

Draft
Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Subcommittee - West Camas EA
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Sawtooth Best Western Inn, Jerome, ID

Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present:

Hank Mayland, Category 2

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:

Ruth Miller, Shoshone Field Manager (SFM)
Kasey Prestwich, Twin Falls District Forester
Heather Tiel-Nelson, Public Affairs Specialist

Note to readers: A copy of each attachment listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes, is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the BLM Twin Falls District Office. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Beckie Wagoner, (208) 735-2063. Copies of certified minutes are posted on the Idaho BLM website at http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/res/resource_advisory/boise/meeting_minutes.html

As no other members of the subcommittee attended the meeting, the meeting was dismissed at 10:20 a.m.

Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2010, 1:00 p.m.
Sawtooth Best Western Inn, Jerome, ID - Overview of the Jarbidge Draft Resource
Management Plan

Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present:

Marc Brackett - Chairman, Category 1 (Arrived, 1:40 p.m.)
Kelley Crane - Category 3
Hank Mayland, Category 2
Mel Quale, Category 1
Kevin Bell, Category 3
Debbie Dane, Category 1

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:

Bill Baker, Twin Falls District Manager
Heather Tiel-Nelson, Public Affairs Specialist
Aimee Betts, Jarbidge Field Office Project Lead

Kelly Crane opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. by discussing the next meeting's agenda items. It was determined that the West Camas Forest Restoration EA would be discussed, a brief overview of the 2010 fire season would be given and the remainder of the time would be dedicated to discussing the Jarbidge Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP). There was some discussion about whether to have an update of the Wild Horse and Burro management strategy, but as the comment period had been extended on this, there is no new information to share. Samantha Anderson may have a letter that she would like to share with the RAC.

I. Jarbidge Draft Resource Management Plan

Public comment @ 1:15 p.m. – there were no public present, public comment period closed at 1:45 p.m.

Aimee Betts presented how to navigate the electronic version of the Jarbidge Draft RMP, and also discussed ways the RAC could focus on certain sections of the RMP in order to be the most effective at offering comments or a recommendation for the BLM. Bill Baker gave background about the delay of the draft RMP release. The Jarbidge RMP and the China Mountain Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are two separate documents running simultaneously. The selection of the preferred alternative most closely aligned to Judge Winmill's court ordered decision. Vegetation drives many of the alternatives, and wind energy projects may be looked at under each alternative, with the understanding that the best areas to site wind projects are on crested wheat stands, or where there is significant cheat grass invasion. Bill estimated that it will take another year before a Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued. The China Mountain Draft Wind Energy project EIS should be out in December.

Betts also emphasized that when commenting on the document, it is important to reference the appropriate code and page number - to help the Interdisciplinary team when they begin to respond to the comments. It will be critical for the RAC to determine which areas they are the most interested in, and reviewing the executive summary would be a good place to start for next week's discussion.

Once a ROD is issued on the RMP, a Travel Management Plan (TMP) would be necessary to begin the process of route designation - currently, the RMP alternatives suggest travel be limited to existing routes until a TMP is complete.

Marc Brackett would like to discuss whether the RAC should request a comment period extension, as the document is 2000 pages, and the RAC's time for a quorum is limited until after the new nominations have been confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Handouts provided:

Jarbidge Draft Resource Management Plan Executive Summary
How to Comment on the Jarbidge Draft RMP

Tips for Using the Document
How to Use the CD

Minutes certified by: /s/

Kelly Crane /s/
Kelly Crane, TFD RAC

October 4, 2010
Date

Bill Baker /s/
Bill Baker, TF DFO

October 8, 2010
Date

Minutes recorded by: Heather Tiel-Nelson, TFD Public Affairs Specialist