

**Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council Meeting
Moses Lake, WA
March 7, 2012**

<p>Members Present (interest/term expiration):</p> <p><u>Designated Federal Official (DFO):</u> Daniel C. Picard, BLM Spokane District Manager</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 1:</u> Norris Boyd (Commercial Recreation/OHV/2014) Thomas Busker (Transportation/Rights-of-way/2014) David Hubbard (Grazing/2014) Jodie Lamb (Energy/Mineral/2014)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 2:</u> Charles Warner (Environmental/2014)(Chair) Ivan Lines (Environmental/2014) Richard O’Dell (Conservation/2014) Dale Warriner (Dispersed Recreation/2012)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 3:</u> Dr. Ross Black (Academician/2014) Dennis Bly (Elected Official/2012) Donald Larsen (State Employee/2012) Sharon Vore (Public at Large/2012)</p> <p>Members Not Present (interest/term expiration):</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 1 :</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 2:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 3:</u> B. J. Kieffer (Indian Tribe/2012)</p>	<p>Others in Attendance</p> <p><u>BLM</u> Linda Clark, Border Field Manager Scott Pavey, RAC Coordinator Suzanne Endsley – Public Affairs Robert St. Clair – Meeting Recorder</p> <p><u>Forest Service</u> Margaret Hartzell – Planner, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF Deborah Kelly – Public Affairs, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF</p> <p><u>Public</u> Scott Hutsell – Lincoln County Commissioner Michael Paulson – Office of Congresswoman McMorris-Rogers</p>
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Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
10:00 – 10:15	Start/Introductions	Daniel C. Picard
10:15 – 11:00	Public Comments	Charles Warner
11:00 – 11:30	Orientation	Scott Pavey
11:30 – 12:00	BLM Resource Management Plan Revision Status	Scott Pavey
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	Colville NF Forest Plan Revision	Margaret Hartzell

Welcome/Introduction (10:05am)

The meeting was called to order by Charles Warner (RAC Chair) at 10:05 a.m. at the Hardin Community Room, ATEC Building, Big Bend Community College, 7662 NE Chanute St, Moses Lake, Washington. A quorum was not present.

All in attendance introduced themselves.

Public Comment Period (10:25am)

Commissioner Scott Hartsell of Lincoln County made a statement regarding RAC involvement in the RMP and questioned the legitimacy of not meeting due to the lack of an elected official member. Commissioner Hartsell also requested that EWRAC Chairman Charles Warner obtain an opinion from the Secretary of the Interior regarding the requirement for an elected official to be present at Resource Advisory Council meetings.

Resource Advisory Council Orientation (10:35am)

Scott Pavey gave an overview presentation about the Bureau of Land Management Spokane District. The presentation identified how much land the agency manages by county as well as common uses of public lands such as agriculture, timber harvest, energy development, and recreation.

Thomas Busker inquired if the BLM is actively acquiring land as part of its management strategy. Scott Pavey replied that the BLM does not envision the large land exchanges of recent decades to continue. Mr. Pavey described the BLM’s pattern of land disposal prior to 1980 and how that resulted in numerous unmanageable scattered tracts. Mr. Pavey explained that since 1980, the agency has acquired additional lands through land exchanges and purchases to create a

manageable district. Since the BLM has achieved its goal, large scale exchanges and acquisitions are not likely to continue in the future.

Scott Pavey discussed legal authorities and requirements for federal agencies to have advisory committees as described in the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), and the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose and need of the RAC, and its authorities and duties as laid out in the Charter were presented as was the concept of the Recreation Resource Advisory Council and the Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures under which the Eastern Washington, John Day-Snake, and Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Councils operate.

Charles Warner inquired whether there is still an official liaison with the John Day-Snake RAC. Scott Pavey replied that it was unknown and indicated that he would follow up on the subject.

Charles Warner inquired whether Service First creates differences in the RAC's responses to BLM management actions vs. U.S. Forest Service management actions. Scott Pavey replied that there are no differences in how the RAC provides advice to the BLM or the Forest Service.

Sharon Vore requested that more of the meeting's time be spent discussing the Eastern Washington and San Juan Resource Management Plan instead of RAC orientation.

RAC Orientation ended with the election of a Chairman. Charles Warner was reelected as Chairman.

Eastern Washington and San Juan Resource Management Plan Status (11:25am)

Scott Pavey gave a presentation on the Eastern Washington and San Juan Resource Management Plan. The presentation described the RMP as an umbrella action plan required by the Federal Land Policy Management Act that is being developed for BLM lands in eastern Washington and the San Juan Islands. The plan is a revision of a 1987 RMP which does not apply to the San Juan Islands. Mr. Pavey provided descriptions of the types of decisions typically found in an RMP and covered the planning process timeline.

Scott Pavey pointed out that the RMP timeline he presented is unofficial because the BLM Washington Office must approve an extension of the project for it to continue beyond this fiscal year.

Sharon Vore asked if the RMP could be cancelled for fiscal reasons. Scott Pavey replied that it could.

Charles Warner inquired about sending a letter of support for continuation of the RMP to the Washington Office. RAC members were supportive of the idea.

Thomas Busker inquired about the level of completeness by the end of the fiscal year. Scott Pavey said that the Draft plan would not be completed yet.

Norris Boyd made a motion for drafting a letter of endorsement for the continuation of the RMP. The motion carried unanimously.

Scott Pavey continued discussing the project timeline describing work that has been done to this point and what the future steps in the project are and what future opportunities exist for public input and review.

Thomas Busker asked if Federal Register notices are a means of public communication. Scott Pavey replied that they are in addition to newsletters, news releases, announcements made through the BLM Spokane District's website, and newspaper advertisements.

Scott Pavey then described the management goals and strategies for an RMP and how the plan aims to manage multiple resources for multiple uses while still maintaining healthy ecosystems. He also discussed how plans need to be periodically updated due to new issues or resource demands.

Discussion then focused on differences in the level of involvement between the general public and the RAC in regard to the RMP. Daniel Picard suggested holding RAC meetings specifically to have the RAC involved in the development of the RMP.

Scott Pavey continued to discuss the RMP's vision and goals and described the BLM's approach to having separate plans for Eastern Washington and the San Juan Islands due to the dissimilar characteristics and resource uses between the two areas.

Thomas Busker asked how the 1987 RMP would compare to the current range of alternatives being considered. Scott Pavey replied that a "no action" alternative would be considered, and is similar to of the Use-Emphasis action alternative currently under consideration.

Dennis Bly asked if this RMP is being compared to other RMPs. Scott Pavey replied that other plans in adjacent areas are being used for ideas and to ensure consistency.

Ivan Lines asked if every tract of land managed by the BLM will have a designation assigned to it. Scott Pavey replied that some designations such as those related to travel management would be universally applied while others would be more localized.

Ivan Lines asked if the RAC and the general public influence designation assignments. Scott Pavey answered in the affirmative.

Margaret Hartzell asked if travel management designates trails. Scott Pavey explained that the RMP will designate areas as open, closed, or travel limited to designated areas for motorized vehicles and will include interim designation of routes. After the RMP is completed, the BLM will prepare regional or site-specific Travel Management Plans to designate routes for the long-term.

Sharon Vore asked how the BLM's route designations compare to those used by the Forest Service. Margaret Hartzell replied that the Colville National Forest issues motor vehicle use maps that are updated annually and that the Forest Plan only makes broad travel designations.

Sharon Vore asked if there were any public comments from Odessa regarding travel in that area. Scott Pavey replied that there were no comments from the public and that June Hues (former Border Field Manager) had disapproved a designation for off road vehicle use in the Odessa area.

Norris Boyd inquired about the economic impacts to communities resulting from BLM land use designations. Scott Pavey replied that the economic impacts are being considered and that there will be a section in the RMP on that subject.

Future Resource Advisory Council Action (12:30pm)

Charles Warner raised the subject of the frequency of RAC meetings. Daniel Picard suggested that there should be another RAC meeting in the near future in order have a more in depth discussion of the RMP and indicated that its present phase is a critical time for RAC involvement and contribution.

Charles Warner asked for a show of hands to see how many RAC members went to the RMP public workshops that occurred in 2011. Two individuals raised their hands. He then requested that RAC members be provided with materials that would allow RAC members to become more familiar with the plan and be better able to make comments on it.

Sharon Vore suggested a meeting in Spokane that would involve BLM staff presentations to members of the RAC regarding the RMP.

Scott Pavey asked if it would be better to meet in April before the RAC sends a letter of endorsement for the continuation of the RMP to the Washington Office or if it would be better to do staff presentations in May. Charles Warner recommended waiting to schedule a future meeting until after the Forest Service had made its presentation.

Scott Pavey discussed the topic of RAC nominations.

Colville and Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forests Forest Plan Revisions (12:45pm)

Margaret Hartzell and Deborah Kelly gave a presentation about the proposed action and scoping phase of the forest plan revision underway for the Collville and Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forests.

Norris Boyd inquired about the statement the 870 coded comments that were received during scoping. Margaret Hartzell explained that comment coding involves taking similar comments on the same subject and combining them together into a single comment in order to make it easier to handle the approximately 25,000 scoping comments that were received.

Sharon Vore asked if there are any Memorandums of Understanding with other groups for support. Margaret Hartzell answered that there are MOUs with the State of Washington, various counties, and Tribes.

Scott Pavey asked if there are any cooperating agencies. Margaret Hartzel said that the State of Washington is cooperating.

Sharon Vore asked if the BLM has any MOUs for the RMP. Scott Pavey replied that there are MOUs with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Parks.

Norris Boyd sought additional clarification regarding comment coding and stated that the USFS appears to give the same amount of weight to one comment as it does to 25,000. Margaret Hartzell explained that the numbers of comments do not come into consideration and that a single comment on an issue has the same value as a large number of similar comments on the same issue.

Conclusion (1:20pm)

Charles Warner discussed future RAC meetings and proposed adjourning the current meeting. At 1:25pm the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in May with the date and location to be determined.