

Jarbidge RMP Newsletter

Third Issue, January 2007

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Letter from the Field Manager

Welcome to the Third Issue of the Jarbidge RMP Newsletter.

As you read through this newsletter, you will discover the Jarbidge RMP Interdisciplinary (ID) Team has been hard at work since our last edition. They participated in numerous events throughout the fall, including ID Team meetings (page 2) and the Legacy Program Visit (page 3), and have events scheduled through the winter and spring.

Upcoming events will provide opportunities for you to continue participating in the Jarbidge RMP process by meeting with the ID Team to share your knowledge and opinions concerning the planning area.

We look forward to seeing you at our January Data Fair (below). Come prepared with any data or information you have about the planning area. This is also a great opportunity to learn more about the Jarbidge Field Office.

We are looking at spring dates for public workshops to gather responses to RMP alternatives. The dates and locations will be announced in upcoming newsletters, on the website, and in the local media.

The Jarbidge RMP Website is a great way to stay up-to-date and involved in the planning process. The Scoping Report is currently posted, and we will update the website with more RMP-related information as it becomes available.

Your feedback concerning our progress is always welcome and we appreciate your involvement in 2006.

We hope you had a wonderful 2006 and offer our best wishes for a successful 2007.

Rick Vander Voet

Rick Vander Voet
Field Manager
Jarbidge Field Office

Jarbidge RMP Timeline

Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an RMP/EIS published in the *Federal Register*

January 10, 2006

Draft RMP/EIS published; 90-day comment period begins

November 2007

Proposed RMP/Final EIS published; 30-day protest period begins

November 2008

Record of Decision signed
May 2009

Approved RMP printed
June 2009

Data Fair to be Held in January

The Jarbidge Field Office will host a Data Fair to give the public an opportunity to review the data to be used for developing the Jarbidge RMP. Displays will include maps, scientific literature, and data collected over the past year including summaries of the Ecological Site Inventory, a current vegetation map, road inventories, and results of wildlife population and habitat studies.

The Data Fair will be an interactive and informal open house. This is your opportunity to meet and visit with the Jarbidge RMP Interdisciplinary Team,



comment on the displayed data, and provide any data or information you may have or know of. We will provide maps for attendees to indicate special areas for recreation, wildlife, or other resources and uses. The Field Office staff will also accept data and information prior to the event for those unable to attend and is able to give presentations on specific data or topics upon request.

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Time: 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Location: Herrett Center
College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls**

Jarbidge Field Office



Draft Planning Issues for the Jarbidge RMP

After reading each scoping letter submitted via mail, fax, and e-mail, the Jarbidge RMP Interdisciplinary Team compiled the comments raised in each correspondence. The results of this effort are described in the Scoping Report, available on the Jarbidge RMP Website. Comments are further summarized by a draft planning issue for the RMP. The draft planning issues have relatively high levels of interest and controversy and, once final, will serve as the basis for alternative development.

In addition to these draft planning issues, Appendix C of the BLM Planning Handbook requires RMPs to make many other decisions including desired outcomes, and allowable uses and actions needed to achieve those outcomes. The Jarbidge RMP will address these requirements.

The draft planning issues will become final after incorporating internal and external feedback. Please contact the Jarbidge Field Office if you have comments on these draft issues. In particular, the Jarbidge Field Office is seeking feedback to determine if any of the draft planning issues should be modified or excluded or if any additional issues should be added.

The nine draft planning issues follow, in no particular order:

Tribal Treaty Rights and Responsibilities

How will uses and activities be managed to protect Tribal rights and interests?

Transportation, Public Access, and Recreation

How will transportation, public access, and recreation be managed to protect resources, reduce user conflict, and provide both motorized and non-motorized oppor-

tunities to meet existing and future demands?

Areas with Special Values

How will areas with special values be managed to protect their unique resources?

This issue includes all special designations (Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, National Historic Trails, etc.) as well as lands with unique or special characteristics. The Wild Horse Herd Area and areas with cultural or paleontological resources are included in this issue.

Livestock Grazing

How will livestock grazing be managed to meet standards for rangeland health?

Fire and Fuels

How will wildland fires, fuels, and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation be managed to meet and be consistent with resource objectives while protecting life and property?

Renewable Energy

Which areas will be available for renewable energy development and how will they be managed?

Social and Economic Sustainability

How will RMP decisions affect the social and economic resiliency and sustainability of local communities?

Habitat for Wildlife and Special Status Species

How will habitats for wildlife and special status species be protected, restored, and maintained?

This issue includes fish and terrestrial wildlife.

Vegetation, Soils, and Water

How will vegetation, soils, and water be managed to meet resource objectives and provide for multiple uses?

Update on RMP Progress

The Jarbidge RMP Interdisciplinary (ID) Team is spending this fall and winter working on the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS). The AMS describes the current conditions and trends of the resources and uses/activities in the planning area and evaluates the implementation and outcomes of the decisions made in the 1987 RMP and its amendments. This allows the ID Team to create a framework from which to resolve the planning issues through alternative development.

The analysis is a brief description instead of an exhaustive review of everything known about the area.

Each member of the ID Team wrote about their area or areas of expertise.



The team met to discuss each write-up and offer suggestions for revision. The entire document will be compiled this winter.

This winter, the ID Team will also work on developing desired future conditions and alternatives. There will be opportunities for the public to get involved in this process through various workshops. Announcements on dates for these workshops will be made via mail, press releases, and the Jarbidge RMP Website.

NSTC Chooses Jarbidge Field Office for Legacy Program Visit

The Jarbidge Field Office was selected to participate in the BLM Legacy Program, sponsored by the BLM's National Science and Technology Center (NSTC).

The BLM Legacy Program provides current BLM field managers and specialists with an opportunity to learn about past land management practices and land treatments and evaluate the results of those practices.

In September, individuals who worked on the 1987 Jarbidge RMP traveled to



Jarbidge Legacy Program Participants

Twin Falls to meet with the current Jarbidge RMP Interdisciplinary (ID) Team.

NSTC invited all members of the 1987 team who could be located. Five members of the 1987 team accepted the invitation including the former Field Manager, Team Lead, and specialists from range, riparian areas, paleontology, and geology. Representatives from the BLM Idaho State Office were also present.

The three-day workshop involved in-depth discussions of the context for decisions made in the 1987 RMP, a tour of the Field Office to view the effects of those decisions and other changes in the

landscape, and general suggestions for writing RMPs.

Member of the ID Team had the opportunity to ask questions about the 1987 RMP to gain a better understanding of the rationale behind the decisions made in that document.

Members of the 1987 team also found the workshop useful. Ted Weasma summarized the experience: "I appreciated the opportunity to come and see how things have gone and put in my two cents worth. You've got an opportunity here to deal with some tough issues and set up a direction that's going to be good for everyone. We did what we could with the circumstances and knowledge we had at the that time. Do the best with the information you have."



Jarbidge Field Office Tour

Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council Creates Jarbidge RMP Subgroup

The Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) created a Subgroup dedicated to the Jarbidge RMP at its May 2006 meeting. Members of the Subgroup and their represented interest are:

- Dr. Ken Sanders—Academia
- Samantha Anderson—Public-at-Large
- Mel Quale—Off-Highway Vehicles
- Dr. Joe Tugaw—Federal Grazing Permittee

- Marc Brackett—Federal Grazing Permittee
- Denise Alexander—Dispersed Recreation

The RAC is briefed on RMP progress at each quarterly meeting. Members of the Subgroup have participated in RMP ID Team meetings in addition to their regular RAC duties. They will continue to lend their support and advice to work on the RMP progresses.

If you would like to speak with a Subgroup member, please contact the Jarbidge Field Office.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONSIDERATIONS: Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JARBIDGE FIELD OFFICE
2536 KIMBERLY RD
TWIN FALLS ID 83301
PHONE: (208) 736-2350
FAX: (208) 736-2375

PRSRT STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PERMIT NO. G-76

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Jarbridge RMP Contact Information:

Web: www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbridge
E-mail: ID_Jarbridge_RMP@blm.gov
Fax: (208) 736-2375 (Attn: Jarbridge RMP)
Phone: (208) 736-2350
Mail: RMP Project Manager, Jarbridge Field Office,
2536 Kimberly Rd, Twin Falls ID 83301

Jarbridge RMP Mailing List

Please contact us through any of the means listed above if you no longer wish to receive information regarding the Jarbridge RMP.

Presentations on Jarbridge RMP

Jarbridge Field Office staff are available to speak to organizations about the Jarbridge RMP. Please contact the BLM to schedule a presentation.

Comments on Jarbridge RMP

Your comments and feedback on the Jarbridge RMP are welcome anytime. Do you have suggestions for future meeting locations? Do you have feedback on the information presented in this newsletter? We always appreciate hearing from you!

What You Can Do Now

- **Attend the Jarbridge Data Fair: January 31st, 2007, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m., Herrett Center, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls**
- **Attend Alternatives Workshops. Date and location to be announced.**
- **Submit feedback on RMP materials completed to-date.**
- **Go to www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbridge to keep up-to-date on all the latest RMP information!**