Updates: Jeff Marzal, Ochoco National Forest Supervisor provided the Forest Service update. He introduced Stacey Long, Acting Public Affairs Officer for the Ochoco National Forest. Jeff shared updates with the timber sales, he announced that the FS will be updating its grazing regulations soon (similar to the process BLM is using) and that the FS has begun the search for a permanent replacement for District Ranger on the Paulina District.

Jeff reviewed early fire activity on the Forest and reviewed market challenges currently facing timber sales and logging activities.

Robbie Piehl reviewed fire rehab work. The Forest is working on agreements with Crook County SWCD, South Fork SWCD, Heart of Oregon, Crooked River Watershed Council and others to assist with project supervision and contracting for rehab work being scheduled as a result of the Crazy Creek and Rail Ridge Fires (2024). Close to 4.5 million dollars has been secured to complete a variety of projects. Hazard tree removal will occur on approximately 600 acres.

Kim Vogel asked about the grazing regulation update. Jeff shared that the Ochoco currently has only 1 allotment that is vacant and meets the criteria for reestablishment of a grazing permit. Proposed rules (not yet released) are being designed to improve relations between the Forest and permittees, improve administration of permits and include the addition of a Fire Liaison for the purpose of coordinating wildfire fighting activities with permittees and local Rangeland Fire Protection Associations. Proposed changes are not yet public.

Melinda asked about campfires and their continued authorization within some campgrounds. She asked why the agencies haven't just banned all campfires for the remaining part of the year. She noted that volunteers have been scouting the Ochocos and putting out campfires left by people who didn't take the time to put it out properly.

Lisa mentioned that on lands administered by BLM, the campfire restrictions are done in stages and not all campgrounds are open for campfires. Only those campgrounds that have on site camp hosts can still have a campfire. Stacey Long with the Forest Service mentioned that there is no data showing that wildfires start from designated campground fire use. Mike Lunn added that fire restrictions are also based on national activity (not just local conditions) meaning that if it is a busy fire season nationally and fire resources become restricted, then banning campfires in designated campgrounds will be more likely.

Lisa Clark, Deschutes Resource Area Manager provided the update for BLM. Lisa provided two handouts (attached), one for updated activity and the other an announcement for hiring. BLM is currently hiring in Oregon, with positions prioritized based on Administrative priorities. In western Oregon, foresters, surveyors, and equipment operators are being recruited. For the Prineville District, a forester position is being recruited for.

Other topics discussed (see handout for details) include the Integrated Invasive Plant Management plan update, lower Crooked River Guide permits, Barnes Butte trail system and the Juniper Canyon Motorized Use area updates. BLM is working with members of PLA2 on this project. Tim asked Lisa if the permittee for the area was involved in the discussion. This Committee participated in a process in the early 2020's regarding OHV use and the conflicts and trespass issues in this area due to unauthorized and unregulated OHV use. Lisa responded that she wasn't sure of the permittee's involvement in the current conversation but would reach out to them.

Greg Jackle, District Wildlife Biologist for ODF&W thanked Susie Hermreck, County Commissioner, Andy Gallagher and Tim for their help and participation in the ODF&W Commission tour on June 25. Commission members were holding a quarterly meeting in Redmond and during that meeting, were touring the Brothers/Hampton area, looking at landscape level work being done by multiple partners to enhance wildlife habitat. Greg shared an update on the finding of the invasive quagga mussel species found recently in Prineville Reservoir. ODFW will continue to monitor the reservoir for additional evidence of their presence.

Mike asked Greg about the impacts of IP-28 if passed in November on the Department and its programs. Greg said that the Department receives much of its operating funds from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses and the impact is not fully known.

Good of the Order:

Susie addressed the Committee and reminded them of the County's efforts to update Goal 5 planning documents and the need for public involvement in the process. The Planning Department is currently seeking applications for 3 committees that will work on this project. Each committee will have 3 – 7 people on it. Applications are due July 27, with the first committee meetings scheduled sometime early

fall. Tim shared that he had made copies of the applications and were available to the public to pick up from the table.

Kim asked Slater if Committee members could attend an upcoming field tour of the upper Trout Creek and North Slope project areas. Slater and Jeff shared that they didn't see why not and provided time and place as to where to meet to start the tour.

Andy provided an update from SWCD. For the last few years, the District has been doing about \$400,000 worth of projects annually. This year, to date they have over 1.2 million dollars in projects being done which covers 36 grant agreements, and 14,000 acres of juniper treatments. Additionally, there is another \$2 million in grants that are being reviewed.

Steve thanked Lynne for her service as acting Chair in Steve's absence the last 2 months.

Jodie Schiffman provided an update for the work being done under the leadership of Oregon Living with Fire. Website updates now include the postings of local fire (burn) restrictions. The public can sign up for alerts (to their cell phones) for current, wildfire information.

Public Comment: None

Kim moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded the motion. All committee members voted yes. No nays. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Crook County Project/Activity Briefing

Bureau of Land Management – Prineville District – July 2026

Integrated Invasive Plant Management

The district had a public comment period for a revised environmental assessment (EA) for the Integrated Invasive Plant Management Project in the Prineville District. The district only received a couple comments, so we'll work through those and expect to have a final decision on the EA shortly – as a reminder:

More than 75 invasive plant species threaten the health of Central Oregon's landscapes, impacting everything from native vegetation and wildlife habitat to water quality and recreation. The BLM is proposing updates to its existing management plan to better address these challenges using a broader set of tools and technologies.

The proposed updates included: Adding 10 new herbicide active ingredients to improve treatment options for a wider variety of invasive plants, including annual and perennial grasses, incorporating new technologies such as drones for aerial herbicide application and monitoring, and expanding treatment areas to include lands where new herbicides would be used alongside existing methods.

The EA analyzed potential environmental effects of these updates, including impacts to:

- Soil health and water quality, riparian areas, wildlife and migratory birds, including Greater Sage-Grouse, livestock forage and grazing, and recreation values and fire risk

Help us get the word out!

Next week, multiple vacancy announcements will be posted on USAJOBS for a variety of positions in Oregon and Washington. In conjunction with these vacancy announcements, the Department of the Interior Recruitment Team, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, will be hosting a recruitment event/information session for these opportunities on July 17, 2026, in Eugene (majority of the positions are on the westside to support timber projects). The Prineville District will be hoping to fill a forester, cadastral survey technicians, and an engineering equipment operator.

Lower Crooked River Guides

The Deschutes Field Office just finished authorizing four new guides for the Lower Crooked River. The BLM advertised for new guide and outfitters last December, with a maximum of four spots available. All the businesses are for walk and wade fly fishing.

Barnes Butte

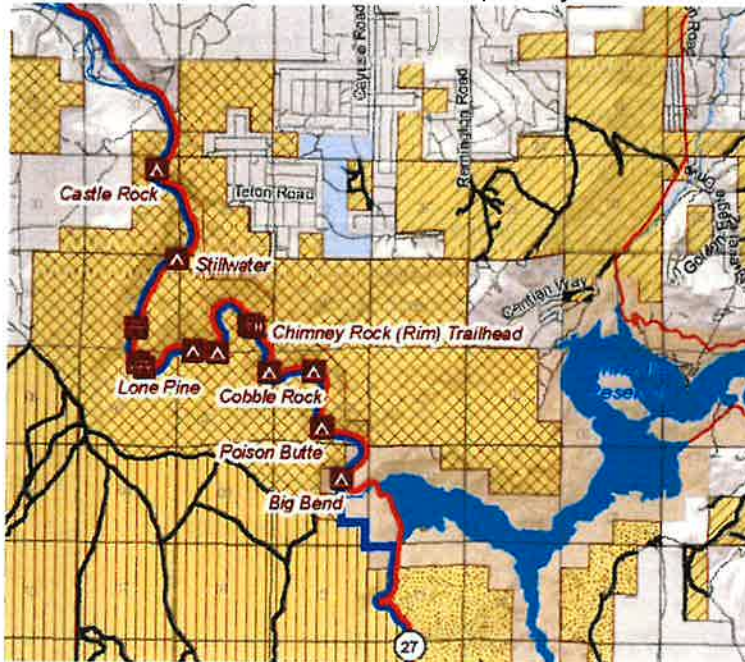
The Deschutes Field Office planning team will be convening on Barnes Butte tomorrow to discuss a proposal for a central trail with two alternatives in order to better route trails around private land. The goal is to complete the field clearances at that time.

Juniper Canyon Motorized Use Area

At the time of the 2005 Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan, the BLM worked with many Crook County agencies, organizations and residents to identify types of uses and to



designate areas for these uses. The community expressed a desire to have both motorized and non-motorized areas. In 2024, the BLM mailed letters to all PLA2 residents reminding them of the allowable uses. Finally, the BLM recently used boulders to block motorized entry into the non-motorized sections, following some complaints by neighbors. This triggered additional conversations with PLA2 residents upset by the enforcement.



As a solution, Deschutes Field Office staff are working with members of PLA2 to identify an OHV trail system that can be adopted from existing user-created routes within the area identified for motorized use. The intent will be to have longer trails and loops as well as a possible play area. The “edges” of the system could use “rock filters” as a way to keep out full size vehicles or people wanting to haul a trailer to dump garbage. Some existing user-created routes may be rehabbed, and no designated routes will be closed. The PLA2 Roads President will help coordinate and will help support the separation of uses once done.



Example of a “rock filter” – makes it fun for an OHV to enter a trail system but limits full size vehicle/trailer access. Requires being tied into a fence, vegetation, etc.





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CAREERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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STABILITY



PURPOSE



GROWTH



IMPACT

Discover a rewarding career with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Join BLM and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) recruiters for an exclusive information session designed to guide you through the federal hiring process. Learn how you can help manage, restore, and conserve America's public lands, waters, and wildlife for generations to come.

Positions Available

Forestry Technician

GS-0462-7/8/9/10/11

Perform technical forestry work, including conducting forest inventories and timber cruises, administering timber sales, and planning forest road layouts.

Survey Technician

GS-0817-5/6/7

Perform a full range of survey duties to assist land surveyors in collecting data, analyzing records, and determining public land boundaries.

Forester

GS-7/9/11

Perform technical forestry work, including forest inventories, timber sales administration, road layouts, and timber cruises/appraisals.

Engineering Equipment Operator / Supervisor

WG-8/10, WS-9, WS-10

Operate heavy equipment (graders, excavators, backhoes) in remote, mountainous terrain. A valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is required prior to operating duties.

Information session

Meet with DOI and BLM recruiters on-site! Join us for an exclusive information session designed to guide you step-by-step through the federal hiring process.

Topics include:

- How to successfully apply using USAJOBS
- Federal resume writing tips and best practices
- Navigating federal hiring authorities and employee benefits

Location:

- WorkSource Lane
- 2510 Oakmont Way
- Eugene, OR 97401

Date & Times:

- July 17th, 2026
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Presented by:

Ken Barber & Valerie Madore
U.S. Department of the Interior Outreach Team

Register Here



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Forest Service 3rd Quarter Timber Accomplishments

From Cindi Kaneshige <ckaneshige@amforest.org>

Date Mon 7/6/2026 2:24 PM

To Cindi Kaneshige <ckaneshige@amforest.org>

Dear Members,

Forest Service timber accomplishments over the first three quarters for Regions 1, 5, and 6 are summarized below. The agency is continuing to stay on pace, with outputs close to 75% at the end of the 3rd quarter. Nationally, the Forest Service has attained 63% of its 3.2 billion board foot target through the first three quarters of the fiscal year. Regions 1, 5, and 6 contributed almost 50% of that total.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

USFS - Region 1 - FY26			
Target - 394 MMbf			
Forest	Target (MMbf)	Sold	% Accomplishment
Idaho Panhandle	101.0	43.3	43%
Nez-Clear	79.0	49.2	62%
Kootenai	58.0	10.4	18%
Lolo	60.0	50.1	84%
Flathead	36.0	24.2	67%
Bitterroot	25.0	16.6	66%
B-D	15.0	19.0	127%
Helena-Lewis & Clark	20.0	4.6	23%
Custer-Gallatin	11.0	2.6	24%
Total	405	220	67%

USFS - Region 5 - FY26			
Target - 393 MMBF			
Forest	Target (MMBF)	Sold	% Accomplishment
Eldorado	18.0	14.6	81%
Plumas	45.0	36.3	81%
Lake Tahoe Basin	9.0	7.7	86%
Tahoe	69.0	48.4	70%
Klamath	40.0	28.0	70%
Lassen	52.0	22.5	43%
Shasta-Trinity	48.0	31.9	66%
Mendocino	2.0	0.5	25%
Modoc	25.0	19.2	77%
Six Rivers	15.0	12.1	81%
Sequoia	9.0	13.6	151%
Sierra	20.0	24.3	122%
Stanislaus	38.0	20.9	55%
Inyo	3.0	9.8	327%

Total	393	289.8	74%

USFS - Region 6 - FY26			
Target - 622 MMBF			
Forest	Target (MMBF)	Sold	% Accomplishment
Colville	131.0	74.4	57%
Deschutes	24.0	18.7	78%
Fremont-Winema	100.0	93.6	94%
Gifford Pinchot	36.0	27.8	77%
Malheur	35.0	10.5	30%
Mt Baker-Snoqualmie	10.0	0.9	9%
Mt Hood	26.0	25.3	97%
Ochoco	10.0	6.7	67%
Okanogan-Wenatchee	30.0	12.5	42%
Olympic	10.0	12.7	127%
Rogue River-Siskiyou	25.0	30.3	121%
Siuslaw	40.0	45.9	115%
Umatilla	35.0	20.9	60%
Umpqua	30.0	14.5	48%
Wallowa Whitman	20.0	14.2	71%
Willamette	60.0	19.8	33%
Total	622.0	428.7	69%

Andy Geissler, *Director of Forest Policy and Monitoring*
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Crook County Community Development Planning Division

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541-447-3211

plan@crookcountyor.gov

www.co.crook.or.us

Crook County Public Advisory Committee Application To Serve

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Which committee(s) would you like to serve?

☐	Protecting Our Natural Heritage	Riparian corridors, wetlands, Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers, Oregon Scenic Waterways, Greater Sage-Grouse, wildlife habitat, wilderness areas
☐	Balancing Working Lands and Energy	Groundwater, mineral and aggregate, energy sources, solar siting rules
☐	Preserving Our Community Character	Natural areas, open space, scenic views, historic and cultural resources, Approved Oregon Recreational Trails

Please list any relevant experience you may have that would make you effective in the position: (Continue on reverse or attach additional sheets if necessary)

Why do you want to serve in this position? (Continue on reverse or attach additional sheets if necessary)