

Agenda Items (NOV. 10)

- 1) Notes from PAWG Meeting/Questions
- 2) Issues – In addition to monitoring plan (related)
 - a. Seed Mixtures
 - b. Reclamation Techniques (i.e. topsoil management, mulching, etc.)
 - c. Vegetation Management (use; fencing; etc.)
 - d. Addressing multiple species needs
- 3) Subcommittees – Need to discuss this in light of everything we need to address.
 - a. Monitoring specifics/Objectives
 - b. Erosion
 - c. Visuals
 - d. Seed Mixtures
 - e. Etc.
- 4) Speakers?
 - a. Oil and Gas
 - b. Universities
 - c. Coal Companies
 - d. Highway Company
 - e. Others?
- 5) Field Trips – Dessa? Was recommended we look at other fields also; what's been done? Is sagebrush coming back?
- 6) Any overlap with other groups (i.e. wildlife? Other?)
- 7) Recommendations to BLM – Desired Future Condition – When can the companies be released from their bonds?
- 8) OTHER?

November 10, 2004

Meeting Minutes

PAWG's Reclamation Task Group

Chairman Dan Stroud called the regularly scheduled meeting to order in the Pinedale Library at approximately 6 p.m.. Other Task Group members in attendance were Stephen Roseberry, Cathy Purves, Dessa Dale, Kevin Williams, Amy Ramage, Gary Daany and Lani Matthews. Members of the public attending included Clint Gilchrist (Cultural Task Group Member), Dawn Ballou (Pinedale Online), Amber Jackson (BLM), and Dawn and Angela Wallace.

Members reviewed and accepted Dan's proposed agenda for the meeting and agreed to the recommended informal process. Dan also provided a handout "Questions/Answers to PAWG" for all members. Dessa recommended that we discuss future meeting dates during the course of the meeting as these will need to be advertised 45 days in advance in the Federal Register.

Minutes from the October 27th meeting were discussed. Dessa had prepared these and she and Dan had received no comments. The minutes were approved as written and Dan agreed to sign these for the record. Dessa will provide us with an updated contact sheet by next meeting.

Other important dates: Another meeting of PAWG will take place on January 5th. The tentative meeting time is 9 to 5 at the Firehall. The intent of this meeting is to check the status of task groups and answer questions. **February 18th is the reclamation task group deadline for our monitoring plan.** Any recommendations for funding the plan should also be submitted at this time. PAWG is scheduled to present their recommendations to the BLM on March 2nd and 3rd upon review of the task group plans.

Discussion took place about potential speakers for our task group. Dessa indicated the BLM could provide compensation to the speakers in the form of a per diem and travel expenses to assist us. Dan has agreed to arrange a sagebrush ecology presentation at a future date for PAWG and other task group members. Dessa will give us a power point presentation on reclamation practices as discussed last meeting. Others might be willing to come from the Univ. of Wyoming, Soil Conservation District, WYDOT and others.

Dan summarized the past meeting for those new members attending and the public.

Members reviewed the "Questions/Answers to PAWG" handout prepared following the meeting Dan attended on November 4th. Primary priority for this task group is to develop a short-term and long-term monitoring plan for federal and state lands with additional recommendations beyond the approved permitting standards as needed for mitigation. Recommendations for those private lands in the Anticline area should also be made. Task group members are to think broadly. Monitoring shall include surface reclamation but also visual impacts, range issues and site safety concerns. Task groups may work together for overlapping issues. PAWG suggested that we should schedule review of our monitoring data as well, to determine if the majority of sites were meeting our monitoring goals consistently, i.e. species, growth, etc. Members should see those other items addressed on the hand out which were discussed.

Monitoring Plan Discussion: Gary and other members expressed a need for more inventory data and examples of an application's reclamation plan in consideration of monitoring. Dessa explained that often these are not consistent and that in some cases, even deferred in some cases on older permits. This inconsistency was a concern while Dessa explained that some recommendations are relatively consistent from the Pinedale BLM office, i.e. seed mixes. Cathy asked if an inventory of the vegetation is taken prior to permit issuance. Dessa indicated it isn't and that this might be one of our recommendations. Cathy asked who would be handling the monitoring? This was discussed in some detail. The reclamation task group will be charged to determine this as part of the monitoring plan. Monitoring timeline is not clear due to the life of the field, however, we are asked to do our best and consider longer-term approaches for activities and funding. Gary and other group members discussed the need for funding in relationship to the task group's responsibilities when there are permit fees, royalties paid, the BLM budget, Dept. of Energy trust fund, etc. Lani asked if this wasn't a process, which was mandated to federal agencies, and Dessa indicated she would find out but that the BLM local offices don't receive much in funding relative to the royalties generated for the area.

Task group member Kenny Becker arrived later in the meeting. He indicated he had worked on the Kendall Ranch for many years and had worked diligently to meet the BLM standards. He indicated a general lack of confidence that operators would be required to meet any new standards or recommendations due to their economic influence even if they are well considered. Dessa asked Kenny if he intended to participate in our task group and encouraged him to stay but

he indicated that he was headed to New Mexico to gather up environmental supporters. Dan indicated that he shared Kenny's concerns but that he still hoped to be a productive part of the process. Kenny indicated that he would likely resign but he was encouraged to participate.

A 15-minute break was taken to set up the power point presentation.

Dessa presented her power point presentation on reclamation practices in oil and gas fields. Members attending had many questions and found this time very useful. Some of those questions included a desire for information pertaining to costs associated with specific reclamation activities, set back regulations for drainage and other waterways, any specific seasonal requirements/recommendations, inventory baselines for sites prior to activities.

Other research sources: 2001 USGS orthoquads. Some satellite photos available in the BLM office. Dessa indicated that a relative proximity review/inventory for already disturbed areas would be useful to determine the likely pre-disturbed conditions. BLM also has some range monitoring transects which could be useful examples.

At approx. 9 p.m. members began discussing assignment for research committees. Cathy volunteered to work on research of reclamation techniques and seed mixes. Dan will also look at seed mixes related to wildlife/multiple species concerns. Stephen will research erosion. Lani will research monitoring activities, assoc. regulations and standard practices vs. regulations. Dan assigned Chris to research visual concerns and practices as he had expressed an interest last meeting. Amy will consider the vegetation management practices and inventory/monitoring with Amber (BLM) and other's help. Gary will research concerns regarding water and drainage.

Field trips were discussed again. Dessa and Kevin would be available to take members for a tour with some advance notice or make other arrangements for them.

Dan and Cathy will work with the wildlife task group to address any overlap concerns and Gary will work with the water quality task group.

On funding. It was agreed that members were diverse in background and for now we would ask all to brainstorm for financing sources within your circles.

Next meeting: **Wednesday November 17, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.** Location is the Pinedale Library. Everyone should note the earlier time schedule and try to bring your schedules so that we can set additional meetings for advertising. We may elect to hold all day workshops as well if we feel this could be productive.

Public comment was taken prior to adjournment of the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lani Matthews.

Certified as Accurate:

Don Q. Smith

Jan. 4, 05