

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY

1:00 P.M.

MARCH 19, 2008

Board members present: Commissioner Alan Crankovich, Commissioner Mark McClain (at 1:30). Absent: Commissioner David Bowen.

Others: BLM representatives: Salley Sovey, Diane Priebe, Don Washco; Debbie Myers, Deputy Clerk.

SPECIAL MEETING

BLM - YAKIMA CANYON PROJECTS

COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Crankovich opened a special meeting with BLM Representatives.

Sally Sovey opened by saying they wanted to update the County on the changes and future plans for the Yakima Canyon. She said they are going to more formalized campgrounds. She commented the BLM has enjoyed a good relationship with Kittitas County over the years and with the Sheriff Office-with whom they contract for deputy coverage in the Yakima Canyon. She went on to say the Day use fee is currently \$5.00. Ms. Sovey stated the Big Pine site will be a more formalized campground with 41 sites, with the bulk of them ADA accessible. It will have three banks of vault toilets.

Commissioner Crankovich commented he noticed the improvements in progress on his last drive through the Canyon and thought it would be good for the County. He also said during summer months all the campgrounds are heavily used throughout the County.

Diane Priebe said the BLM has been charging fees in the Yakima Canyon since 1997. They currently charge a \$5.00 day use fee but are considering an overnight fee of \$15.00 for camping. This fee would also cover the next day use fee after checking out of your campsite that morning. All the campsites are dry sites, with picnic tables and fire rings. BLM charges fees from May 15th to September 15th. Day use seasonal passes are available for \$25.00. They also plan on doing a press release to inform the public of the changes.

Commissioner Crankovich asked about emergency services on the weekend. Ms. Priebe said the DOT placed emergency phones throughout the canyon approximately three years ago. WDFW, Sheriff, WSP, Recreation Technician, and sometimes the fire crews are in the canyon for special

emphasis.

There was discussion on camp setbacks from the river. In some places there is a 100 foot setback to keep vehicles out of the riparian areas.

Commissioner McClain commented that our County with a population of 15,000 people can swell to 50,000 people on a weekend.

The BLM representatives advised the Board advised there will be work done in increments; boat ramp improvement probably next fall, upgrading restrooms at Rosa in 2010 or 2011.

The Board thanked the BLM Representatives for keeping them informed on the work in the Yakima Canyon.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Debbie Myers

Mark McClain, Chairman