

**NORTHEASTERN GREAT BASIN  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 29, 1999  
Reno, Nevada**

**Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present and Category Represented:**

|                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ms. Teresa Conner                 | (1) Mining                  |
| Mr. Scott Egbert                  | (1) Livestock               |
| Mr. DeLoyd Satterthwaite          | (1) Livestock               |
| Mr. Bill Upton, Incoming Chairman | (1) Mining                  |
| Ms. Kathryn Ataman                | (2) Archaeologic & Historic |
| Mr. David Tattam                  | (2) Wild Horses             |
| Mr. Larry Barngrover              | (3) State Agency            |
| Mr. Brent Eldridge, Chairman      | (3) Elected Official        |
| Mr. Vince Garcia                  | (3) Native American         |
| Mr. Hudson Glimp                  | (3) Academic                |
| Ms. Patsy Tomera                  | (3) Public At Large         |

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Representatives Present and Title:**

|                      |                                           |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Robert Abbey     | State Director, NSO                       |
| Ms. Jo Simpson       | Chief Communications, NSO                 |
| Mr. Jeff Weeks       | AFM, Battle Mtn. Field Office             |
| Mr. Jerry Smith      | Field Manager, Battle Mtn. Field Office   |
| Mr. Dave Stout       | AFM, Elko Field Office                    |
| Mr. Gene Kolkman     | Field Manager, Ely Field Office           |
| Mr. Curtis Tucker    | Special Projects Coord., Ely Field Office |
| Ms. Alicia Heinbaugh | Office Automation Clerk, Ely Field Office |

**Public Attendees:**

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Doug Busselman | Nevada Farm Bureau |
|--------------------|--------------------|

*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 Ely Field Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Mr. Curtis Tucker at (775) 289-1841.*

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Brent Eldridge. Welcome and introduction of RAC Members, BLM Representatives and Public Attendees followed. The September RAC minutes were made available to the Members in rough draft form and due to

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the length, the process of review and approval has been tabled.

**I. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- \* The position of Chairman:
  - \* Mr. Bill Upton was nominated by Chairman Brent Eldridge.
  - \* Mr. Larry Barngrover and Mr. DeLoyd Satterthwaite seconded.
  - \* All Members in favor.
- \* The position of Vice-Chairman:
  - \* Mr. Hudson Glimp was nominated by Mr. DeLoyd Satterthwaite.
  - \* Mr. Brent Eldridge seconded.
  - \* All Members in favor.

**II. ESTABLISH 2000 PRIORITIES**

- \* Priority was assigned to the issues of this RAC for the year 2000.

**TIER I:**

- \* Complete Standards & Guidelines for Wild Horse and Burros.
  - \* Provide the Bureau with comments on the National and Nevada Tactical Plans.
- \* Provide comments on the Department of Interiors' proposed revisions to the 3809 Surface Management Regulations, due February 23, 2000.
- \* Become engaged in the Sage Grouse issue.
  - \* Build partnerships with other concerned groups.
  - \* Build capacity and identify the role of this RAC.
- \* Standards and Guidelines for Non-Renewable Resources (minerals).  
(Dependent on 3809 development and regulatory framework.)

**TIER II:**

- \* Determine support for existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's).
- \* Build understanding through a workshop for other acronyms, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's), National Conservation Areas (NCA's) etc.
  - \* Ms. Kathy Ataman suggested a late spring 2000 field trip to the Tosawih

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Quarries in Elko County, which is an ACEC.

- \* Standards and Guidelines for Off Road Vehicles.
- \* Standards and Guidelines for Pinyon and Juniper, as Ely has a need for these.

Further discussions on these matters are as follows:

3809 - Surface Management Regulations:

- \* Chairman Upton recommended that this RAC await the 3809 Regulations before establishing Standards and Guidelines.
- \* Chairman Upton will provide copies of the Executive Summary on 3809.
- \* Mr. Eldridge recommended officially commenting before the chance expires.
- \* Chairman Upton commented that the biggest issue for the mining industry is not 3809, but the Solicitors Opinion, mill site vs. load claim issue. If this issue is retroactive, not prospective, it will be a serious issue for this RAC, environmentally and socially in every aspect of mining.
- \* Mr. Barngrover and Ms. Teresa Conner discussed the significance of the Solicitor's Opinion.
- \* Ms. Patsy Tomera, Ms. Conner and Mr. Jerry Smith discussed the Bureau's efforts to change the 1872 Mining Law.
- \* Ms. Ataman, Ms. Conner and Chairman Upton discussed different approaches and the status of 3809, basically a compromise between the Department of the Interior and the mining industry has been unreachable.
- \* Ms. Tomera and Chairman Upton discussed the mining royalties.
- \* Chairman Upton volunteered to work with others to collect a "packet" of information on the mining issue and make it available to the members before the next RAC meeting in order to have a more substantive discussion on this matter.
- \* Chairman Upton discussed the possibility of polling a general idea on the comments about 3809 and finalizing them at the next meeting.

Wild Horse and Burro:

- \* Mr. Smith suggested that the RAC make implementable recommendations on the recent National Strategy, pertaining to each field office, in order to relay the importance of this issue to Congress.
- \* Ms. Jo Simpson gave out copies of the BLM's National Wild Horse & Burro Strategy.

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- \* There was a brief reference to an article in today's Reno Gazette Journal regarding wild horses, all members received a copy.
- \* Mr. Smith has a copy of the proposed bill (HR7428), amending the Wild Horse and Burro Act, giving the Secretary the ability to delegate certain aspects of the Act to the State, if the State elects to do so.
- \* Chairman Upton suggested we review the National Strategy, present our comments and try to mold it with our Standards and Guidelines, potentially seeking out any conflicts.

Sage Grouse:

- \* Mr. Dave Stout mentioned that the Northeast Nevada Stewardship is working on a conservation plan. This RAC may be contacted for involvement.
- \* Mr. Barngrover stated that a group of western states are constructing a set of Standards and Guidelines for Sage Grouse. Mr. Barngrover suggested that this RAC obtain a copy as soon as it is available, before we become too deeply involved in this issue.
- \* Ms. Simpson mentioned the Sage Grouse Imposium meeting in Reno, November 16, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999.
- \* Mr. Glimp commented that our primary goal was ecosystem management yet we seem to be focusing on single species. Mr. Smith stated that we seem to be moving toward multi-species plans.
- \* Mr. Barngrover said that the states are looking at the Sage Grouse issue as a sagebrush habitat issue. Theoretically optimizing the Sage Grouse habitat, could have a negative impact on other species. The Endangered Species Act is contradictory to that philosophy and herein lies the struggle to obtain a solution.
- \* Mr. Barngrover commented that our efforts of re-seeding have proven to be beneficial to the environment and it's species, and that we should continue down this path for optimal results.
- \* Mr. Glimp stated that we should be more concerned with managing the cheat grass perimeters (keeping them from spreading), rather than just focusing on the management of the sagebrush habitat areas.
- \* Chairman Upton discussed the RAC's possible role in leadership for community groups that don't have any direct government affiliation.
- \* Mr. Stout stated that the next meeting of the Northeast Nevada Stewardship Group, Inc., is November 9, 1999 at the BLM office in Elko.

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Chairman Upton asked the Members if there were any pressing matters that need to be isolated for the RAC to address early in the year 2000. There were none at this time.

**III. WILD HORSE AND BURRO - STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

- \* Added language in the draft Preamble to the Standards and Guidelines will now read as follows:
  - “The RAC in recommending these Standards and Guidelines urges the Bureau to aggressively implement the management strategies to establish, achieve and maintain AML’s (Appropriate Management Level’s) of wild horses and burros within HMA’s and expeditiously remove them from outside HMA’s.”*
- \* Ms. Tomera motioned to change the language, Mr. Satterthwaite seconded.
- \* Comparisons were made between our Standards and Guidelines and that of the Mohave Southern RAC.
- \* Discussion of AML’s as a separate standard or guideline (such as Mohave Southern’s 4<sup>th</sup> Standard) to embody the principle of the new Preamble language.
  - \* Mr. Glimp motioned to form a work group to draft a Standard #4.
  - \* Mr. Dave Tattam seconded the motion.
  - \* All members in favor.
  - \* Volunteers for the Wild Horse and Burro RAC work group are Mr. Scott Egbert, Mr. Tattam, Mr. Jeff Weeks (Coordinator), Ms. Ataman and possibly Mr. Merlin McColm.
- \* Adoption of Standards 1-3 has been tabled until Standard 4 can be included.
- \* Mr. Eldridge suggested that our expected comments to the Interior include a recommendation for line item in their budget, and apply the same to Congress.
- \* Mr. Doug Busselman and Mr. Curtis Tucker read from the RAC’s Charter that “...*except for the purpose of long range planning and establishment of resource management priorities, the council shall not provide advice on allocation and expenditure of federal funds...*” Mr. Busselman commented that we can ask for reports to obtain information, thereby establishing a need.
- \* Mr. Bob Abbey stated that the BLM’s ABC (Activity Based Costing) tracking program has the ability to show accountability of costs for gathering, maintaining and adopting wild horses and burros on a state and national level.
- \* Mr. Tattam mentioned that the sanctuary expenditures have been broken down on a budgetary basis in the Nevada Tactical Plan.
- \* Mr. Gene Kolkman stated that Congress must set up the line items to separate the

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- management purposes from the feeding and caring. This action must be separate from our Standards and Guidelines.
- \* Chairman Upton suggested the language in the comments read, as a recommendation from this RAC's perspective, that it is important to segregate the money for removing animals from the money for maintaining them.
  - \* Mr. Tattam suggested that we go to the State when addressing the budget.
  - \* Mr. Barngrover mentioned awareness of the downside, such as micro-management.
  - \* Mr. Glimp stated that the cost of the sanctuaries will be a very large line item of the budget, attracting attention to potentially result in deleting it altogether. Our argument must be that the consequences of leaving horses on the range will be a far greater expense than would be the sanctuaries.
  - \* Mr. Tattam commented that sanctuaries could possibly be the only solution to invite more input on problem solving in that Congress would be forced to have a better understanding of the actual cost for the horses, the special interest groups are content, and in the meantime, the horses are off the range.
  - \* Ms. Tomera added that the public would more than likely become concerned with the cost of long term care for the horses, perhaps resulting in agreeable alternative solutions for this problem.
  - \* Discussion regarding how to ask for expenditure information nationally and statewide.
  - \* Mr. Abbey suggested that this RAC endorse acceptable parts of the implementation of the National Strategy and Nevada Tactical Plan and in part ask the BLM to keep us advised of progress toward achieving actions of the Plan and also to include reports of expenditures against the implementation of the Plan.
  - \* Mr. Tattam made a motion for our Wild Horse and Burro RAC work group to draft recommendations in regard to the National and State Tactical Plans addressing the issues of endorsement and obtainable expenditure information.
    - \* Mr. Eldridge seconded this motion.
    - \* All Members in favor.

**IV. PINYON AND JUNIPER - STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES - UPDATE**

- \* Mr. Tucker stated that Lincoln County has been working with Resource Concepts Inc. Mr. John McLane was contacted and he indicated a proposal on bio-mass management. Mr. Tucker will inform the RAC upon acceptance of this proposal and provide further discussion.  
Pinyon and Juniper discussion was tabled until the January meeting.

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**V. WILDERNESS LEGISLATION UPDATE REPORTS**

- \* Ms. Tomera stated that this issue could possibly require Standards and Guidelines.
- \* Items regarding this issue have been placed in the Tier II Priorities for 2000.

**VI. FIELD MANAGER REPORTS**

Mr. Gene Kolkman, Ely Field Office  
See Attachment 1.

- \* Mr. Kolkman additionally discussed the Pinyon and Juniper issue.
  - \* Chainings, prescribed burns and bio-mass projects were addressed.
- \* Ms. Tomera stated that a State Soil Conservation Convention will be held in Ely on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999. Mr. Kolkman will be on a panel to discuss the 3C Ranch Land Exchange.
  - \* Mr. Kolkman mentioned the White Pine Conservation Resource Management (WPCRM) Steering Committee.
- \* Regarding AML's in Ely, we are trying to "clean up" small sections in the north that were left out because of the geometry of the allotments, and in the south due to migrations.

Mr. Jerry Smith, Battle Mountain Field Office

- \* Mr. Smith stated that little has changed from the report given to the RAC in September.
- \* Issued the proposed Multiple Use Decisions regarding the Diamond Mountains.
  - \* Possibly completing the final decisions on the Diamond complex in January.
  - \* After January, we will start implementing those decisions.
- \* Issued contracts for actual cleanups.
- \* Mr. Smith commented that Battle Mountain has an "adopt-a-fire program". The Cortez Mine has actually been very instrumental in helping out.
- \* Discussion of help received from local ranchers, citizens etc.

Mr. Dave Stout, Elko Field Office

- \* Elko's main focus has been on fire rehab work.
- \* Performing archeological clearances in preparation for drill seeding, etc.

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- \* Delays for 3 EIS's for mines because of the fire rehab/restoration process.
- \* Grazing on allotments will be discussed with individual permittees and hopefully decisions will be made by the end of the year.
- \* Mr. Satterthwaite asked about the grazing permittees that have been completely burned and cannot wait until the end of the year for a decision.
  - \* A specific answer is not yet available, however other ranchers, mining companies and landowners have been very helpful in sharing their allotments and AUM's (Animal Unit Months), though some may have to haul water.
- \* Mr. Abbey stated that it is his expectation that each of the affected permittees would be met with to see what's optimal for them. Many agreements have been reached as meetings were held in September. We are adamant in efforts to help lessen the impacts on these adversely affected permittees.

**VII. OTHER ITEMS**

- \* Approval of the September meeting minutes was tabled until January due to the length of the minutes and the short amount of time that Members were asked to approve them.
- \* Chairman Upton thanked Mr. Eldridge for his leadership and support on this RAC.

**VIII. LOCATION AND DATE FOR THE NEXT RAC MEETING**

The next RAC meeting will be held January 20 and 21, 2000 at the Battle Mountain Field Office. The meeting will begin Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and Friday at 8:00 a.m.

At this time, Chairman Upton concluded the meeting. All Members, Representatives and Attendees were adjourned.

MINUTES APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bill Upton, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Minutes by:

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Alicia Heinbaugh, Office Automation Clerk, Ely

Attachments or Exhibits filed with official copy:

- Exhibit 1: Current Agenda
- Exhibit 2: Preamble - Wild Horse and Burro Management
- Exhibit 3: Preamble - Northeastern Great Basin Area
- Exhibit 4: BLM - National Wild Horse and Burro Strategy
- Exhibit 5: Article from 10/29/99 Reno Gazette Journal regarding Wild Horses
- Exhibit 6: Letter from Mr. Upton regarding proposed Preamble language