

RAC Resource Management Plan (RMP) Tour
June 28th, 2006

ATTENDANCE:

RAC: Ken Sanders, Mike Tylka, Mel Quale, Joe Tugaw, Denise Alexander, Samantha Anderson

BLM:

Bill Baker, Rick Vander Voet, Bart Koonce, Arnie Pike, Max Yingst, Sky Buffat, Aimee Betts, Heather Tiel, Beckie Wagoner

Other:

Jimmie Sommer from Senator Crapo's office

Frank Bachman, Gus Brackett, and Keith Severe from the 71 Association joined us for lunch.

Everyone met at the BLM Twin Falls District Office (TFDO) at 8 am; we departed shortly after that arriving at our first stop the "Drill Mix 3 site," at 9:00, this area was burnt in the *Clover Fire* last year. Arnie Pike, Rangeland Management Supervisor, gave some history on the area then Bart Koonce with BLM's operations seeding program gave an overview on what seeding had been done, and how BLM felt that rehab project was a success. Arnie then pointed out each of the types of seeds/plants that were drilled, and all types were present. The growing season is from March 1st – June 1st.

Departed this site at 9:40 am arriving at our second stop at 10:01, which was the Echo/Lubby Allotment where we again were able to see how well the rehab was taking to the area. Across from this allotment was the Crow's Nest Allotment which had much more sage brush in its area, and was growing nicely.

Departed at 10:20 and arriving at one of the Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) study area's at 10:25 am. Here we were able to meet with a crew from the ESI team and they answered questions and showed us part of the process of gathering the data. Arnie and Rick also talked about the GPS units and how important they were to gathering the data as well as some of the different roles of different ESI teams.

Departed at 11:17 and arrived at Frank Bachman's Place where we had lunch sponsored by the 71 Association. After lunch Frank asked about grazing permits and the effect loosing those grazing permits would have on the area and people. In Frank's opinion loosing those permits would cause much hardship on the permittee's and eventually make the private land owners in the area sell their land for subdivisions. It was Frank's opinion that if the permittee's were not able to graze the BLM land around the private lands that there would not be enough grazing for the livestock, therefore there was no real use left in the private lands.

Slickspot Peppergrass was another lunch topic that was discussed as well as pipelines and water sources in the area.

Departed at 1:25 pm arriving at the Wild Horse area at 2:13 pm. We looked at the round up point from the emergency round up due to the *Clover Fire*. We were given an update on how the remaining horses are doing, what we are doing to take care of them and their locations. There are approximately 95 horses that were returned after the adoption plus the 13 that the round up crew could not catch.

Departed at 2:33 arriving at the OHV area at 3:23, Max Yingst, BLM Outdoor Recreation, gave us an overview of some of the issues that are faced with different OHV sites and the data collection process they are working on for the RMP. Max highlighted a few items they are looking for such as safety issues as well as staging areas for the OHV's. Mel also gave some background on OHV areas, and what he, as a user, would like to see at these areas.

Departed at 3:53 and returned back at the TFDO at 5:00 pm.