

**BOISE DISTRICT (BD) RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC) MEETING  
June 9, 2010  
Boise District Office (BDO)  
Boise, Idaho  
Meeting Minutes**

**BD Council Members Present:** Gilbert Green, Brian McDevitt, Dr. Neil Rimbey, Dr. Ted Hoffman, Donna Bennett, Gene Gray, Richard Just, John Robison, Rick Raymondi, Brenda Richards, Ralph Richardson, and Nate Helm (1/2 day).

**BD Council Members Absent:** Grant Simonds, Richard M. Freund and Ted Howard.

**BLM Advisory Present:** Aden Seidlitz, Boise District (BD) Manager; MJ Byrne, BD RAC Coordinator.

**Other BLM Staff Present:** Buddy Green, Owyhee Field Office (OFO) Manager; Arnie Pike, Bruneau Field Office (BFO) Manager; Allen Bollschweiler, Acting Assistant Manager, Four Rivers Field Office (FRFO); Tricia Roller, NCA Manager; Jon Beck, Planning Lead for the FRFO Resource Management Plan (RMP); and Terry Heslin, Recreation Planner, Idaho State Office (ISO).

**Statements attributed to individuals are not direct quotes unless so indicated. Titles of handouts and/or other written presentations are listed in the appendix following the minutes, and detailed notes are not provided for these.**

**Action Items** were reviewed, and **Minutes** were certified as corrected in the afternoon. A corrected copy is included herewith.

Gil Green opened the meeting. Aden Seidlitz welcomed everyone. He thanked them for coming and for all the time and effort they contribute to BLM as Members of the RAC.

Aden summarized the March 24 meeting that the Acting State Director, Peter Ditton, held with the RAC Chairs from the four Districts in Idaho. We are the only RAC in the State that charters our Sub-Groups. The charters provide organization, and define the roles of the Subgroups. The meeting attendees reviewed key points of the statewide priorities.

Gil Green handed out a summary of the meeting. A copy is attached. Highlights he cited included: providing support to energy rights-of-ways and renewable energy related projects; community growth; public outreach and environmental education, land health issues such as T&E species and habitat conservation. Working with the local Sage-Grouse Working Groups is very important with the recent decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The M-3 land exchange was briefly discussed. He

said the meeting was a good opportunity for the chairs to meet and discuss issues they share and how their council members are addressing them. The RAC Chairs asked for additional meetings like this but no dates were set.

**Neil Rimbey:** Litigation would be an appropriate topic for a discussion between the four Idaho RACs. This discussion could include asking the questions, "What is working? What isn't and why? Are there any commonalities that the RAC's can identify in these areas that can be identified and passed on to BLM? Comparing notes across districts and state lines is one means of doing this. Aden has forwarded the report that Drs. Neil Rimbey, Ted Hoffman and Cindy Salo prepared to the other RAC Chairs. Aden suggested the RAC might want to send the report out to RACs in other states and ask for their thoughts/feedback.

**MJ Byrne:** Yesterday (6/8/2010) was the roll-out of the Secretary's new Wild H&B Initiative. The Comment period ends on August 3, 2010, which is before the next RAC meeting. Thus, we want you to have adequate time to comment if desired. MJ presented the WH&B power point and emailed the following WH&B Initiative link to all the RAC Members and encouraged them to send it to other individuals and organizations they represent:

[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2010/june/NR\\_06\\_03\\_2010.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2010/june/NR_06_03_2010.html) .

**Neil Rimbey:** If BLM ties the need to gather to the success or failure of the adoption program, it will fail. With the downturn in the economy, adoptions are going to wane and BLM should not tie the need for more horse gathers solely to this trend in adoptions. Gathers must be conducted on the basis of historic numbers (1972 numbers or those updated via RMP's) AND resource conditions.

MJ explained the Capture, Treat and Release (CTR) plan. Information will be distributed to the public soon on this plan. Again, MJ encouraged RAC members to submit their comments individually.

MJ distributed a revised RAC membership list and asked that the members look it over and let her know of any corrections. ACTION: She'll incorporate comments and revise accordingly.

**Hot topics – Aden Seidlitz, District Manager**

**America's Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus)** – Most of the projects have been completed.

- The docks for Steck Park will be installed late this month.
- Ground was broken on the new Radio Bldg. on May 21, 2010.

**Budget Process** - Aden made a few comments about BLM's budget process and specifically this year's, FY 2010. We have little hope that we'll have a budget early next fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2010. We will likely have a Continuing Resolution based on the President's budget (with a 20-30% cut). If that happens, we will be very lean/mean

**Brian McDevitt** – Brian presented an initial draft of the Litigation Subgroup charter. It was agreed that the Subgroup should be chartered, and that Brian will fine-tune the draft charter and present it at our next meeting, September 8.

**Brenda Richards** - A few years ago, the RAC talked about **cooperative range monitoring**. Is the time right now to look at that concept again? Perhaps training some experienced range people, including drawing from the pool of retired BLM range specialists would be less expensive than hiring seasonals.

Neil Rimbey suggested Dr. Kelly Crane, University of Idaho, speaker at our March 3, 2010, meeting might be a good resource for training session(s) for people.

Brenda Richards said that, in the past, the RAC worked with the Public Lands Council on the monitoring. She recommended contacting Gretchen Hyde of the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission.

**ACTION: Aden will work with Ted Hoffman and Brenda Richards on how this has been done in the past and report back to the RAC.**

Ted Hoffman recommended that BLM staff notify permittees when they plan to do monitoring and assessments on their allotments so they can be present, if they desire. He noted this is integral to any cooperative monitoring program. He said he is one of the few permittees with a cooperative

monitoring program, yet seldom is notified by BLM when they go out to read the transects. He urged the BLM range crews to contact him and other permittees to save hours of looking for sites and the potential of accumulating faulty data. **ACTION: Ted would like to have a discussion about the cooperative monitoring program added to the agenda for the next meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. This is an issue that could be discussed with the other RAC's in Idaho and in other western states.**

### **FRFO - RMP Sub-Group Report**

Gil Green is the Chair. of this sub-group. They met on May 20, 2010, to review the draft alternatives of the RMP. BLM hopes to distribute the finalized alternatives this fall.

**ACTION: The RMP sub-group will provide a copy of our review and recommendations to the RAC. The Subgroup will meet again as additional draft sections are completed for them to review.**

Brian moved that once the RMP Subgroup has completed its review of the (FRFO) RMP- Alternatives document, a recommendation will be emailed to the full RAC, for their approval, whether to support the alternatives, if timing requires that be done prior to the September 8, 2010 meeting. The motion carried.

**ACTION: MJ will send out the notice of the next RMP Subgroup meeting so that the entire RAC can participate if they so choose.**

**OHV & Transportation Management** – Rick Just reported on this Sub-group's recent Field Trip. It was attended by Rick, Ralph Richardson, Jeff Cooke, MJ Byrne (BLM), Mike O'Donnell (BLM) and led by Ryan Homan, (BLM-Owyhee Field Office). They toured the 45 Area and Hemingway Butte, where trails have been modified to discourage over-use. When the Murphy TMP was completed, it stated that adaptive management would be used throughout the life of the document. Adaptive management enables modifications to be made without having to go back and develop a Plan Amendment. BLM continues to work to provide the best experience possible for recreationists and other public land users. Many of the recreation groups are helping with trash pickup, trail marking and maintenance, etc., including Idaho ATV Association, Kuna Trail Riders (KTR), and Southern Idaho

Desert Racing Association (SIDRA). The rationale we use before closing trails is much more complicated than many think. Rick Just suggested the RAC can help BLM provide recognition to individuals/groups that are helping with various stewardship activities, and provide a forum where BLM can talk about the issue of recreation management. Rick suggested providing presentations at popular forums such as Boise City Club, Rotary Clubs, etc. The OHV subgroup will help get BLM on the agendas. Everyone agreed that a GIS-layered map would be ideal in that it would help us better explain all the regulations that BLM must consider when making decisions about where some trails can be located, and why some existing trails must be closed.

Brenda Richards commended BLM on their adaptive management in dealing with all the different types of users. With a cool, wet spring, resource damage can occur with trails and public lands being soft and muddy in places. Education is huge, and the RAC can help BLM get their message to a variety of users. MJ suggested applying for a grant specifically for education, etc. Terry Heslin, Recreation Planner, ISO, supported the **RAC applying for such a grant.**

**ACTION: Terry will provide additional information about what types of grants were available and how to apply for them.**

Rick recommended that before and after pictures of areas would be a dramatic demonstration of BLM's work on the ground. Neil commented that the Public Service Announcements used for the Boise Front could be transferred to Owyhee County and elsewhere. Mike O'Donnell suggested that the public be informed and invited to attend RAC meetings, information forums, etc.

**Brenda Richards: We need to acknowledge groups like KTR and SIDRA when they hold clean-ups.**

**ACTION: Rick agreed to meet with Steve Stuebner, Idaho author and outdoor recreationist, to dialogue about getting the message out, and to report back to the RAC about what he accomplished.**

**ACTION: Maps of Wilson and Murphy TMP should include private/public lands, and clearly identify areas that are open, open to trail use only and closed. Owyhee County offices have information for riders but maps are needed. Information including maps should be disseminated by BLM in Ada and Canyon counties as well as Gem and Washington.**

**Recreational vehicle and other sporting good shops should also be encouraged to have this type of free information available for the public.**

**Rick Just:** The on-line mapping project is merely in the baby stages.

**Brenda moved and Neil amended the motion that Rick Just will prepare a thank-you letter from the RAC to those groups that do clean-up or make other signification contributions on the public lands. This letter will be added to BLM's Website. Motion passed.**

Brenda suggested the Sub-Committee might want to review the Owyhee Comprehensive Land Use Plan on the County's website (<http://owyheecounty.net/docs/admin/forms/comprehensive%20Plan.pdf>).

No public comments.

Rick Raymondi presented the Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Obligate Species Habitat Management RAC Subgroup Charter and noted the group tried to incorporate all the comments received. **Brenda moved, and it was seconded, to adopt the Sage Grouse Obligate Species Habitat Subgroup Charter. The motion passed.** Rick Raymondi & Gene Gray were commended for their work on the Charter.

MJ Byrne: Briefed us on the changes in the RAC Nomination Process. Fourteen RAC's including BDO and Twin Falls are being required to re-advertise our RAC nominations in order to submit additional nominations for RAC terms expiring at the end of this fiscal year. This decision was made in Washington, D.C. We have only thirty (30) days to accomplish this challenge. **RAC members were encouraged to submit any names to MJ Byrne.**

M-3 Land Exchange – (Background) In August 2009, M3 Companies, an Arizona-based developer with landholdings in Arizona, Colorado and Idaho, along with the Idaho Forest Group, submitted a land exchange proposal, "Foothills Open and N. Idaho Timber Land - A Unique Land Exchange Opportunity". M3 Companies proposes transfer of about 12,001 acres of private land in southern Idaho to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in exchange for 8,891 acres of scattered parcels of primarily timbered BLM land in northern Idaho, along with 975 acres of public land near Eagle, Idaho currently managed by the Boise District BLM. Upon completion of this exchange, M3 Companies would sell the former BLM timberlands in N. Idaho to the Idaho Forest Group.

Aden distributed BLM's briefing papers on the M-3 project. Copy attached to the minutes. See Appendix 1.

Guests:

C. J. Petrovsky, North Ada County Foothills Assn. (NACFA) ; John Petrovsky, NACFA; Kathy Pennisi, NACFA; John Thornton, NACFA; and Patrick Mallea.

Aden welcomed representatives from M-3, Mark Tate, Project Manager, M-3 Eagle, LLC, and Joe Hinson, Consultant to M-3.

**Mark Tate, and Joe Hinson, M-3 Eagle LLC** – In this exchange, the [Idaho Forest Group](#) would purchase 8,500 acres of scattered BLM forest lands that M3 Eagle would receive for its 11,000 acres in Southern Idaho. That land is located in six counties throughout North Idaho. Upon completion of that exchange, the parcels would be immediately sold to Idaho Forest Group.

John Robison– To provide a bit of history, 800 acres was to have been donated to (the City of Eagle). Within 10 years, the City of Eagle agreed to support an exchange of that land but if that is not done, it would be donated to the City of Eagle.

The Development Agreement has the approval of the City of Eagle for the 6,000 acres of land for a planned community. John asked about the issue of the presence of Slickspot Peppergrass (*Lepidium Papilliferum*, or LEPA), which is now a listed species under the Endangered Species Act. Aden responded that the 2009 Conservation Agreement BLM signed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mandates that BLM will retain in Federal ownership public lands known to have LEPA, unless a land transfer will result in a net benefit to the species.

#### Public Comment Period

John Petrovsky –Co-founder of N. Ada County Foothills Assn., and here as an individual. “I am a Natural Resource Planner. The focus of our attention is between Highway 16 and Highway 55. He cited The Open Space Task Force Report – a concept for a broad open corridor. Focus is on no net loss in public lands. We want the public to always benefit from all actions. He objects to M-3’s attempts to get the land exchange approved using the legislative vs. the administrative process. “That concerns us,” he said. “This will preclude additional opportunities for public input and involvement in the proposed land exchanges, which are provided for in the administrative process.”

John Thornton, NACFA – Several hundred individual families are going to be part of this process. We want to preserve many of the reasons we all moved to this area. We have enjoyed the public and much of the private land in this area. Four sons, my wife and I utilize this area for running, equestrian usage and scouting activities in the area. After work, we can hop on a bike or drive 5-10 minutes from home and recreate. I want to emphasize the great work that the City of Boise and BLM have done to identify the foothills area(s). Former U.S. Senator Craig endorsed this and we are grateful for their efforts. We want to hold onto the traditional usage – hiking, biking, riding, bird dog exercise, etc. We want to be sure we don't lose this area that is so important to me and my family. In terms of wildlife values, when you're in the Stack Rock area, there are many species of wildlife, raptors, etc. The Shoshone-Paiute/Bannock Tribes – I wonder how they view all of this – I want to make sure the tribes have been properly consulted with regarding this proposed exchange.

John Robison – Which area(s) are you most concerned about?

Petrovsky showed the overlay map of Eagle – responded to in the FRFO RMP.

The Rocky Canyon area around Eagle has a lot of cultural resources.

Kathy Pennisi – Current Chair of N. Ada County Foothills Assn. (NACFA) We are a large group supporting the open spaces for recreation and habitat. We aren't necessarily against the exchange but we do have some real concerns. The area has a huge potential for development – going directly to the legislative process almost certainly overlooks much of what is important to us (Foothills Assn. members).

Gil Green: Perhaps a separate Sub-Group (even if short-lived) might be a good idea to look into this exchange.

John Robison: Is there enough flexibility for local communities to have their preferences addressed?

Mark Tate – We do want to build in some flexibility here. We welcome your questions, feedback, etc.

Brenda: I move to have Jon Robison chair a Subgroup that could do some additional research into this issue; communicate with the Subgroup looking into this same issue for the Coeur d'Alene RAC, interview different stakeholder groups and individuals who have been involved in the proposal, develop some recommendations, submit them to the full RAC at their next meeting in September, and

provide them to BLM for consideration in their decision-making process. The motion was seconded, and passed without objection.

End of comment period.

**Buddy Green, FOM, Owyhee Field Office (OFO):**

- Silver Falcon Mining – BLM is in discussions with company representatives about issues they have including the volume of material proposed to be moved over the Silver City road during the busy summer months. We are working to find a compromise that will address these concerns.
- Ridgeline Energy – The next step in the wind energy development proposal is for their contractor, Tetra Tech, to deliver a draft environmental assessment for our internal review. It will then be posted to our website for public review and comment for 30 days, prior to a decision on whether to sign a Finding of No Significant Impact.
- Poison Creek – Potential public road through private property.

**ACTION: Brenda will supply history on this to Aden.**

OFO and Bruneau Field Office (BFO) – There will be a National Guard Exercise – June 15-17, similar terrain and conditions as those found in Afghanistan – crosses BFO and OFO off Bruneau Road. We are notifying all the permittees in the affected area, and have only heard back from one permittee.

**Arnie Pike, FOM, Bruneau Field Office (BFO):** A motorcycle group, the OUTLAWS, have requested another motorcycle race for this fall in the Castle Creek Allotment, 10 miles North of Oreana. There shouldn't be any conflict with cattle at that time. Their proposal calls for use of existing "race" trails.

- Land Water Conservation Fund (2012) Request – On June 3, 2010 a proposal was submitted for the acquisition of property located in the Little Jacks Creek Basin. The selected property would improve the corridor used for migration by California bighorn sheep between Little Jacks Creek and Big Jacks Creek. The property also has high quality habitat for sage-grouse late brood-rearing and pygmy rabbits.
- Agnico-Eagle Mining Request – This proposal is currently in the exploratory drilling phase to identify if there is sufficient silver /gold that was not mined previously. Wildlife and botany clearances have been completed. We are awaiting comments from the State Historic

Preservation Office on the Cultural Survey Report. The mine is located approximately 35 miles west, southwest of Bruneau.

- Bruneau Field Office is looking at doing some additional (ongoing) mowing projects to decrease the height of the vegetation so that a fire won't jump the road(s) so easily.

Deer Water Springs – This is a deep, narrow-walled area that fills in with tumbleweeds. Pictographs have been found there in the past, and fires have burned through it, causing damage to cracking and sloughing off the walls. BLM is evaluating various methods of accomplishing our objective of protecting the pictographs from any further fire.

The Bruneau RMP is progressing. The Owyhee Management Act team is evaluating which Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are now covered within the newly designated wilderness areas and which still require this designation for the additional protection that comes with it.

Feral horses located in the Scotts Table area have been removed by the permittee.

Proposed Land Exchange with Riddle Ranch - The Riddle Ranches Exchange involves 280 acres of private land located within the Owyhee River Wilderness Area, at the confluence of Battle Creek and the Owyhee River. The property was identified as a potential in-holding acquisition in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act. The land exchange feasibility package has been forwarded to the BLM Idaho State Office for review, after which it will be sent to the BLM Washington Office (WO) for subsequent review and approval. Once we receive approval from the WO, we will publish a Notice of Exchange Proposal in a local newspaper, which provides for a 45-day public comment period. Any comments received will be incorporated into the EA for the project.

**FRFO – Allen Bollschweiler** - Thanked the RAC for their time and ongoing efforts. Allen was impressed with the enthusiasm and cohesiveness he observed between the RAC Members, their cordiality towards each other and BLM.

On June 3, 2010, we received a 60-day notice to sue (permit renewal without consultation), from Western Watersheds Project on the Mud Springs allotment. On June 7, 2010, we received a Freedom of Information Act request for volumes of information associated with that allotment.

We are working in the Mountain Home and Bennett Mountain areas on permit renewals.

**Ted Hoffman** – Four ranchers and some retired high-school biology teachers are working on developing a sage-grouse local working group over in the Mountain Home area. He will keep the RAC informed as this effort progresses. He asked about whether a new EA was required to burn the accumulation of tumble weeds around the fences over in his area. Donna Bennett agreed the tumble weeds are a serious fire concern on their property as well as their neighbors. They asked if BLM could check and see whether this could be addressed with an existing EA for fuels management. **ACTION: Terry Humphrey will check with Andy Delmas, District Fire Management Officer, and provide the RAC with a response.**

**Tricia Roller – Morley Nelson Snake River National Conservation Area (NCA) Manager** – We are working on an EA for burning fence lines within the NCA. We are starting development of the EA with ground-truthing, identifying locations of *Lepidium papilliferum* (LEPA) and cultural clearances. These are scheduled to be completed by November, 2010. Donna Bennett suggested the sooner the better.

Tricia is working with the Idaho Army National Guard on a new initiative in the Orchard Training Area (OTA). They are planning to construct seven new training ranges on the southern end of the OTA. BLM is being asked to grant the Guard a Right-of-Way for a power line extension to power the new ranges. There is no affect to LEPA and no cultural findings.

Through a Youth Initiative grant, we were able to pay bus transportation costs for 14 school field trips. Approximately 740 students and 155 adults learned about raptors and raptor habitat through visits to either the NCA or the World Center for Birds of Prey. Those who visited the NCA experienced “Desert Discovery Days” - an event where they learned about desert animals, desert vegetation, the Snake River Canyon geology, and predator/prey relationships. Due to severe school district budget cuts across the state, funding for field trips has been lost. One principal sent a thank you note to Barb Forderhase, NCA Education Specialist, indicating “The field trips would not have been possible without the funding BLM provided for the buses.”

Tricia is working with Barb Forderhase to meet with fuels and fire experts. Neil Rimbey recommended Tricia meet with Gretchen Hyde, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission to help with youth education efforts and bringing the wildfire issue into BLM's meetings and tours with youth.

MJ Byrne: Idaho Youth Corps from the Treasure Valley are working for the District for the third summer. They're working on trail maintenance, bio-control, marking fences for protecting sage-grouse, pulling Hydrilla and other invasive weeds, etc.

Tricia: We are contracting for another college graduate to work for BLM at the World Center for Birds of Prey, with previous work experience at the World Center. She's working on two projects: updating the NCA exhibit; and building an interpretative trail, focusing on the sagebrush steppe. It's a good partnership effort.

M-3 Exchange – Aden encouraged comments from the RAC about the proposed exchange that includes public lands in both the BLM's Boise and Coeur d'Alene Districts.

**ACTION: Aden said he would to provide the letters to the Subgroup we've received to date on this exchange.**

It was moved to accept the Land Exchange Subgroup Charter with corrections. **ACTION: MJ will distribute the corrected Charter to the RAC.**

Our next RAC meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 8, 2010.**

**ACTION: MJ will contact Ridgeline Energy re: a field trip to look at the anemometer towers and area around which they are proposed to be located. MJ will contact them and coordinate with the Subgroup Members on plans for a field trip in August.**

**ACTION: The Land Exchange Subgroup will meet in July. MJ will talk with Coeur d'Alene RAC Coordinator and set up a date and time for a conference call between the Members of the two RAC's within the next two weeks.**



**Attachments**

June 9, 2010

**M3 Land Exchange Proposal Status Update**

In August 2009, M3 Companies, an Arizona-based developer with landholdings in Arizona, Colorado and Idaho, along with the Idaho Forest Group, submitted a land exchange proposal, "Foothills Open and N. Idaho Timber Land - A Unique Land Exchange Opportunity". M3 Companies proposes transfer of about 12,001 acres of private land in southern Idaho to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in exchange for 8,891 acres of scattered parcels of primarily timbered BLM land in northern Idaho, along with 975 acres of public land near Eagle, Idaho currently managed by the Boise District BLM. Upon completion of this exchange, M3 Companies would sell the former BLM timberlands in N. Idaho to the Idaho Forest Group.

M3 Companies, the land exchange proponent, has hired Northwest Natural Resource Group, LLC to assist in promoting and processing this exchange. M3 provided the BLM Idaho Leadership Team a presentation on the exchange and they are scheduled to give presentations to the Boise District RAC on June 9 and the Coeur d'Alene District RAC on June 21, 2010.

The exchange has generated considerable public interest, including Idaho's Congressional delegation. Letters from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, State Senator Joyce Broadsword, and The Lands Council were written in support of the proposed exchange. Letters in opposition to the exchange or parts of the proposed exchange include those from the City of Sandpoint, ID, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Four Counties Natural Resource Committee (northern Idaho), and the Boise County Board of Commissioners.

**Challenges:**

- Disposal of the 815 acres in Four Rivers Field Office would not be in conformance with the Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP), thus requiring environmental analysis and a plan amendment.
- BLM is currently engaged in developing a new RMP for the Four Rivers Field Office that will include the land allocation decisions and criteria for disposal of public land within the field office. This revision is scheduled for completion in 2012. A stand-alone analysis for this single project will result in redundant work as it could be done as part of the Four Rivers RMP revision.
- Lands within the Coeur d'Alene Field Office area proposed for exchange or disposal would follow the criteria and guidance established within the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) RMP which may be different than the criteria for lands within the Boise area.
- A listed threatened and endangered plant species (*Lepidium papilliferum*) occurs on the 815-acre parcel in the Boise District. Private lands proposed for exchange would need to be surveyed to determine if the exchange would result in a net benefit to the species.
- Exchanges are discretionary, voluntary real estate transactions (43 CFR 2000.0-6(a)). The proposal is an unplanned, unfunded workload in competition with other higher priority, mission essential work.
- Current controversy surrounding the proposed exchange will increase the level of workload. The resolution of constituent issues, by the proponent, and gaining public support prior to any further actions will likely decrease the BLM workload.

**Status:**

When an exchange is proposed, the Field Office makes a public interest determination, as required by regulation (43 CFR 2200.0-6(b)); they will determine land use plan conformance and review resource issues, etc. The first step in considering the exchange is the Feasibility/Scheduling Phase. During this phase, a feasibility package is prepared, among other things. In May, 2010, M3 provided a draft Feasibility package in an effort to assist BLM in addressing our administrative procedures. BLM will be reviewing and building upon this package in the coming months to inform our decision on the public interest and whether to proceed further with the proposal.

# Idaho BLM 2010 and Beyond

## Statewide Priorities, Direction and Action Plan

**VISION:** Idaho BLM's strategic plans and our statewide priorities help us manage and allocate limited human and fiscal resources more effectively, and to plan for the future as we serve the lands, resources and the public in a sustainable manner. Our strategies and priorities provide employees with direction and a means to manage their ever-challenging workload; they are a reference point so others can better understand the course we have set, and the tradeoffs and implications if we must adjust that course.

**STATEWIDE PRIORITIES:** It is understood that along with the priorities defined below, Idaho BLM has a priority commitment to appropriately responding to wildland fire and litigation.

### Customer Service:

- **Economic Recovery Package Acquisition and Implementation:** Opportunities under the Recovery package include deferred maintenance, projects on BLM facilities to add on-site renewable energy use and energy-efficiency retrofits (even those not on the deferred maintenance list), trail construction and maintenance, road and bridge maintenance and construction, abandoned mine remediation, and authorization of applications associated with renewable energy projects.
- **Energy ROWs and Renewable Energy:** Provide support for energy related projects requiring right-of-way authorizations, APDs, and leases in a timely manner. Districts will review and prioritize projects based on criteria such as availability of funding, NEPA (need or existing), etc.
- **Fully process livestock grazing permits/leases:** Continue to refine and implement Idaho BLM's Strategy and Work Plan for fully processing livestock grazing permits/leases, while identifying opportunities for efficiency. Each Field Office will assess its remaining permit-renewal workload and prepare a realistic work plan/schedule for processing all permits. They will monitor and adapt the plan/schedule in consultation with the District Manager and State Director.
- **Tribal Relations:** Leadership will continue to consult with federally recognized Tribes in Idaho, enhance BLM-Tribal relations, and effectively deliver BLM's programs and services. This includes providing cadastral services on Indian lands in support of the Secretary's Fiduciary Trust Model and BIA's Priority Indian Trust Surveys.
- **Community Growth:** To address challenges associated with continuing demographic growth, Idaho BLM will implement our Community Growth Strategy, 2009-2011, adapting as necessary.
- **Public Outreach and Environmental Education:** Engage the public and targeted audiences on critical issues and opportunities. Emphasize BLM's "Take It Outside" initiative and related programs/partnerships. Increase visibility of Idaho BLM's NLCS lands and resources through partnering, cost share opportunities, and greater web presence, products, articles, interpretation, educational materials and outings.

**Land Health:**

- **RMPs:** Meet the schedule agreed to with the Director. Produce high quality plans with management involvement and oversight.
- **Vegetation:** Conserve intact habitats and desired vegetation conditions and restore, per established priorities, habitats or vegetation where the desired conditions have been lost, integrating programs and funding sources that include the Healthy Lands Initiative, fuels, Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation, NLCS, wildlife and weed programs. Continue to build on collaborative partnerships and broaden efforts to consider landscape scale strategies. Consider treatments that not only restore but reduce further risk of wildfire and, when it occurs, manage wildfire with cooperators to minimize impacts and maximize benefits. Proactively manage wild horses to maintain viability of the herds and healthy landscapes.
- **Travel planning and management:** Continue to address OHV travel planning and travel management issues in cooperation with our partners. Develop proactive travel plans that inform and involve the public on broader management objectives. Reduce inventory costs and improve data through the use of remote sensing imagery.
- **TES Species habitat conservation and restoration, including implementation of critical conservation plans/agreements:** Conserve, protect and restore critical habitat at a landscape level with emphasis on retaining and expanding key areas. Work with our interagency partners in developing and implementing critical conservation plans/agreements. Continue to focus on TES in NLCS units.

**Administrative/Internal Workload Priorities:**

- **Workforce Planning:** Workforce planning efforts will commence with actions tied to priorities identified in this document, and will be detailed in a Human Capital Plan. Accomplishments and trends in recruiting, hiring, training, promoting and retaining quality, diverse talent will be tracked and reported out to the ILC and communicated to employees.
- **Physical Assets/Infrastructure/Fleet Management:** We will improve accountability and condition-reporting of physical property, including buildings, equipment, and vehicles, while retaining flexibility to change priorities to adapt to needs such as fire suppression and Economic Recovery package projects.
  - We support the implementation of the Department/Bureau Asset Management Plan to facilitate accountability for Idaho BLM's inventory and assess personal and real property assets. Emphasis is on fire suppression and Economic Recovery-related projects, followed by actions to support the other priorities identified in this document.
- **Data Management:** Ensure our data is properly collected and managed (protected, appropriately shared, stored, and maintained) to support internal and external uses.

**ACTION ITEMS FROM 6/9/10 BDO RAC**

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
1. Email the <u>WH&amp;B Initiative link</u> out to the RAC.	M. J. Byrne	Complete by 6/30
2. <u>Membership and Subgroup List</u> Review and submit any corrections to MJ. MJ will issue a corrected list.	All/M.J. Byrne	Initiated 06/17/10  Completed 06/29/10
3. <u>Cooperative Range Monitoring</u> A) Work with Ted Hoffman and Brenda Richards And obtain history. B) Add to 6/29/10 DMT Agenda (Invite Allen Bollschweiller to advise re: possible web app that might enhance this.)	Aden, Lead  Arnie Pike, Mary P., MJ, Allen B.	Complete by 6/29/10
4. <u>WH&amp;B Program</u> Submit individual comments on WH&B Program  MJ encouraged RAC members to submit their comments individually, With a copy to MJ – MJ will compile all comments she receives and submit to BLM	RAC members	Complete by 7/28/10 Deadline extended to 09/09/10
5. <u>RMP Alternatives Sub-Committee Meeting</u> Send future meeting notice to full RAC	MJ Byrne	Complete by 7/15/10
6. A) <u>Thank-you letter for customers</u> that contribute to health of public lands, e.g. clean-ups, etc. B) Add the thank-you letter to BLM's Website C) Provide list of organizations that Helped with clean-up efforts on public lands	Rick Just  MJ Byrne  MJ Byrne  MJ Byrne	Completed on 6/15/10  Complete by 6/30/10  Complete by 6/30/10

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| 7.  | <u>Land Exchange Subgroup Charter</u><br>Email the corrected Charter to the RAC  | MJ Byrne                                     | Completed - 6/17/10                             |
| 8.  | Incorporate changes to <u>Sage-Grouse Subgroup Charter</u> , send to Rick Raymond, Chair, for review and signature. Get DFO's signature  | MJ Byrne                                     | Completed - 6/21/10                             |
| 9.  | A) Revise & Distribute <u>Sage-Grouse Habitat Sub-Group Charter</u><br>B) <u>Field Trip for RAC Sage-Grouse Habitat Mgmt. Sub-Group</u> to look at anemometer towers for the wind energy project proposed by Ridgeline Energy, Inc. in OFO | MJ Byrne<br><br>MJ Byrne/Kelley Moore        | Completed - 6/28/10<br><br>Initiated on 8/03/10 |
| 10. | Land Exchange Subgroup to hold conf. call w/CDL RAC M-3 Workgroup during third week of June  | MJ Byrne/Stephanie Snook                     | Scheduled 6/17/10<br>Held on 6/24/10            |
| 11. | <u>Poison Creek Road</u> – Get background information from County and provide it to Aden.  | Brenda Richards                              | Complete by 7/7/10                              |
| 12. | A) Draft minutes from RAC meeting sent to Members for review<br>B) Comments incorporated and Minutes Certified by RAC Chair  | Mary Pierce/MJ Byrne<br>MJ Byrne & Gil Green | Completed - 7/16/10<br>Completed – 08/13/10     |