

Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater District (UCSC)  
Resource Advisory Council

Minutes of March 3 and 4, 2004  
Grant Creek Inn  
Missoula, Montana

**In Attendance:**

BLM: Lew Brown Acting UCSC District Manager and Stephanie Snook RAC  
Coordinator both from Coeur d'Alene

RAC Members Present: Doug Boggan, John Barker, Cora Patterson, Bill Barteaux,  
Dennis Thornock, Jim Hawkins, David Nelson, Bob Barry, Louise Stark, Mark Taylor,  
Cliff Osborne. RAC Members Absent: Bruce Brewer, Ben O'Neal, Jerry Shriner.

Guests: Ken Sanders USRD RAC (University of Idaho), Jack Sept – BLM Special  
Assistant to the Idaho State Director, Lynn Danly BLM Botanist-Cottonwood Field  
Office, Chris Tamba, BLM Weed Specialist in Salmon Field Office, Elias Williams,  
BLM Range Specialist in the Challis Field Office. Via Conference Call: Ervin Cowley,  
BLM Rangeland Management Specialist, Terry Heslin, Idaho Travel Specialist, and  
Barry Rose, Public Affairs Specialist all from the Idaho BLM State Office.

*Note to readers: A copy of each attachment listed in the text of these minutes is on file  
with the official copy of the minutes in the Coeur d'Alene Office of the BLM. Persons  
desiring to view attachments should contact Stephanie Snook at 208-769-5004*

**Orientation** for new RAC members was held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Stephanie  
Snook reviewed the information in the RAC Notebooks.

The general session began at 10:15 with a welcome and introduction of all RAC members  
and guests.

**Rangeland Ecology Training for all RAC Members:**

Jack Sept gave a presentation on the history of public lands. See attached handout with  
some details of this presentation.

**Rangeland Ecology Training - Historical Perspective of Western Rangelands and  
Ecological Principles of Range Management**

Ken Sanders, Professor at the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management,  
University of Idaho): See Handouts

**Noxious Weed Management**

Lynn Danly (Cottonwood Field Office) gave a presentation on the cooperative weed  
management areas in northern Idaho and the introduction of biological insect control on

noxious weeds. She also discussed the monitoring efforts and the progress that is being made in treating noxious weeds.

Chris Tambe and Elias Williams (Salmon and Challis FO) – presented information on the Cooperative Weed Management Area in the Salmon Field Office which, in addition to introduction of biological control, includes goat grazing on leafy spurge infested areas.

**Update on Rangeland Standards and Guidelines** – Ervin Cowley, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist joined the RAC via conference call and gave a brief update on the review that was conducted. The S&Gs that the RACs originally worked on are still applicable. They are used when BLM reissues or issues new grazing permits.

**Minutes of November 2003 meeting** were reviewed. Jim Hawkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting as presented. David Nelson seconded the motion. *Motion Carried.*

The agenda for the March 26, 2004 RAC Chair meeting was reviewed. A National RAC Chair meeting will be held on May 11-13, 2004 in Phoenix. Doug Boggan will attend along with Lew and Stephanie.

**Subgroup Reports:**

**Fee Demo Project** (Doug Boggan) involving the Main-Middle Fork of the Salmon River as requested by the North Fork District Ranger (Salmon-Challis National Forest). Reviewed notes from the March 12 and 13, 2003 meeting and discussion and action items from the November 2003 meeting. (See notes from March 2003 meeting for review materials). Discussed Fee Demo and reiterated concerns from last year's request and subgroup. Based on public involvement, there is opposition to fees being used for dispersed recreation vs fees used at a developed site.

**Wild Horse and Burro** – UCSC RAC Subgroup consists of Jerry Shriner, David Nelson, Dennis Thornock and John Barker and Ken Sanders from USRD RAC.

A Motion was made by Mark Taylor to craft a resolution on what to do with the culls. The Subgroup will write the resolution with concerns and alternatives to current system of caring for unadoptable horses. Cliff Osborne seconded; **Motion Carried.**

**Idaho Sustainability Conference** – Mark Taylor reported that this is moving forward and will involve financial commitments as well as help in planning. There may be two conferences in different parts of the state; currently gathering information about similar small conferences or workshops that are already going on or planned in the state. Mark will keep the RAC informed with opportunities to get RAC members involved later on.

**Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)** - Handed out a copy of the letter dated 11/19/03 from Doug Boggan (RAC Chair) to Fritz Rennebaum (RAC Designated Federal Official) regarding the UCSC RAC comments on the Idaho OHV Strategy. Also handed out responses from Terry Heslin, BLM's OHV Coordinator to show how Idaho BLM used

the RAC comments. Dennis Thornock asked about the public opinion survey and proposed legislation (temporary rule to go permanent) and suggested RAC members review the legislative website for more information. He indicated that surprisingly, hunters were supportive of OHV restrictions.

OHV Committee - needs copies of Purple Book (Stephanie provided via email)  
Sage-grouse article distributed by David Nelson – NW Federation

Meeting adjourned (John Barker made motion to adjourn; seconded by Mark Taylor, Motion Carried).

### **MARCH 5, 2004**

Meeting Started at 8:00 a.m.

**Public Comment** – No members of the public appeared to address the RAC. Stephanie read a postcard that was sent to the RAC; discussed who should respond. Agreed that Doug Boggan would respond for the RAC and Stephanie will prepare a letter for Lew's signature.

**Idaho BLM OHV Strategy** – Terry Heslin joined us via conference call to review a Power Point Presentation (see handout). The RAC expressed concerns that the strategy does not have “enough teeth” in it. They were reminded that this is not a decision document and that local level planning and implementation will be needed.

Question and answer session with Terry:

Need for stronger side-boards from a state perspective

Suggested maps to show limited use areas

Suggest open areas unless designated limited or closed

Other agencies strategies and plans (State, FS)

Role of Cooperating Agencies is a positive step forward

Consistency is needed among/between agencies and BLM Districts

No Extension of time to comment on this Strategy – deadline is 3/31/04

The **OHV Subgroup** consists of: Doug Boggan, Mark Taylor (Chair), Jim Hawkins, Troy Elmore, and Bob Barry (alternate)

Bill Barteaux made a motion and then amended it to allow the OHV subgroup to develop comments on the Idaho OHV Strategy (pending review/approval from the entire RAC by email) by the 3/31/04 deadline; seconded by Dennis T. **Motion Carried**. Stephanie will email RAC members with the website address where the Strategy is posted.

**RAC Annual Work Plan** – Each RAC is being asked to develop a plan of work for this and subsequent years. At the next Tri-RAC Chair meeting, in two weeks, we will be sharing this plan with the State Director. At the previous RAC meeting several topics were identified but no consensus was reached. Based on the topics from the previous

meeting and from RAC members via email, Stephanie compiled the following District/local list. It was also recognized that due to the upcoming Idaho BLM reorganization the list may change considerably for next year.

National Issues: Weeds, Sage-grouse, grazing regulations, Energy

State-wide Issues: OHV Strategy, Standards and Guidelines, Wild Horses, Sage-grouse

District/Local: OHV Strategy, Forest Health, Land Use Planning, Fire Mgmt Plans

### **New Business:**

Idaho Organization Refinement – Lew and Stephanie discussed the progress being made to add a fourth BLM District in Twin Falls. As a result of this, we are working on establishment of a fourth RAC, also for the Twin Falls District. The new organizational structure will take effect on October 1, 2004. RAC Charters and redistribution of continuing RAC members are being considered. All RAC members need to help in either contacting or identifying individuals who would make good RAC members. Either contact folks or pass names along to Stephanie. We will need to recruit for nine new members on the Coeur d'Alene District RAC. Four of our RAC members will transfer to the Idaho Falls RAC.

### **Meeting Evaluation**

Comments:

- Ken and Jack's presentations were interesting (need more on the science, health of the land)
- Conference call with Erv Cowley was hard to hear – better to have them in person. Consider using web training as a tool for meetings. Check on BSU, NIC and UofI push to talk capabilities.
- Noxious weeds- Develop a strategy to monitor biological control as well as other weeds and their rate of spread.
- Social setting- consider having one the night before the meeting.

Next Meeting Date, Location, and topics: June 10 and 11, 2004 in Missoula, MT

Topics for future meetings were identified.

I= Information needed, such as a presentation

A=Action item for RAC consideration

\* - topic for next meeting

Land Use Planning process (I in FY-04, A in FY-05)

\*OHV Loop update (I in FY-04, A in FY-05)

BLM's role in Salmon Recovery (habitat) (I in FY-04, A in FY-05)

\*Endangered Species Act Consultation Process (I)

Owyhee Desert Initiative (I - briefing paper)

Land Acquisition/Disposal (I in FY-04, ? A in FY-05)

\*Strategy & policy on access to public land (I in FY-04, A in FY-05)

Wild Horse (A - subgroup work on resolution)

Healthy Forests Initiative (I)  
Fire Planning, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) I in FY-04)  
Energy Development (I)  
Strategy for recovery of T&ES (I FY-04)

Meeting adjourned: 3:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Snook, BLM RAC Coordinator

Minutes approved by: Doug Boggan  
Title: RAC Chair  
Date: 12/2/2004

March 3, 2004 - RAC Orientation

Jack Sept – Special Assistant to the Idaho State Director gave a presentation on the history of public lands as part of the RAC Orientation. Here are some details from that presentation:

- 94 million acres of land given to the Railroad
- 285 million acres were disposed of through homestead laws
- The highest and best use of the public lands was considered to be livestock grazing
- There was no incentive for management of the livestock; most were transient herds
- 4.6 million head of livestock grazed on public land in 1874
- 26.5 million head of livestock were grazed on public land in 1894.
- From 1899 to 1934 Congress tried to pass a bill to regulate the grazing
- Taylor Grazing Act: Congressman Ed Taylor, Colorado, backed a bill that was passed on June 28, 1934. It was one of the first major conservation laws written and allowed for:
  - Classification of the lands for best use
  - Withdrew all remaining “unreserved” public land
  - Allowed land exchanges
  - Consider social-economic impacts; care for the land and people dependent on it
  - Ranchers had to apply for base property or base water
  - Range adjudication process
  - Division of Grazing had 29 employees to manage 258 million acres of public land
  - Grazing Advisory Boards were created using red and green crayons to draw the areas
  - “home rule” established a self-policing policy
  - Section 3 Grazing District boundaries stays the same; % of receipts return to the county
  - 1945 grazing fee debate occurred re: raising fees from \$.05 to .07
  - The 250 federal employees were reduced to 40 employees and later hired by the Grazing Districts
- 1946 an Executive Order signed by Harry S. Truman joined the General Land Office (GLO) and the Taylor Grazing Act and created the Bureau of Land Management
- 1950’s Adjudication process: allotment designations and carrying capacity, range surveys, classified land as suitable for cows if less than 35% slope, over 50% slope not suitable for sheep; remainder left for wildlife.

BLM was a single use agency until the 1960’s – 1970’s Environmental Movement:

- Classification and Multiple Use Act of 1964 – lands classified for multiple use were kept in federal ownership.

- Public Land Law Review Commission in 1965 – established a clear disposal policy, required environmental impact studies, planning with the public, Allotment Management Plans, monitoring trends
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 – must consider the impacts of the actions we authorize.
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) of 1972 – sued BLM re: not complying with NEPA on grazing decisions. BLM settled the lawsuit and agreed to do 164 site specific Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). Challis, Idaho was the first place to do a grazing EIS.
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 – most comprehensive legislation. Established multiple use resource advisory councils and the Grazing Advisory Boards were phased out. Provided for wilderness review.
- In 1969 there were 4,000 employees
- In 1976 there were 13,000 employees due to the increased environmental requirements of these laws
- 1978 Public Rangeland Improvement Act – reemphasized continued inventory, multiple use management, consulting, cooperating and coordinating (3 C's). Established the Experimental Stewardship Program (Challis, Dillon, Susanville CA and Utah)
- 1979 – 1985 The grazing formula was used on a trial basis; still in use under Executive Order today. Currently the fee is \$1.43 per animal unit month (AUM).
- 1985 Grazing regulations rewritten under Secretary of Interior James Watt and BLM Director Burford. At that time, K Lynn Bennett (now our State Director) was in Washington, D.C. and was leading effort to rewrite these regulations.
- Eliminated one time inventory
- Emphasis on trend data
- Goals/priorities set – desired plant community, classified grazing allotments in three categories: Maintain, Improve or Custodial
- 1980's Riparian values were recognized
- 1989 Clean Water Act revised; Section 319 on non-point sources
- Endangered Species Act: In 1992 Snake River Chinook was listed
- Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICBEMP)
- Pacfish, Infish guidance completed

- Secretary Babitt was in Boise when he announced Rangeland Reform; changed the Multiple Use Advisory Boards to Resource Advisory Councils. The first task of the RACs was to develop rangeland standards and guidelines.
- New Proposed grazing regulations did not change the standards and guidelines (S&Gs) developed by the RACs. New regulations propose long-term monitoring and phased-in grazing reductions that are 10% or more.