

Lower Deschutes River IIT Meeting Agenda

**April 17, 2026
10 AM – 12 NOON**

**ZOOM: 846 4896 9398
Password: 376318**

CHAIR: Mary facilitated since Robert C is very new.

10:00 AM In attendance: Chase Brown (ODFW); Alan Hanson (OSMB); Sara Gregory (ODFW); Scott Hege (Local Govt.); Matthew Davey (OPRD); Robert Compton (BIA); Scott Green (OPRD); Mike Millay (BLM); Gabriel Rousseau (BLM) Keith Christianson (Public); Phil Brady (Wasco Co. Commissioner – Local Govt.); Samara Rosen (Public- Oregon State University).

Review/Additions to Agenda/ approval of Agenda: (Motion needed for reviews or additions to the agenda. Motion is needed for approval of agenda

- No additions to agenda or motion made to approve.

Approval of meeting minutes – have not met in 2 years so no approval of minutes.

Old Business:

- Mary explained the role of IIT (Interagency Implementation Team) as it relates to the Managers group. IIT are boots on the ground and report to the Managers when they are asked to do some kind of task or report any things regarding needed projects on the river.

New Business:

- Scott Hege shared that he will be retiring at the end of the year with his position as County Commissioner and representative for local government. He introduced Phil Brady who will be his replacement. He is helping Phil to have an understanding of local governments role with IIT and the Managers and it is hope this will be a smooth transition.
- Mike with BLM shared that they are in need of some help with projects due to budget cuts. Looking to see if there are a few agencies who might have staff available to assist with these projects. Mike shared that BLM moved some funds around and were able to purchase 64 concrete picnic tables and 50 fire rings. He explained the process of putting them in place with improved pads under them and in areas eroded putting in gravel to help with leveling things out. Thus far JD, Katie and Sonny have been able to work with volunteer work parties from other BLM areas. Question raised about what does it take to install fire rings. Mike shared that typically you start with clearing the area as want to make these spots ADA assessable, they are then anchored down, add 8 – 10” of gravel and add concrete above the water line. The goal is that as the rings fill up with ash, it is easier to clean out. Concrete has been purchased and gravel can be staged at the campgrounds. These are the drive-in campgrounds. BLM has trailers and skidders.
 - ODFW offered that they will have some seasonals that might be able to help.
 - Matt with OPRD asked about urgency for fire bans this year. Currently bans will start June 1st per management plan unless emergency is declared. Good bulk of fire rings are already installed. Plans are in place for pin flags – signs for showing fire closures of which a good bulk have already been installed.
 - Scott G. asked about replacing of restrooms with a grant. BLM said they should hear next week or so if grant went

through. 9 total need to be replaced but there are some challenges. Request for any for any funds over \$50,000 need to get approval from administration. Federal grants generally need cash before reimbursements.

- BLM will get together with OPRD regarding sharing resources for cultural clearances on Davidson. They have secured two toiles for Davidson.
- Chase with ODFW talked about invasive grasses around campsites. They are working with a cooperative weed group to treat areas. The concerns are the seeds that get in dogs ears. There is a new weed treatment available but needs to have NEPA approval for specific weed control. There is a need for 5,000 acres of treatment above the riparian area.
- Mike (BLM) thanks ODFW for their efforts. JD is currently in Weed abatement training in Boise. Will connect botanist with OPRD. There are new programmatic environmental assessment for more efficient chemicals to spray.
- Mike shared that the annual EAS training for firefighters, OSP, and other emergency agencies will take place May 7th. It is more designed for the John Day river corridor but all are welcome.
- Does IIT see any particular projects or complaints from the public that need to be addressed that they can work on? Nothing was raised other than what already has been addressed.

Round Table: (Only have round table if IIT members have anything current they want to report out on.)

- Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs – No report
- OSMB- No report or anything to add.
- ODFW
- Wasco Sheriff- No report

- OPRD – Heritage boat ramp work was done to take out sand and silt. Received lots of help from Tribes and ODFW staff. Will have two rangers float next week to clean toilets and do brush work.
- BLM – Will be making 2 seasonal/river ranger selections soon. Will need to share/split between river and land -based roles. Fee's have been the lowest that it's ever been. Have contracts of various degrees, due to last fiscal year. BLM had to be conservative with dollars which created a surplus for this year. Will have two additional female staff this year. Have had to pull help from Prineville and had to drop the development program last year. Hope to set it up again this year. Have had 2 staff take early retirement. Have submitted development maintenance requests. Drive-in campgrounds contract is up in the air but cleanliness is important. Mike wanted to give recognition for the work Lisa Clark has been doing and also Gabriel for his work on updating the Boater guide. He worked with Katie on this project. The guide is in process for publishing and funding has been allocated- in process of bidding to get it done. Goal is to be available by Memorial Day- it will be water proof and a spiral binder. Planning on a digital version which will be different than Avenza since corporate has changed and no longer will add new information to their maps. Looking at ways to make it available without mobile services available. This has been 3 years of work.
- Local Govt. – Scott asked about the distribution list for meetings. It used to be sent out by Jeff and some by Lisa and Beth. Mike shared that they have figured out a way to put information on the Rec. Gov. site which has the link to OPRD website which posts meeting dates and locations along with minutes and archives. Notices still go out to the SRP's. He also asked about the discussion of a field trip in Segment 4 slated for the fall.

- BIA- not much to report but trying to acquire funds to deal with invasive species.
- OSP- No report

Public comment:

- Keith asked again about the “definition of family” as it relates to boater passes, as this applies or includes land owners. Wanting to know where the issue is at with OPRD and ORS. Scott shared that he talked with policy manager and this needs to be brought to the Park and Rec. Department commission.
- Samara shared that she is studying how agencies collaborate which is why she is attending this meeting. She is asked if this group does anything with temperature management on the river. Clarification was made regarding the role of IIT and Managers which is specific to managing the overall management. Alan (OSMB) explained that PGE manages the dam and would be the appropriate contact for this information. Chase also advised Samara to reach out to Jason Seals with ODFW. Mike (BLM) also suggested that she contact the Round Butte Resource group at Pelton Dam. Everyone shared they would touch base with her. She can be reached at samra.rosen@oregonstate.ed.

Final Discussions, Follow-up, Action Items

- Look into field trip on segment 4 – float trip, one day or overnite-sometime in the fall.

- Future Managers Meetings for 2026
 - May 8th 10 am – 1pm ODFW Office, The Dalles
 - November 13th 10 am – 1pm BLM Office, Prineville
- Future IIT meetings – shall see if necessary.

Meeting adjourned:

11 AM adjourned.