

VI. Operations and Management
Commissioner Hibbert and Bart Barlow

Nellie: We are getting a lot of information tonight, which is what you are here for. I wanted to talk about what my impression of the intent of the commissioners would be with regard to the property. If we were to proceed it is the intent of the commissioners that we appoint an advisory committee to assist with the management of this parcel, much like the advisory committees in place for Vector Control and Animal Shelter. It is also the intent of Commissioners that this parcel remains accessible to those who recreate. Bikers, hikers, horse back riders, ATV riders, archers, hunters, berry pickers etc. Much like it is today. Further, it is the intent that this piece of property would continue to be managed. A managed resource would include timber harvest, planting of trees, continued livestock grazing and of course access. The land would have to be self supporting.

I also see this as a one time opportunity. If the option to purchase is not exercised, this parcel will be divided into 12 to 15 parcels for sale. If either of these two scenarios are exercised one could expect more than a commercial thinning for harvest. One could also expect locked gates and no trespassing signs to appear. As most of you have heard or read in the newspaper, the timber payments to counties have once again been removed from consideration by legislators in Washington DC. It is my vision that the MERA, we would have an opportunity to not only make this land available to those who recreate, but in years to come we would become more self sufficient with resources, thus providing economic development to Union County. Implementing conservation practices and continued access for present users as well as wildlife habitat. As someone recently said, Mt. Emily is an icon to our communities. It is our desire for Mt. Emily to be used as it has been in the past and at the same time provide economic development. In summation, I would like to re-iterate that we have a vision of property continuing to be managed, to be accessible, and to be great wildlife habitat. I would like to express my personal appreciation to you for coming out on a night like this. I encourage you to write your comments down and get them to Hanley by Feb. 15 to make sure we can analyze what is on your mind tonight. Now I will hand this over to Bart.

Bart: Thanks Nellie. I want to personally apologize to Tom for the computer faux-pas. OK, we had a feasibility study and a management plan to apply for grants. We needed this to get the Coalition thinking and working hard. The Coalition prepared it. I'll tell you about the advisory committee, use restrictions and all that good stuff. The most important thing though is that this is a draft plan. It is 2 years old, an antique. A plan is dynamic like a retirement plan. If you get sick or loose your job, you sit down, have a few beers, you make a new plan. Our plan is old. We need to re-iterate that. New information comes in. Even when signed, sealed and delivered, it's a dynamic plan. It changes. Most importantly we have not heard from you. We have a Coalition plan but we don't have a county plan. We need to know what you think about what I am going to

present. Here is how it shakes out. I will show you an air photo, think of this. Fox Hill Road is the primary ATV access. Up Fox Hill Road on the right you have an ATV safety training area. State ATV fund is interested in the safety training area and they have said they will give us a piece of machinery to build hills and to build training areas. They want to be involved. Safety training is important to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. We will have a trailhead and a campground.

Owsley Canyon will be non-motorized access. If you want to ride your licensed dirt bike or ATV up thought the area I will show you the route but we are not advocating parking there. Owsley Canyon is primarily for bikers, horse riders, walkers, that type of stuff. We are trying to do a reasonable separation here but at the same time give everyone good access. We talk about a picnic area there. It might be named after a prominent donor. You want it named after you—we would draw up the plans and specs. You would have to build it to our specifications. The Grande Ronde Bowmen range is there. From what I understand it has been there 40-50 years. Igo Lane is considered a secondary non-motorized trailhead, but it is up to user groups to make that a usable area by widening that road and so forth. It is an area that would have to be maintained by user groups with no expense to Coalition or County or it would be closed.

That's ugly, but in general let me tell you, the property we talking about (shows slides)...this is Fox Hill Road, this is ATV training area...the campground and ATV parking area. The property boundary...So you would have most ATV use on the summit and back side. Maybe 60% of it depending on how you divide it up. There aren't a lot of houses there. The view is great. The terrain is great. (Points out areas again on slide). By the way I need to thank Jerry Gildemeister for these fantastic photos. At one time we divided the area up... I am getting trigger happy. High intensity ATV, medium... (Etc. Points out areas). We have talked about dirt bikes and quads to access Igo Lane to the top, but most motorized use is on top here.

The big question for everybody. How do we manage this? I think Nellie mentioned how the County handles the other non-profits. An Advisory Committee made up of 13-15 people. Those are rough numbers. If we really want to include everybody that is involved. An advisory committee of motorized, non-motorized users, wildlife advocates, grazing permittee, state forestry, state parks, USFS, Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mt Elk Foundation, adjacent landowners. So on and so forth. The goal is a balanced approach, not any one group can overpower what goes on. Here are guidelines we had to come up with for how this group would manage it. We want it to be a showcase for management and conservation. It's not a free for all, but a diverse mix of all the recreation types. We really want to protect the right of all the private landowners. There is a lot of private land around and they have every right to have the same level of protection they have today. A forum to resolve conflicts. There are going to be issues. With a balanced approach we can work through most of those. The Advisory committee would have to be aggressive at pursuing additional grants to pay for ongoing management. We have been promised lots of ongoing funding from Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, but we don't have a project yet. To empower individuals and clubs to take pride in the management of the area. If you don't like what is going on, get involved. Get on a committee, give some

funding. If you get involved then great things can happen. I can't thank FCP enough for getting us to this point. They are under no obligation to do this, but because of them and because of Coalition members who have all put personal goals and beliefs aside in order to make this work. We want to save Mt. Emily. We want you to ask some good hard questions and give us a vote of confidence if you are there and that will be it. Again, Jerry thank you for the fine photography.