

Arizona Resource Advisory Council
Final RAC Minutes
June 25, 2009

BLM National Training Center
9828 North 31st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

RAC Members in Attendance: Frances Werner, Steve Saway, Tina Clark, Glendon Collins, Thomas Kelly, Linda Kennedy, Richard Lunt, Norman Perry, Maggie Sacher, Governor's RAC Representative Josh Avey

RAC Members Absent: Bill Brake, Carolyn Loder, Laura Pinnas, Matt Hogel, Jan Holder and Linda Binder

BLM Staff in Attendance: Arizona State Director Jim Kenna, Terri Raml, Scott Florence, Becky Heick, Helen Hankins, Al Burch, Angie Bulletts, Tom Dabbs, Bill Coulloudon, Sherm Karl, Deborah Stevens, Angela Mogel, Chris Horyza, Pamela Mathis, Len Marceau, Davina Wilkins

Guests and Presenters: Dan Shein from the Arizona State Parks Department

AGENDA ITEM: Meeting Called to Order -- Welcome and Introduction of RAC Members
Frances Werner, RAC Chair

DISCUSSION: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., and the RAC members were introduced. BLM staff also introduced themselves to the RAC.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Review and Approval of March 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Discussion of Future Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes by the RAC Chair and the Designated Federal Official (State Director) - RAC members and BLM Staff

DISCUSSION: Richard Lunt made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2009, RAC meeting. He was corrected that the RAC could not vote to approve the minutes, because they did not have a quorum. The draft minutes from the March RAC meeting were missing the name of the RAC members who made the motion to untable the discussion about the Western Slope letter. Glen Collins identified himself as the member who made the motion, and Richard Lunt said he seconded the motion. Deborah Stevens let the RAC members know that, according to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the RAC chair and the designated federal official (Arizona State Director) have the authority to approve the minutes without having the full RAC vote on them. She went on to say that the Arizona BLM Communications Office will get them

prepared in a timely manner and will get them to Frances Werner for initial review. Ms. Werner said Glen Collins will review the minutes first and Steve Saway second, before Ms. Werner's final review. Mr. Collins said that reviewing the notes was a volunteer duty and that anyone on the RAC who was interested could help with the review. Ms. Werner instructed the working group chairs to turn in the minutes from their meetings as soon as possible for review. It was decided that Ms. Werner would approve the March meeting's minutes and get them to the State Director as soon as possible.

ACTION: Frances Werner will review the minutes for the March and June RAC meeting and forward them to the Arizona State Director for approval.

AGENDA ITEM: BLM State Director's Introduction, Update on Legislation, Regulations and other Statewide Issues (Jim Kenna, BLM Arizona State Director and Other BLM Staff)

DISCUSSION: Jim Kenna began by congratulating Frances Werner, who will be inducted into "The Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame class of 2009" for her contributions and service benefitting Arizona's wildlife, habitats and outdoor heritage. Mr. Kenna announced that former Nevada BLM State Director Bob Abbey, who also worked in the Arizona State Office and Yuma Field Office for BLM, has been nominated to be the BLM Director. Sylvia Baca has been appointed as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, a position she held in the late 1990s. Mr. Kenna felt the BLM would benefit from having two people with previous experience working for DOI and BLM.

Mr. Kenna went on to talk about several high priority issues for the BLM:

Border Security - Mr. Kenna said the virtual surveillance project has been a good tool to combat illegal traffic on the border. He said the areas where the surveillance has been deployed have shown improvement, but the BLM is still working through the environmental concerns connected with its use.

Communications Issues with U.S. Border Patrol – The Gila District Office is working as a pilot office to work out some of the issues with communications and environmental concerns.

Recent arrests in connection artifact theft – The U.S. Attorney's Office issued 27 search warrants in connection with looting archaeological sites under the Archaeological Resources Protection and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Acts. The sting was a culmination of two years of law enforcement work. Some of subjects involved and lawyers are talking, and the net may widen. The artifacts seized, which had been identified as being of Hopi and Apache origin, are currently being stored in the Phoenix and Salt Lake City FBI offices. There has been a lot of media coverage about Sens. Orrin Hatch and Bob Bennett, both of Utah, feeling the government's actions were excessive. The U.S. Attorney's office said the government followed proper procedures. The operation was carried out by BLM law enforcement and the FBI. One of the men arrested apparently committed suicide the day after he was arrested. Most of what is in the warrants has been sealed by the court. There will be more information released about these arrests as time goes on.

Solar – There were 37 solar applications {IN ARIZONA} when the RAC met in March. The number remains close to that. There are 15 separate companies with solar applications currently filed with the BLM. Since March, the BLM has held listening sessions with the tribes to discuss their thoughts and concerns about solar energy on public lands. The Arizona Game & Fish Department and the tribes have shown interest in getting involved with solar projects. In Arizona, there are several tracks for solar applications: the fast track; the programmatic EIS at the national level – creation of “solar zones”; and a track unique to Arizona, the Disturbed Lands Proposal, where lands such as those along canals where there is a dead zone or abandoned mine lands could be restored to allow them to be used for solar energy projects. The BLM will have several proposals on the street. The appropriate question for BLM to answer is “what is the appropriate footprint for solar energy in Arizona?”

Naming blocks of Public Land – Mr. Kenna said he wanted to give a nod to Glen Collins for planting the seed to encourage BLM to pursue this project. Mr. Collins had asked about naming blocks of public land to help people identify them easier. {MR. KENNA} recently gave managers in the field a map and a week to give names to sections of land within their district. The managers gave preliminary thoughts, which were illustrated on a map displayed at the meeting. Mr. Kenna said that the BLM must use their field offices to talk to people of differing views to find out what the public thinks is important. He said that with the Arizona population at 6.5 million people, the BLM needs to find a way to organize the conversation, to paraphrase a concept from the Harvard Business School.

Mr. Kenna used the BLM Arizona Strategic Goals Diagram to illustrate his priorities for Arizona. The three basic priorities he listed were water strategies, ecological function, infrastructures and partnerships. He said he had been especially amazed by the role partnerships play in land management, using Agua Fria as a prime example of this. Mr. Kenna said the BLM cannot carry out its mission alone; it needs the help of active community groups, like the Friends of the Agua Fria, as an important part of the equation. He said the BLM needs to get communities more engaged in what public lands look and feel like. He said Mr. Collins’ idea to give lands identities to make local people care was an excellent one. Mr. Kenna said there were many areas on the map that still needed identities, and the RAC could help by sharing their knowledge of those areas and their opinions of the areas’ future title. He said a “stepdown strategy” was needed in several areas. He said the idea behind the map is to help give the BLM something to focus on. He said the RAC, and the BLM, should be thinking about those smaller divisions of land and what they would like to see happening on them.

Mr. Kenna said that RAC member Norman Perry had set up his first meeting for the following day with local community members to discuss some of these new plans. He said one goal is to start talking to community groups that the BLM has not traditionally sought out - groups in the metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson, for example, who are not natural constituents of the BLM.

When it was opened up for questions from the RAC, Linda Kennedy asked how closely the BLM was working with the DOD with some of the plans. Mr. Kenna responded that though they were not working very closely at that time, he does have meetings scheduled with the DOD. Mr.

Kenna said that if any of the other RAC members wanted to follow Mr. Perry in setting up meetings for him to talk to community leaders in their areas, he would welcome that. Glen Collins told Mr. Kenna that he endorsed what he had done. Mr. Collins also commended Steve Cohn and Tom Biskauskus (sp?) for the similar work that had already done on Table Mesa. He said boundaries and names for the land are what people want, and this is going in the right direction for BLM to be recognized as a resource agency.

Frances Werner said that it would be more challenging to get constituents in the metropolitan area of Phoenix involved in the dialogue. She suggested Mr. Kenna approach Phoenix Rotary clubs, because they represent local business people from many backgrounds and areas. She said it would be a good way of featuring the structure of the BLM in Arizona. Mr. Collins mentioned some of the areas labeled on the map as “management areas;” he said that title would turn people off. Mr. Lunt agreed, saying that if something is called a “management area,” people would say “what is the government screwing up now?” Teri Raml explained that they were labeled “management areas” only because that what they were called in the Resource Management Plans; that can be changed.

Linda Kennedy reminded the group that Maggie Sacher had said “when you name something people will come” at the last RAC meeting. Ms. Kennedy said when something is named and promoted, people will begin to see that area as belonging to everyone. She said the Bureau needed to have a plan – travel management, etc. - in place as they named these areas, not as an afterthought. Ms. Sacher said this was a great opportunity to engage the public who live and recreate on the land. When asked if the RAC could draw their own lines for suggestions, Deborah Stevens said yes. Norman Perry reminded the group that because the Agua Fria was created, the active Friends of the Agua Fria group were formed. He said that is what we are looking for: local people taking ownership of named sections. Josh Avey, the Governor’s representative on the RAC, said that as the groups move forward, part of the state’s objective is to build an interconnected network of habitat sustainability. He said he did not see this causing additional fragmentation, but that it is critical to avoid the problem.

Mr. Collins said that though the RAC could not vote on anything, it was important to document that this was a great idea. Maggie Sacher agreed, saying that for a week’s worth of work, it was a remarkable job. Ms. Werner suggested that offices could send press releases to local papers getting the word out about the effort; the offices could have local contests to name an area. Mr. Collins said each office has built a network while making resource management plans and that they may want to use those same networks to help with this endeavour.

ACTION: RAC members were requested to provide feedback on area names and any known details about those areas. Jim Kenna invited any RAC member to set up similar meetings to the one Norman Perry set up with local community leaders for him in their areas.

AGENDA ITEM: RAC Questions on BLM District and Field Manager Reports (RAC Members)

DISCUSSION: The RAC was asked if they had any questions about the Field Managers' Reports that were handed out in their packets. Linda Kennedy suggested that contact names be put for each field office report, so the RAC members would know who to contact if they had questions. Steve Saway asked the Phoenix Field Office representatives if the route the Arizona Public Service's (APS) transmission line would take through BLM-administered land would affect the recreational uses of that area. Teri Raml replied that the office had met with Arizona Public Service (APS), and that PDO was going to finish the Record of Decision before considering APS' right-of-way application. Mr. Saway asked if that would open a new public scoping period, and Ms. Raml replied that it would. Mr. Saway requested a map of the area the APS transmission lines would affect.

Frances Werner asked about the status of the Tri-State Shooting Range Decision. Becky Heick said that the office wants to get to a decision and has been very active toward that goal. Jim Kenna added that the BLM wants to make certain that in getting to that decision the Bureau continues to be respectful of all sides. Ms. Werner said it would be helpful if the Arizona State Land Commissioners were more helpful in the matter, but that they are concerned that the proposed project would have negative affect on state land appraisals in 100 years. She pointed out that one cannot predict land appraisals 100 years out.

ACTION: Put contact names for each BLM Field Office in the report, so RAC members would know who to contact if they had questions or suggestions. Send the RAC members a map of the area the APS transmission lines would affect..

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation on Mapping Land Health Achievements and Non-achievements on BLM Lands: Improving Land Management, Planning, and Reporting of Land Condition (Dr. Sherm Karl, Inventory and Monitoring Specialist, BLM National Operations Center)

DISCUSSION: Mike "Sherm" Carl, from the BLM Division of Resource Services in Denver, gave a PowerPoint presentation on how mapping can help the BLM more accurately do land health reporting. The BLM currently had a pilot testing program in six states, Arizona being one of the states chosen. Eventually, Mr. Carl said, he would like to see the program used Bureau-wide. The maps show color-coded polygons that represents how the land is doing on a scale from "{ACHIEVING}" land health standards to "not achieving." He said they have come up with a program to roll the data up from the Field Office to the State Office to Washington; this will help the BLM keep more accurate national land statistics. The program is designed to help the BLM fulfill its legal mandate by the Land Act and {FLPMA}. For each standard the system gives information about whether the section in question is achieving or not, as well as explanations for why land is not achieving that standard. Mr. Carl said there are currently 157 million acres of BLM land in allotments. His program would like to see information kept on those allotments for national use, as well as in the separate Field Offices for the public to request. Program heads nationally can use the information to see how each state is doing. He said it could also help programs see the effectiveness of land use plans. The program has been in existence since 2006. In FY 2008, they started a Geodatabase to collect and store the data they gathered. Mr. Carl concluded that in order for the program to work, it had to be used by all the programs within BLM, not just range as land health encompasses the effects of all uses.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Solar Rights-of-Way Applications (Angela Mogel, BLM Realty Program Lead)

DISCUSSION: Angela Mogel said the solar applications were the same as the last RAC meeting, with the exception of one that had to drop out because they did not pay their cost recovery fees. The BLM has been coordinating with state agencies and have been doing active, tribal outreach to keep everyone informed about the projects and to address some of their concerns. The applicants have turned in Plans of Development that describe their projects. The BLM sent letters to all applicants asking if they had obtained water rights, purchase power agreements, and interconnect status. There is one project that is ahead of other ones, Sonoran Solar Energy Project, which would be south of Buckeye near the Sonoran Desert National Monument. The acreage originally requested has gone down. Norman Perry asked what the daily water consumption of the project would be. Ms. Mogel had that information, but not with her, so she said she would email it to the RAC. Glen Collins asked if they would be using groundwater. Ms. Mogel said they got a permit to drill a well. Mr. Perry asked if the BLM asked the applicants which process they planned to use. He described a technical process he'd recently heard of to refrigerate the water to cut down on water consumption, and suggested the BLM use that kind of technology to conserve water. Richard Lunt asked if the Sonoran Solar Energy Project was going to connect to the existing power lines. Ms. Mogel said she would let Chris Horyza answer that in his upcoming presentation. Steve Saway asked if they had to sync with the programmatic EIS. Ms. Mogel replied that the process could go forward without that, and make it a concurrent process. She said the goal is to incorporate by reference information out of that document. Mr. Collins asked how long the right-of-way would be issued, to which Ms. Mogel replied 30 years. When asked by Mr. Perry whether the rights-of-way applications for solar would be competitive, Ms. Mogel replied that none of the ROWs in land use plans in Arizona are competitive. Mr. Perry said his worry was that if the first application got through with problems because BLM lacked basic knowledge, and the subsequent approval of applications is based on a flawed first, it could cause problems later on. Linda Kennedy asked if the process was establishing a precedent system, whereby an applicant could tell the BLM that they can't be asked to do anything previous applicants weren't asked to do, keeping the BLM from using lessons learned with later applicants. Mr. Horyza said he did not think this would happen. Tom Dabbs said that there had been a mention in the previous day's working group meeting that because the RAC could not vote without a quorum at this meeting, and they did not want to have to wait until the September meeting to voice their opinions on this subject, it had been suggested by the members that they write a letter expressing their individual opinions on the subject. Mr. Kenna said he welcomed engagement from the RAC on the subject of solar energy. Steve Saway said that at the national level, the BLM had to decide what work load it is willing to support. He said if the BLM is going to lease the land, but continue to manage it, it might also consider selling the land. He said he thought it should at least be looked at. Mr. Collins added that BLM is not the only entity with land that could be used for solar energy. He said there is a lot of private land that could be equally well-equipped for solar projects. He said IT was an issue deserving of consideration. He called the popularity of solar projects a land rush - "a gold rush

for the sunshine.” Ms. Werner pointed out that there is also state trust land that could be leased or purchased to provide income to the trust. .

Maggie Sacher asked which energy source produced more power per acre, wind or solar. Linda Kennedy said it is difficult to compare wind to solar capabilities. Mr. Horyza agreed, saying there could be a comparison made, but it would be a complicated equation when balancing a reliable electricity grid. Tina Clark said she was interested in how view shed is looked at with these projects. Mr. Horyza answered that through land use planning, the BLM uses visual contrast rating analysis. He said it is definitely a process the BLM has in place. Mr. Perry said that when the applicant list first came out, it was mostly wind, now there were no wind projects. Ms. Mogel said the BLM has a separate list for the wind projects. Mr. Perry pointed out that currently nearly a million acres of public land could be “fenced” for renewable energy projects. Ms. Mogel said that not all of the projects would be cut off from other public land users. She said The Dry Lake Wind Project was under construction now, and that she would provide pictures for the RAC to see what that project looks like.

Steve Saway asked if each project requires an environmental assessment. Ms. Mogel said most will be an EIS with public scoping meetings. Ms. Mogel said California is ahead of Arizona with these projects and will be a good place to learn from and coordinate with.

ACTION: RAC members will send their thoughts and concerns about the topic of solar rights-of-way applications to Norman Perry to compile into one letter to send to the state director. Angela Mogel will email the daily water consumption anticipated for the Sonoran Solar Energy Project. Ms. Mogel will provide pictures of the Dry Lake Wind Project to the RAC.

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation on the Arizona Resource and Transportation Information System Project (ARTIS) (Chris Horyza, BLM Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordinator)

DISCUSSION: Chris Horyza said the Arizona Corporation Commission told Arizona energy producers that they needed to identify their top 3 transmission projects and any new transmission lines they wanted to build in the next ten years. The companies had to determine where energy needed to go and where renewable energy would likely be. The Arizona Resource and Transportation Information System Project (ARTIS) pulled groups together to try to identify where renewable energy would likely develop. They looked at natural resources that might conflict or limit projects. By eliminating those places, they came up with the most likely places. ARTIS held six meetings to look at the GIS data provided and categorized that data.

Glen Collins asked if the project looked at private land. Mr. Horyza said information about private land is limited, because of privacy rights. Richard Lunt asked if there were easements. Mr. Horyza answered that private land is being considered, but because of private land rights, they are not being considered as thoroughly as public lands. Maggie Sacher asked if there were any federal mandate that said how much states should provide for renewable energy.

Mr. Horyza distributed a map displaying BLM’s contribution to the ARTIS project. The map divided the land shown into several categories: areas that would be excluded from consideration

for projects, because they were deemed high sensitivity – data and plan decision categories that would be very highly sensitive to this level of development; areas that such development would be inconsistent with RMPs – not a “no,” but not a good place to look; moderate sensitivity – land use plan would preclude use in such projects; areas that would require site specific analysis to determine; areas with the lowest known problem for use in renewable energy projects; and those areas with existing authorized utility corridors, plans already in use, water, etc.

Steve Saway asked if SunZia fell under this analysis. Mr. Horyza said it did not at this time, but they eventually would. Mr. Kenna said the whole western grid is interdependent. Mr. Horyza pointed out that it gets more complex when you talk about things like the Smartgrid. Mr. Lunt said the renewables are just adding another factor; consumers just want reliable electricity. He said Texas produced a lot of wind energy, but they had rolling blackouts because they had no way of storing the energy they produced. Mr. Perry said how BLM handles renewable energy has to be right the first time. He said if the BLM is going to take 700,000 acres out of the public land and fence them off, we have to do it the right way the first time.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: RAC Annual Work Plan Review and Discussion (RAC members and BLM staff)

DISCUSSION: Frances Werner explained that the Annual Work Plan is a document started a number of years ago, and the RAC updates from time to time. Steve Saway said that, because the document is several years old some items might not have as much priority. Jim Kenna said there might be some strategic changes in light of the priorities in the plan he gave the group earlier in the meeting. He said his interest would parallel between the chart he distributed and the work plan. Ms. Werner said the RAC charter says the RAC gives advice to the state director, but unless its members know what the state director’s priorities are, they have no starting point. Mr. Kenna said the RAC had already touched on some of his interests in the meeting: solar, water, etc. He said his preference would be for the RAC to pick a few important issues on which to focus, rather than many issues. He described his philosophy as wanting to take the community level relationship to another level, for example the Friends of the Agua Fria. Glen Collins said the RAC is still talking about things they used to talk about. He suggested that the RAC working groups be refocused to better fit the newer priorities. He suggested reorganizing the working groups. Ms. Werner said the RAC has been waiting for the recreation plan for a long time and seeing that completed is important to the RAC. Mr. Collins said the RAC should have time at next meeting to restructure the working groups around some of the topics that are emerging. Ms. Werner said that if the public had the recreation plan on the table, it would raise public interest.

At 11: 30 a.m. Ms. Werner opened the floor for the Public Comment Period. There were no comments. Public Comment Period was closed

Maggie Sacher said she thought the public wasn’t there, because most people’s needs are being met. Norman Perry agreed. He said he got a letter from the Friends of the Agua Fria asking him to write a report of what happened at the meeting; he said that was a sign that the public thought

they were doing well. Ms. Werner said she thought that was the difference between rural and urban areas – she sees little interest in urban areas. Linda Kennedy said she agreed with both points of view. She said if Tucson citizens didn't agree with something BLM did, they would show up. Tina Clark said partnerships give the BLM a great opportunity. She said in Yuma, private citizens have leveraged BLM funds; it's called creative fundraising. Ms. Clark said districts should share information about how to create and sustain effective partnerships. She said in the Colorado River District, they don't have Friends groups, but they have raised millions for public lands. Friends groups can raise funds for land that the BLM could never apply for. Mr. Perry said the Friends of the Agua Fria had just finished mapping the Agua Fria, which they could not have accomplished without help from PDO providing guidance.

Richard {LUNT} said there is a lot of apathy out there; young people don't care. Mr. Perry countered that half of the Friends of the Agua Fria were under the age of 30. Mr. {LUNT} said the BLM has partnered with the Boy Scouts in his area. Mr. Perry said if you can get the scouts in, you can get the parents.

Mr. Collins said the RAC had to remember what it was meant to do. He said they were established under {INTERIOR SECRETARY BABBITT} for grazing issues. The RACs have helped the BLM with Resource Management plans. He said the RAC needs to take a look at the chart from Mr. Kenna, and ask the BLM what the RAC's structure should look like. Ms. Werner said there is a document "Duty of the Council" that provides guidelines and it might be good to revisit those. Steve Saway said the group should give thought on which issues it could and could not help with – WH&B, no; but solar, yes. Mr. Collins suggested combining the S&G with the WH&B; the Energy Working Group, Land Use and Special Area Management Working Group, that would talk about winding up resource management plans; Recreation and Community Relationships. He said he wasn't certain about water. Mr. Kenna said he wanted to be able to bring water issues to the RAC as well. He said he saw the RAC as a place he could bring ideas for discussion. Mr. Collins said RAC members should meet with BLM staff to discuss regrouping. Mr. Kenna said he liked the regrouping idea. Mr. Kenna agreed to be the representative on the issue. It was decided by the members that they would do the initial work by email, but a meeting would be needed.

ACTION: Set up a meeting between RAC members and Jim Kenna to discuss regrouping the RAC workgroups.

Lunch Recess from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Report from the Standards & Guidelines Working Group and Election of S&G Working Group Chair (Bill Coulloudon, BLM Range Conservationist, Acting Chair) and RAC members

DISCUSSION: Because of the lack of a quorum no formal vote could be taken but Ty Kelly was proposed as Chair with Bill Brake as vice-chair. Action will be taken at the next RAC meeting.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Report from Recreation Working Group (Norman Perry, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Norman Perry said the current financial status was \$1.1 million from the OHV decal; with a projection of \$3.27 million. CDs of ambassador program were distributed. The Ambassador program is trying to expand. Steve Cohn made a presentation about the Table Mesa Travel Management Plan, on which local hikers, bikers, equestrians, and gun-owners thought the BLM did a very good job. The group agreed to place the subject of BLM land access on the next agenda and working group agenda.

Steve Saway said he learned of an area where the new town manager is threatening eminent domain to get access to BLM land. Tina Clark said it would be nice to have a plan from the Arizona Department of Tourism. Mr. Collins said Mr. Saway's comments should go in the record, because they identified the role the BLM has for {MAINTAINING}lands for people. Ms. Werner said access is becoming an extremely important issue. She said that in 1988, the BLM and Forest Service paid the Keystone Institute to study the problem – it has gotten worse since then. She said if the BLM is going to have recreation, people have to be able to get to land. Ms. Sacher said the easiest way to do that is to go back to the Planning and Zoning Departments and make sure the BLM is heard. Ms. Werner suggested one has to watch out for counties abandoning roads and letting them go to the owner. Ms. Sacher said that until the land owner isn't liable for anything that happens on their land in the court, that will continue to be a problem. Mr. Saway suggested looking at best practices from other agencies as well.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Report from Land Use Planning and Tenure Working Group (Glen Collins, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Glen Collins gave the report from the Land Use Planning working group. He said the group worked with Chris Horyza on several issues. The Ironwood National Monument Final Resource Management plan is due by the end of this year. Brian Bellew gave three reports: ON THE MIDDLE GILA CANYONS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN, THE DRAFT RMP AND EIS THAT IS BEING PREPARED FOR THE BABOQUIVARI PEAK AND COYOTE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREAS, AND THE PROPOSED RMP/EIS ON THE IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT. Martinez Canyon was protected and OHV riders were given plenty of trails, and there are rockcrawling opportunities. The final comments from various stakeholders, showed that OHV riders seem {SATISFIED}. The Tucson OFFICE did a great job. Mr. Bellew gave an overview of the Baboquivari/Coyote Mts. Area. He reported that there are some tribal issues (Tohono) . He also gave an update on the Ironwood Forest NM LUP

The other item talked about was solar issues. Mr. {COLLINS} said Mr. Horyza described what was happening on the national EIS. There are currently 24 study areas across six state areas. As previously {STATED}, the RAC will collect thoughts and recommendations either before or

after public meetings, get thoughts to BLM as individuals. There will be something scheduled on Programmatic EIS in the next month. Mr. Horyza said that there will be scoping meetings on the National Programmatic the last week in July. Mr. Saway asked if that was going to be circulated to get {CONSENSUS} with the members. Norman Perry agreed that it should be sent around and the thoughts collected and sent to Mr. Horyza. Mr. Horyza said the notice of intent would be published in the next couple of days. It will be announced that the scoping period will specifically focus on the 24 national study areas. Mr. Horyza asked that any comments made by the RAC members be divided between the national programmatic and this specific project.

Mr. Perry said that at the last meeting he said he would write to Secretary Salazar on the subject of solar energy. He said he received a response today. He did not read the entire letter, but he said the Secretary wrote that the rental rate had not been established for solar, compared to wind. (PLACE LETTER HERE) Mr. Perry said he wanted to thank Deborah Stevens for getting Washington to respond to his letter.

Mr. Collins said that the last thing the working group discussed was a need for a solar working group. Mr. Saway said there is a RAC developed protocol that covers how RAC will be involved in Resource Management Plans. He said it shows that RAC should be briefed during the draft stage. This document should be updated soon. The RAC developed similar protocol for Travel Management Plans. Mr. Saway said the Field Office Managers should give the plans to RAC before finalization. Managers should also let the RAC know about public meetings. It would allow the RAC to sit in on meetings, especially when the topics are controversial.

ACTION: RAC will be notified of scoping meetings

AGENDA ITEM: Report from Wild Horse and Burro Working Group (Frances Werner, for Linda Binder (Chair)

DISCUSSION: Frances Werner gave the WH&B working group briefing for Linda Binder. There have been 68 burros adopted so far this year. At the last RAC meeting, members discussed birth control for the wild horses and burros. The national office plans to tie it into the next draw. Linda Binder attended the national WH&B meeting and took notes. Ms. Werner said that it seems at least some of the board understands the problem, but the chair disagrees. There is still pending litigation in states like Colorado and Nevada. Ms. Werner said she was considering inviting Henri Bisson to speak to the RAC about the WH&B problem. Ms. Werner spoke to him, and he told her he just decided he needed to speak out about the program.

At the WH&B Meeting, the Board spoke to the fact that they had problems with the Grijalva bill, that would let horses run free. This WH&B BOARD will do a conference call to discuss the bill. Ms. Werner said she assumed the conference call would have to be advertised. Ms. Stevens said she would check on it. Jim Kenna said that what Henri Bisson did a year or so ago needed to be done. He said the BLM is in a hard spot. Costs have risen to over half of the national program budget. Mr. Kenna said demand for adoption has dropped off quite considerably in recent years. Ms. Werner said that the Game and Fish Department has sued the BLM several times over the

matter. She said it was a problem that was hard to find a solution to because of the emotion involved.

ACTION: Deborah Stevens will check on whether the WH&B conference call needs to be advertised.

BREAK

AGENDA ITEM: Report from Recreation Enhancement Act Working Group (Steve Saway, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Steve Saway gave a summary of the working group's recent meetings. He said the working group had a conference call with personnel at the Kingman Field Office on May 20th to discuss their fee increase proposal. The conference call enabled the working group to better understand the fee sites and financial details. At the REA working group meeting on June 24th. Len Marceau from the Kingman Field Office gave an update of the draft business plan and responded to RAC member questions. The working group noted that the June 25th RAC meeting would not have a quorum, but decided to proceed with the fee proposal presentation because it was noticed on the RAC agenda and there could be public comments. The working group also voted (3 in favor, 1 opposed) to recommend the RAC accept the fee proposals as presented. However, a RAC vote will have to be deferred to the September meeting due to lack of a quorum at the June RAC meeting. Regarding future working group meetings, a question was raised about public notification procedures: do working group meetings require a Federal Register notice? Deborah Stevens said no but that there will need to be a local public notice. The meeting can be via teleconference, but a room will need to be reserved for the public to participate. Norman Perry suggested using the local office that is the subject of the discussion.

Maggie Sacher has agreed to join the Recreation Enhancement Act Working Group. The Working Group voted unanimously to recommend the RAC appoint her to the REA working group. When the RAC has a quorum, there will be a vote to allow her to officially join.

ACTION: When a future REA Working Group meeting is scheduled, set up Teleconference for the Recreation Enhancement Act Working Group and put out public notice.

AGENDA ITEM: **BLM Fee Proposal:** - BLM Kingman Recreation Amenity Fee Sites (Len Marceau, BLM Kingman Field Office)

Public Comment Period

DISCUSSION: Len Marceau, BLM Kingman Field Office Recreation Planner, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the {PROPOSED FEE} increases at three area campsites. The fees at the Burro Creek, Wild Cow Springs, and Windy Point campgrounds would be increased for the first time in 11 years. Mr. Marceau said the fees are based on comparable government

facilities in the Kaibab National Forest, the Fish & Wildlife Service campgrounds, Red Rocks in Las Vegas, and two local county parks. The fee increase would not recoup all costs.

Steve Saway asked how close Wild Cow Springs {CAMPGROUND WAS} to the county campground. Mr. Marceau said it was four miles, but that the county campground has water and paved roads, where Wild Cow Springs does not. Richard Lunt asked if most people pay the fee. Mr. Marceau said most people in Burro Creek do, but because the other two sites have a younger clientele, there is a higher rate of noncompliance.

Steve Saway asked Mr. Marceau to talk about day use fees for Burro Creek. Mr. Marceau said they had considered charging a day use fee, not unlike that the Forest Service charges at the Tonto, but they decided against that. He said they may revisit the issue in the future if budgets continue to drop.

Norman Perry suggested that AS times continue to be hard, they may want to think about allowing people with local licenses to use the campgrounds at lower rates. Mr. Saway said he believed it was the Prescott National Forest that asked if people preferred an inflation increase rather than one large increase. He said people didn't want the fees to increase every year. Mr. Marceau said that 90% of users in the higher elevations are locals, where most of the users in Burro Creek are snowbirds.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Steve Saway opened the floor to members of the public for the Public Comment Period. There were no members of the public present and the Public Comment Period as closed.

Mr. Saway said that at the next RAC meeting when there is a quorum, the RAC will officially vote on the fee increase. Ms. Werner said the Kingman recreation staff did an excellent job on preparing the document. {INSTEAD}of having a new version and an old version, they put changes in colored type. Deborah Stevens asked if there would be public comment at the next meeting or not. Mr. Saway said anytime we discuss a fee increase, we should allow public comment. We should update the RAC agenda notice that there will be the Kingman fee proposal at the September meeting.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on Next REA Working Group Meeting and Upcoming BLM and FS Recreation Fee Proposals (RAC Members)

DISCUSSION: It was announced that Jeff Saari from the Forest Service will discuss where they have established High Impact Recreation Areas (HIRA) at the next RAC meeting. The HIRAs have been in the courts, so he is not certain he can talk about it. Frances Werner said two people have already taken the FS to court over the HIRAs. Both live in Tucson, and both took the FS to court because they did not believe they should have to pay any fee at all. Steve Saway announced that the FS had given a six month notice that certain cabins in the Forest Service will increase to \$110 per day, or to \$140 if you want the water on. The {CABINS} were originally used for work

and fire crews. The proposal will come to the RAC the first part of next year.

Maggie Sacher said the fees they are proposing are comparable to others in the area. Glen Collins said people don't argue with what BLM fees are. He said even the Western Slope Letter argued about being charged, not how much the charge was. He said the BLM would be pulled into the Forest {SERVICE'S} mess. Ms. Werner said that when the Mount Lemon fee was instituted it was announced in a Friday evening paper that the fee was going to \$5 dollars the next day. Don Applegate asked if the RAC would plan next fiscal year at their next meeting. Norman Perry said it would be a good idea to get with the Forest Service to let them know at the same time. Mr. Saway said he had suggested to Mr. Saari to start with HIRAs not in litigation.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on Future Meetings/Locations/Proposed Agenda Items
BLM State Director and RAC Members

DISCUSSION: Frances Werner reminded the RAC members to fill out the form if they wanted items on the next meetings agenda. Maggie Sacher suggested they have the Condor Project lead speak at the next RAC meeting. Ms. Werner said that is a jurisdictional issue, and state's rights is a big issue in Arizona. Mr. Collins suggested having a general briefing with the whole RAC on the solar energy issue. Steve Saway said that Jeff Saari will speak about the Forest Service Arizona fee program. Jim Kenna said he and the RAC should speak more before the next meeting about the three goals and the Work Plan. Norman Perry asked if there was already a proposed date for the December meeting. Deborah Stevens said no, but asked the RAC to give her the dates they are available, and she would work from there. After a brief discussion of dates, Ms. Sacher asked if it would be better to plan the dates a year in advance. Mr. Kenna said the group could come back to the September meeting with the year planned in advance. Ms. Stevens suggested figuring available dates for the year electronically. Mr. Saway said that the RAC was once on a February, May, September, December schedule and that it may be a good schedule to try again. It was asked if there were still travel restrictions, Ms. Stevens said no.

On the Agenda, Mr. Kenna said the Workplan would be a good topic to {REVISIT}. Mr. Collins reiterated that the RAC would discuss Names and Naming, and Mr. Perry would collect the opinions of the group on Renewable Energy Policy – Mr. Perry emphasized that those opinions did not have to agree – and Mr. Perry would send those collective thoughts to the State Director.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Meeting Adjourns

DISCUSSION: Frances Werner called for a motion to {ADJOURN} the RAC meeting. Norman Perry moved the motion to {ADJOURN}, Linda Kennedy seconds it. Ms. Werner said so moved at 4:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Frances Werner will review the minutes from the March RAC meeting and forward them to the Arizona State Director.
2. RAC members were requested to give BLM any feedback on area names and any known details about those areas for the "Landscape Block" map.

3. Jim Kenna invited any RAC member to set up similar meetings to the one Norman Perry set up with local community leaders for him in their areas.
4. The RAC requested that BLM put contact names for each BLM Field Office in the RAC District/Field Manager Reports, so RAC members would know who to contact if they had questions or suggestions.

5. Send the RAC members a map of the BLM area where APS is proposing to route new transmission lines.
6. RAC members will send their thoughts and concerns about the topic of solar rights-of-way applications to Norman Perry to compile into one letter to send to the state director.
7. Angela Mogel will email the daily water consumption anticipated for the Sonoran Solar Energy Project.
8. Ms. Mogel will provide pictures of the Dry Lake Wind Project to the RAC.
9. Set up a meeting between RAC members and Jim Kenna to discuss regrouping the RAC workgroups.
10. Deborah Stevens will check on whether the WH&B conference call needs to be advertised.
11. When a REA Working Group meeting is scheduled, set up Teleconference for the Recreation Enhancement Act Working Group and put out public notice.