

## SUMMARY OF JANUARY 9, 2014 MEETING FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT SUPPORT NETWORK

- I. **Welcome** – We introduced ourselves. Representatives from BLM, BETA, MORCA, Esselen, City of Seaside Councilmember, Sustainable Seaside and Pedali Alpini attended.
  
- II. **Group Announcements or Reports**
  - A. **FORT Friends** --- Henri described a final \$683 year-end check to the BLM for the Trailhead Maintenance Fund (mostly from Sustainable Seaside T-Shirt sales), which resulted in a total contribution for 2013 of nearly \$2,770. Thanks to all groups and individuals who donated.
  - B. **Sustainable Seaside** -- Kay noted that \$1,104 was donated by Sustainable Seaside from T-shirt sale in 2013! Thanks Kay!
  - C. **MORCA**— Henri reminded folks that trail work is the 3<sup>RD</sup> Saturday of the month. Also 2014 goals include better information to the public about trail loops and characteristics (e.g. the IMBA MTB Project app for smart phones).
  - D. **Visitor Center/Museum Committee** –Ralph and Kay reported that there is pushback from City of Seaside council regarding use of old thrift store at Lightfighter Drive entrance; also the building is not up to code. However, the Seaside-based committee will continue to pursue this. We discussed possible options in Marina near FORA and REI as that will be the new location of BLM’s regional offices (late 2015), or possibly something in cooperation with CSUMB or even East Garrison.
  
- III. **BLM Announcements**
  - A. **2013 Donations**-- Eric Morgan thanked the group for our cash donations in 2013 and noted that donated labor was extensive and total value was about \$200,000; a report detailing this will follow.
  - B. Eric displayed the **new FONM logo** and explained the graphic represents the ocean and sand dunes in the background, with Toro manzanita, coastal oak, and grasslands featured. A dog-tag motif represents the military component. We suggested a metal chain coming from the dog tag and other ideas.
  - C. **Munitions removal on FONM Lands in 2015—MAJOR IMPACT to trail use.** Eric provided some maps and explained that munitions have been found in sampling (off the trails) in a large quadrant of the FONM, bounded by Parker Flats (west), Eucalyptus (south), Barloy Canyon (east) and Trail 67 area (north). Popular trails such as Little Moab, 70, 68, 59 (Blair Witch) and many others will be closed during burning and munitions removal. Eric encourages folks to read the Army’s website for information and comment: [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com) then download the “RI/FS for BLM Area B.” A key concern is that they not close this entire area at once, rather only close areas where work is actively being performed. This is an Army issue—not FORA.
  - D. **Trail signage and information/QR Code Project—NEW!** BLM plans to partner with FORT Friends (website host) for a pilot QR Code project. The black and white code sticker will be affixed to trailhead and trail intersection

- posts. Folks with smartphones can read the code and get a 30-second audio about the trail and views. There will be a second audio with general information. This will also be linked to basic trail information, descriptions, suggested loops, distances etc. We will start with Badger Hills as most newcomer tourists tend to go there, then Creekside and then toward 8<sup>th</sup> & Gigling or Jerry Smith. **YOU CAN HELP!** We need to know where there is good cell service near a trailpost. Stay tuned for info on how to pinpoint your location with coordinates (compass app), identify how many bars you have, which provider and phone, and other information. Webmaster Jim Ryan will coordinate this effort. Stay tuned for details. A subcommittee will also work on scripts, which must be approved by BLM.
- E. **Major events for 2014**—Eric started listing events through February and it became evident there is so much going on with various organizations that few know about. A major FORT Friends grant goal is a master calendar of events plus volunteer opportunities. This will entail a database connected to the website. BLM is willing to share its internal calendar with FORT Friends webmaster; we hope to merge all group calendars into one, then create some simplified lists organized by category (hike, bike, horse, run, trail work, restoration, etc). The 4-day Sea Otter Classic is April 10-13. FONM Second Anniversary will likely be either April 19 or 26, and integrated into a “Discover the Coast” event. Sheep Appreciation Day is uncertain due to dry grass.
  - F. **BLM Wish List**—Eric hoped for continued support of the Trailhead Maintenance Fund as the FONM becomes more popular. They also have ideas about new trails and reroutes, but the Army’s activities in the northwest quadrant will greatly affect some of those plans.
  - G. **Other—Goats!** BLM is experimenting with goats to “mow” non-fire dependent vegetation. You may see them within electric fences in the interior.

#### IV. Meetings and Events Affecting National Monument

- A. **Fort Ord Committee/County Supervisors** – We briefly discussed transfer of land to the County adjacent to FONM. Henri noted cooperative tone of County staff (Carl Holm) and also interest in BLM managing County habitat lands. Eric indicated BLM and County have been discussing these concepts with no specific action to date. has been discussing BLM (Jan 27 at 11 AM)
- B. Other

V **Expanding Outreach, Calendar and Volunteerism for FONM** – The topics are below, but time ran out before we discussed them. Previous items touched on some of these topics. Please review these items and e-mail your thoughts to:

[henri.stern@ymail.com](mailto:henri.stern@ymail.com)

- A. Suggest New Groups or Organizations – provide contact information
- B. Website Suggestions and Features – examples
- C. Social Media Opportunities – what do you use?
- D. Integrating Calendars—Who features a calendar now? How best integrate?
- E. Volunteer Groups on FONM -- who needs publicity?

- F. Public Service Announcements – ideas and opportunities
- G. Meeting Agenda Ideas (topics, speakers, etc.)

VI. **Follow-up Tasks** – Jim Ryan will provide info on QR code and how you can help. FORT Friends directors will work with Jim regarding upgrade of website to serve as BLM partner for the FONM activities described above.

VII. **Next meeting: Thu February 13, 2014 at 6 pm at Oldemeyer Center**

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