



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, CO 81652

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING #11

Wednesday, June 30, 2010 (6:00 PM)

BLM Field Office, Silt, CO.

DRAFT SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Steve Bennett (BLM), John Russell (BLM), Karl Mendoca (BLM), John Bailey (EcoTrails), Chris Beebe (Red Hill Council), Steve Dahmer (Sportsman and Wildlife), Peter Hart (Wilderness Workshop), Greg Noss (High Country 4-Wheelers), Tom Turnbull (Livestock Grazing), Donna Gray (Williams), Cliff Jarman (Tetra Tech).

Handouts:

- Agenda;
- Corrected Oil and Gas leasing maps;
- Travel management maps; and
- CD containing the Travel Management maps.

Introductions:

- The BLM welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. This was followed by a round-table of introductions and then an overview of the agenda.

Goals of Today's Meeting:

- Input for CRVFO recommendation to BLM State Office on Preferred Alternative
- Discuss next steps in RMP/EIS process.
- Presentation of Travel Management route designations

Oil and Gas leasing – Range of Alternatives

The Subgroup raised the issue previously concerning an adequate range of alternatives concerning Oil and Gas leasing. There had been some question as the amount of acreage and the maps concerning the difference between the alternatives. BLM distributed handouts showing the corrected maps and acreages showing all the ACECS as no lease as well as wildlife areas and areas with wilderness characteristics.

Almost 95 percent of the areas with high potential have been leased. The remaining five percent of high potential is in sensitive areas like the Hogback. The Subgroup asked if one of the alternatives should look at a buy back or other way to protect that area.

BLM responded that a buy back may be outside the decision authority of the RMP. BLM will look into that issue.

After discussion of details regarding specific areas, BLM asked if the Subgroup thought there was now an adequate range of alternatives. The Subgroup agreed that they did not like any of the alternatives. They could not reach consensus on whether there was a broad enough range of alternatives concerning oil and gas leasing.

Review of EIS

As part of review of Chapters 1-4, Subgroup members found the following big issues

- Climate change section is weak
 - Follow recent RMPS in Montana and New Mexico
 - Does not include measures to reduce or sequester carbon
 - BLM will follow Washington guidance being prepared
 - Will provide these as written comments
- Feel that there is not a large enough range in alternatives concerning SRMAs. Some SRMAs are under all alternatives.
 - BLM responded that the difference in the alternatives was in the management of the SRMAs.
- How would areas with wilderness characteristics and high oil and gas potential be protected. A range of alternatives should have one that protects the areas from leasing not just development.

Identification of Preferred Alternative

- Presentation on definition of Preferred Alternative and Proposed RMP
- BLM asked agency for input on identification of Preferred Alternative
 - Consensus could not be reached. The majority (5 to 2) selected Alternative B

Presentation of Travel Management

- Discussion of legend and information contained in maps
- Maps are organized by zones. A map for each zone for each alternative.
- Hierarchy of travel designations:
 - Full size vehicles, ATVs, motorcycle, mechanized, horse, and hiking
 - Definition of mechanical/motorized
- Routes outside of BLM are shown but not evaluated.
- Discussion of differences among alternatives
 - Travel management is the result of supporting the other resource alternatives
 - Roads are closed for reasons of preservation or disturbance
 - Reflects other land use designations (e.g., ACECs)
 - Agencies asked that the maps show SRMAs and ACECs etc. so that the influence/relationship between those designations and the status of the road segments.
- Definition of limited/authorized access
 - Not closed
 - Still access for oil and gas lease
 - Others with permission
- Questions regarding road maintenance relative to road status

- Use of route designation and zone for comments on specific route segments
- Subgroup asked for labeling of roads (county roads) not under BLM jurisdiction to help with review.
- Questions about signage, and maintenance and budgets for implementing travel management actions.
- Discussion of seasonal closures related to hunting

Status of RMP/EIS Process

- The version provided to the State office will include travel management as presented today.
- Next steps in review Process
 - Finalize changes per previously received comments
 - EIS goes through BLM State Office Review in August
 - Revision through September
 - Washington Office Review in October
 - Revision and approval through November/December
 - Public Review in January through March of 2011
- BLM pointed out that the Cooperating Agencies requested that they see the revision going to Washington, proposed to share with the Subgroup as well.