

Meeting Minutes

Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

April 29-30, 2009

Winnemucca, Nevada

I. RAC Attendance and Welcome

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 29, 2009 – meeting was called to order by Chairman Gebhardt with the following members of the RAC present:

SIERRA FRONT – NORTHWESTERN GREAT BASIN RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

<i>COUNCIL MEMBER</i>	<i>RESOURCE/EXPERTISE</i>	<i>4/29</i>
John Gebhardt – Chair	State Agency	X
Patricia Herzog – Vice Chair	Elected Official	X
William Bennett	Transportation/ROWs	X
Rochanne Downs	Native Americans	X
Brian Doyal	Public-At-Large	X
Tim Dufurrena	Nevada Cattlemen	X
Dennis Laybourn	Mining	X
Charles Matton	Wild Horses & Burros	X
William Molini	Wildlife	X
Ernest Paine	Livestock	X
Will Roger Peterson	Recreation	X
Steven Siegel	Energy/Minerals	X
Lee Turner	Environment	X
D. Craig Young	Archaeology	X-PM only
VACANT	Academic	

BLM Staff Present: Chris M., Gene Seidlitz, Mark Struble, Jane Freeman, Lisa Ross, David Wood, and Steve Tryon

Public Present: Tamzen Stringham, Terri Fairfield, Tina Gask and Dee Holzel.

II. Summary of Motions Other Than to Approve Minutes

Motion – Chuck Matton made a motion that a letter be drafted to BLM Nevada State Director Ron Winker encouraging the BLM to use the tools available for wild horse management. The WH&B National Advisory Committee, chairpersons of other two RACS and Mike Holbert will be cc'd. Suggested to re-word #16 of the WH & B Act which states “as a last resort”, to *recommend*. The letter will state, “This RAC is recommending the following guidelines to dealing with the WH situation by endorsing the WH & B recommendations’ for the other RACS to reject, accept, or alter. A cover letter will be included with the recommendations. Steve and Chuck will draft the letter. The draft will be sent to members of this RAC for review and consensus. John Gebhardt will sign the cover letter. Then go to other two other Nevada RACs for their consensus at the fall Tri-RAC meeting in Elko.

Will Roger Peterson seconded – **motion passed unanimously.**

Motion – Will Roger Peterson made the motion that a support letter for the round 10 SNPLMA projects be reviewed, updated, and sent to Ron Winker. The motion was seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Summary of Action Assignments

1. Mark Struble will find out about Rawhide site to see if it is going to be a landfill site.
2. Add to Tri-RAC agenda in Ely to review overview of SNPLMA projects.
3. A RAC sub-committee will be formed for the Ruby Pipeline. Rochanne Downs will attend the (Tribal) meeting on May 19. Molini, Siegel and Turner will attend the Biological Assessment meeting in Reno on May 20-21.
4. Only SNPLAMA projects that affect the RAC will be reviewed during the nomination period.

IV. Minutes from the Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, November 2008

The minutes for the November meeting in Las Vegas were recommended to be approved by Will Molini. They were seconded and approved unanimously.

V. RAC Subgroup Reports

Wild Horse and Burro Subcommittee – Five members – Charles Matton – The subcommittee recommends that the full RAC endorse the recommendations of the 1971 National WH&B Act. Steve – (HR 1018) Amendment to the WH&B act that would change the way horses are managed now. Groups that have members on the RAC

could approach the Congressional Delegation about more funding. The adoption program in Albuquerque, NM offers \$500.00 if you adopt a horse four years or older. Work actively towards a long term contraceptive. Keep most of the horses on the range and recommend that the BLM Director adopt unrestricted sale authority.

VI. FIELD MANAGERS REPORTS: Written reports from Carson City and Winnemucca were provided to the RAC members one week in advance, so Chris McAlear and Gene Seidlitz reviewed the handouts and answered clarification questions.

Gene – Priorities: Renewable Energy, Treasured Landscapes, Native American Trust Authorities, Ethics and high standards, and Raising DOI communications. Stimulus priorities - WDO submitted 40. The final rollout has not happened yet. The BR Field Office hired a new archeologist. The WDO acquired acreage through SNPLNA.

The Ruby Pipeline is high on the radar. The pipeline is 650 miles 42 of them through Elko and Winnemucca. The WO is currently reviewing the plan and assessments. Cultural and biological surveys are currently happening. Ron Winker will be signing the ROD on project. Draft cultural report was rejected. It was suggested that members of the RAC receive the Ruby news letter.

Permitting is moving forward for 2009 Burning Man event. The hiking and biking trail on Winnemucca Mountain is moving forward. Water Canyon improvements have been completed. There will be a W H Adoption on May 9 & 10. Some appeals from Western Water Shed have been dropped. Other WDO projects are the Montana Mountain's Fuels project, the Wilderness Management plan for the ten designated wilderness areas. Cultural inventories have been done on Geo Thermal leasing sites, and the WDO has implemented an inventory team. Piute Meadow's public access will be done this fall.

Chris - the second saddle-trained horse adoption of the year will be held at the Northern Nevada Correctional Facility on May 30. Five wild horse HMA's in the Carson City District are over the AML target. An emergency gather is scheduled for October on the Garfield Flat HMA.

There is data collection on 20 grazing allotments. EA's for several. The Stillwater FO and Salt Water Geothermal Plant will be having an open house. There will be a lease sale in July. Companies need to come in with more specific proposal. Sand Mtn. RMA Dunes has had 10,000 visitors in March and April. Great Basin Institute has an AmeriCorps group working there. Just hired LEO with a canine stationed in Fallon. In the Sierra Front Field Office, several BLM parcels will be transferred over to Carson City over the next year or so due to the Carson City Lands Bill being passed. The EA for the interagency fire barracks will be released in late May. Submitted SNPLMA nominations

for three Conservation Easements. Other projects include: New Comstock Wind Energy project, Pa RaHS and Virginia Highlands Wind projects, and the Blackhawk to Heybourne Transmission Line ROW Grant. A recent audit by DOI showed Mill project very high risk.

A field trip to the restoration projects along the Truckee River is on the agenda for the RAC field trip July on July 22. Redrock, Windmill, & prevailing wind-sites are looking to be eliminated. Forty percent of hand gliding possibilities will be eliminated.

Suggestion: Sand Mountain should be evaluated for other forms of use, besides recreation.

VII. Burning Man Event Monitoring

Roger Farschon – William Peterson -

The history of Burning Man was explained, starting in 1990. An eight- minute video was shown. In 2006, a five year permit was issued. In 2008, there were 50,000 people in attendance. Expect a 20% decrease in 2009. Law Enforcement numbers are based on FEMA regulations (two per 1000 people). No garbage cans – emphasis is on “Leave No Trace” principles. Over 50 stipulations monitored before, during, and after the event. A power point was presented by Roger F. on the cleanup, restoration and monitoring. The main office is located in San Francisco.

VIII. SNPLMA Round 10 Report

Steve Tryon LV – Project dollars have been reduced substantially in round 10. Thirty five thousand acres has been sold in Southern Nev. Have acquired more land than sold. Three million dollars is for the Lake Tahoe restoration. Thirty five million dollars has been returned because of unfinished projects. Projects are being scrutinized more, with unfavorable audits. Copies of “Report to Congress” are available. SNPLA website has photos and Google maps for the project sites. There is more emphasis on completion of projects. Working towards a five year maximum for project completion and completed projects closed out at a reasonable time. There is a value in acquiring land rather than just projects being completed. Land values have lessened. Conservation Easements value has stayed stagnant. Fifty projects have been recommended to move forward for nomination. All projects can be commented on the website. Some categories projects have 10 % contingency. Nominating entity is in charge of the maintenance for each project. Field season 2010 Round 10 projects will be ready for ground breaking.

IX. Winnemucca Resource Management Plan Report

Roger Bryan – Power Point presentation. Operating since 1982, amended in 1999, then in 2044 the BR NCA RMP was approved after Congressional Designation. 2004 funding was allocated for our current RMP effort. Administrative Draft is completed and is currently at the WO for review. There are nine official cooperating agencies. The RAC subgroup for the RMP was formed in 2005. Hope to release the draft RMP EIS for the 90 day review in August 2009. Several public meetings will be held with other outreach for public comment. WDO anticipates release the final RMP in April 2011.

X. Public Comment Period

1) Tina Gask – Acting District Ranger for the Santa Rosa Ranger District – The Forest Service is seeking applications for a Humboldt County RAC. No deadline for application.

IX. Adjournment

The RAC adjourned for the day at 16:40. Some members of the RAC attended an evening tour at Water Canyon Wednesday after the meeting.

XI. April 30 Field Trip

The RAC reconvened at 7:30 a.m., Thursday, April 30, 2009, for a field trip to the Tobin Range Herd Management Area and Pumpemickel Allotment for informational purposes. No motions were made and no action items requested of BLM during the field trip. The field trip adjourned at 1:00 p.m. at the Winnemucca District Office.

The next Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC meeting will be July 22, 2009, in Carson City.