

**From:** [Patrick Field](#)  
**To:** [johnalley@earthlink.net](mailto:johnalley@earthlink.net)  
**Cc:** [Mike Murray](#); [Robert Fisher](#); [Ona Ferguson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Reg Neg  
**Date:** 12/08/2008 07:08 AM

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JOHN

Sorry this took a bit of time to get an answer on regarding participation by Pat W in lieu of you and John at this week's meeting.

The NPS answer is below.

PAT FIELD

I've checked with our process advisors at EQD and Office of the Solicitor, and as a procedural matter the answer is no. Members and alternates are appointed to represent specific organization(s) and are not interchangeable outside of their appointed seat(s). Pat Weston's representation is designated for those organizations that she has been officially appointed by the Secretary to represent. I regret that both Johns cannot attend. Given the composition of the committee, I know that there are multiple organizations representing ORV/access interests. I am confident that the other stakeholders will continue to represent those interests at the upcoming meeting, though OBPA will not be represented nor have a "vote" if there is a test for consensus on any issues (which will remain preliminary or tentative until final consensus is sought on a package). See relevant sections of the ground rules below:

#### IV. Participation

- A. The Committee consists of individuals representing interests, organizations or stakeholder groups. Committee members are responsible for expressing the views of their constituency rather than their personal views.
- B. Each organization or stakeholder group shall be represented ("hold a seat") by a principal and may also be represented, in the absence of the principal, by an alternate. As used in these groundrules, the term "members" includes principals and alternates. The Secretary of the Interior must appoint all members. In the absence of the principal, an alternate will serve as a representative for the member organization or group and assumes all the rights and responsibilities of the member at the table.
- C. The members of the Committee are considered those members (principals or alternates) who are present at the time of

deliberation and decision. Consensus is determined by those members (be they the principal or the alternate per “seat”) present for the decision. Consensus reached during the presence of an alternate and in the absence of a principal will be binding upon the principal.

- E. The principal and alternate shall represent an organization or stakeholder group for the purposes of deliberating, reaching consensus, and obtaining ratification of consensus decisions. As ratification is an important step in completing the Committee’s work, principals must keep the Committee apprised of the method for seeking ratification from their respective organizations or stakeholder group. The facilitators will work with the principals to ensure that ratification can be accomplished within the Committee’s schedule.

#### V. Decision Making

- C. If both the principal and the alternate are absent from a meeting in which consensus will be deliberated or decided, the absences will be equivalent to not dissenting.

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