

Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque District Resource Advisory Council
December 17, 2013

RAC Members Present

Keith Banks
Jim Clary
Mary Helen Clary
Michael Coleman
Robert Moquino
Bob Nordstrum
Juan Vigil

RAC Members Absent

Ethan Giedraitis
Don Tripp

BLM Staff Present

John Brenna, Jr., Socorro Field Office
Danita Burns, Socorro Field Office
Kevin Carson, Socorro Field Office
Tom Gow, Rio Puerco Field Office
Chip Kimball, Albuquerque District Office
Angel Martinez, Rio Puerco Field Office
Mark Matthews, Socorro Field Office
Calvin Parson, Rio Puerco Field Office
Tom Phillips Las Cruces Field Office
Todd Richards, Albuquerque District Office
Allison Sandoval, State Office
Ed Singleton, Albuquerque District Office
James Sippel, State Office

Welcome & Introductions

Ed Singleton called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed RAC members and visitors. Staff and council members introduced themselves.

Ed spoke about his and Tom Gow's retirements January 3, and their accomplishments. He included establishment of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, designation of the Ojito Wilderness, and the unique sale to Zia Pueblo and the Bureau of Indian Affairs of about 11,000 acres adjacent to the Ojito Wilderness Area. Ed said those were the first Indian trust lands opened to the public in the U.S. He thanked RAC members for their input and guidance. He reminded the RAC that BLM's Albuquerque district interfaces with two-thirds of the state's population, so it faces challenging issues, including future urban interface with other cities, counties, tribes, small communities and subdivisions. Those issues would become even more complex with the demands being placed on public lands and resources. He said RAC members' backgrounds and expertise would be very helpful in addressing those challenges.

Tom Gow spoke about urban interface, and the issues arising for landowners and tribal members as members of the public recreate on what appears to be "open space." He said a lot of what's discussed in BLM meetings involves partners and adjacent landowners—those they need to contact and invite to participate in decision making. That approach is why BLM New Mexico has been able to accomplish innovative projects. New Mexico's population is not getting smaller, he said, so BLM is dealing with concerns in coordination with its partners.

Danita Burns agreed that these concerns will not disappear, which shows her that RAC participation is ever more important. BLM doesn't always know what's going on out there, she said. She asked RAC members to help BLM staff do their jobs even better.

Review of May 2013 Meeting Minutes

The May 2013 minutes were reviewed. RAC Chairman Bob Nordstrum asked for changes or corrections. Danita pointed out that Marc Wheeler's first name was spelled with a c rather than a k.

Motion

Michael Coleman moved and Keith Banks seconded to approve the May 2013 minutes as amended. Motion unanimously approved.

Chip Kimball reviewed the information packets that had been distributed, and asked RAC members for any changes in their contact information. She said the inch-thick Orientation Notebook included everything they might like to know about the BLM, and she thought all BLM staff should have it as a reference. Chip said there was one vacancy on the RAC. And she invited the RAC to take part in "Planning for Travel & Transportation Management" workshops in Socorro and Albuquerque in February.

Juan Vigil thanked Chip for the comprehensive minutes, which helped him because he wasn't able to attend the May meeting.

Review of Charter and Bylaws

New Mexico BLM Public Affairs Specialist Allison Sandoval spoke about RACs. She said she had recently transferred from BLM's Washington, D.C. office, where she oversaw nationwide RACs. Now she processes applications locally and works with the New Mexico RAC Charter. Allison said each council has a charter that is signed by the Secretary of the Interior, and expires every other June. BLM would receive copies of the new charter by the next RAC meeting. Charters explain RACs' authority as laid out in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Wherever BLM has lands in the U.S., RACs provide advice on any number of topics, as laid out in their charters. Each state also has its own standard operating procedures. She explained the categories of membership, established to insure diversity of opinion. Group 1 represents commodity interests, including federal grazing permittees, outdoor recreation interests, commercial timber, and energy and minerals. Group 2 includes environmental, archaeological, history and wild horse and burro organizations and interest groups. Group 3 represents public interest, including state, county or local elected officials, state agencies, Indian tribes, academicians and the public at large. RAC membership is for a three-year period with no term limits. She invited RAC input on the standard operating procedures, which are guidelines for how the state wants to run its RACs.

Bob Nordstrum asked about changing the definition of a quorum, which currently calls for a majority of each category to be present. RACs can meet without a quorum present, but would not be able to vote.

Election of Officers

Ed Singleton asked for nominations for 2014 RAC chairperson and vice-chair.

Juan Vigil nominated Bob Nordstrum for chairman. Michael Coleman seconded. Bob was approved as chair by acclamation.

Bob Nordstrum nominated Juan Vigil as vice-chair. Bob Moquino seconded. Juan was approved as vice-chair by acclamation.

Ed Singleton asked whether there were issues at national or state levels to be shared. Allison said generally one-third of RAC terms expire each year, so in September there would be two vacancies. The nomination period opens annually in February for 45 days. RAC members were invited to encourage anyone they thought would be good RAC representatives to apply. And those whose terms were expiring were welcome to reapply.

Tom Gow asked Allison to introduce the diversity of issues RACs were facing. Allison said RACs were established in 1995 to help with rangeland health standards. Then BLM decided it wanted to keep the RACs. From this RAC's charter she quoted the objectives and scope of activities: "The Council will serve in an advisory capacity concerning the planning and management of the public land resources located within the geographic area of the BLM Albuquerque District Office in the State of New Mexico."

That could be interpreted in any number of ways, she added. BLM asks RACs to review planning documents and fee processes, and to address planning issues. Farmington Field Office, for example, has controversial issues having to do with the oil and gas industry, so it could get input from its RAC on those topics. Input is most valuable as a two-way conversation, Allison said. We want you to be engaged in topics, and let BLM know if there are issues you want to know more about.

Ed said the next task after Resource Management Plans (RMPs) was travel and transportation management planning. So he too encouraged RAC members to attend the February training. He added that 78 lease parcels had been received for oil and gas reserves in Sandoval County.

Bob Nordstrum saw some drilling rigs on the back side of Nine Mile Hill. Bob Moquino thought that was on Laguna Pueblo land and the drilling was connected with water.

Ed said there was hearsay that Isleta Pueblo was interested in oil and gas and was working on a development protocol. There is potential in the Albuquerque district.

Danita asked whether changes of RAC rules were likely, particularly in the arena of quorum, because geography and weather make a quorum difficult to achieve in New Mexico. Allison thought there was probably no chance to change the rules for a quorum, but teleconferencing was encouraged. Someone on the telephone could contribute to the quorum.

Bob Moquino said some issues with mining interfere with sacred tribal sites. Tribes are fighting mining companies because those companies don't respect sacred sites. He wanted BLM to know that these issues will continue. Angel Martinez responded that the issue of sacred sites is under serious consideration and BLM is figuring out how to address what some tribes are requesting. BLM staff thinks this issue is very important.

Ed said dialogue had been opened and communication was essential. If tribes shared locations they wanted to protect, it would be kept confidential. And BLM could make arrangements, like altering leases. Bob Moquino said that would be very difficult, because some tribal information cannot be shared.

Tom Gow addressed drilling for deep water, with the issue of transferring water to places where it could be used. Infrastructure expenses and crossing numerous land boundaries complicate those issues. BLM will be a major player in that aspect.

Resource Management Plan Update

Angel Martinez reported on the Rio Puerco Field Office's draft RMP, with policy documents specific to trail management and transportation. He said some changes had been made to acreage between the draft and current time. It was a laborious technical process. The prescriptions had not changed. He hoped that by the second week in January he would be able to send it out. That draft would not be greatly changed from what the RAC reviewed in March. Albuquerque District Office was leader in this because of urban interface. Transportation issues are primary, so BLM is working with the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department. We don't have that much land but everyone wants it, Angel said.

The Upper Middle Rio Grande has had a more dramatic warming trend than the rest of the world, Angel continued. Water is becoming a limited factor for the West. What does that mean to us as land managers? This has become hugely complicated.

The state would get its final version of the RMP about the second week in January. Ed said they intended to get it to the public by the end of February, and BLM would have a workshop with RAC members to prepare for that.

Jim Clary commented on the fact that it takes eight years to prepare an RMP. The RAC ought to make a recommendation that that length of time is ineffective. By the time it's approved it's no longer relevant. He said he'd write a letter about it to the Secretary of the Interior.

Ed said he was in Durango in the early 1980s and they did one of BLM's first RMPs in 13 months. That was under a different set of planning regulations, he said. Comments from interested public increased exponentially, and comments come in from states as far away as New Jersey, and from other countries. Discussion.

Angel said the other issue was that demographics and number of resources had changed. In the past, locals might have gone onto BLM land to hunt or collect wood, but now with expansion of cities, further numbers of the population were interested, and resources were being used up. So how does BLM combine all the data and address all the interests of the public now? Many resources—water, land, air, oil and gas—are on public land in the West, where people also want to recreate. The issues are critical, take more time, and some people will always be disappointed. Angel said his goal is to determine the demographics and how to meet those needs. His field office got 6,000 comments on its draft RMP. He's not sure how to fix it. As a member of the public himself, he would not want his comments to be set aside.

Jim Clary agreed, but wants comments to come from people in the surrounding area. As it is, Angel's job is almost insurmountable. Keith Banks said public land interface is not relevant to him. He's been visited by one environmentalist and three hunters, and he's only 30 miles from I-25. His issue is grazing. Planning should be different for each of these spots. It has to be categorized, not all under one umbrella.

Angel said BLM inventories and plans by area. But right now, for example, everyone is fighting over the Rio Puerco—gravel, oil and gas, and recreation representatives. BLM tries to manage for the predominant interest, which is sometimes very difficult.

Mary Clary asked whether the national office knows these issues. Angel said he categorized those 6,000 comments and sent them to the national office.

Tom said his goal has been to finish an RMP in four years, but with changes with secretaries of the interior and new policies, the process extends.

Bob Moquino asked whether access was still an issue. Ed agreed that it was, and that was something the RAC could help with significantly.

Mary asked whether the RMP was dynamic. Angel said yes, to some extent. It could be revised and amended, sometimes necessitating public comment.

Subcommittees

Resource Management Plans

Ed invited further comment on RMPs. Juan Vigil asked whether RAC members might attend public comment meetings and Ed said definitely yes. Ed suggested that questions of making recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior be deferred to a committee and results be reported back to the full RAC.

El Malpais National Conservation Area

Ed said another area BLM has had issues with is the El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA). A Cibola County citizens group was responsible for establishment of the NCA, including budgeting for running that area, and funding and construction of a national visitor center in Grants. The citizens group dwindled, and has only two members left, who are in failing health. BLM is working with John Lujan at the NCA to get another friends group going. Ed asked whether there might be a role for the RAC to generate advocacy for that place. It is an intergovernmental operation shared by the U.S. Forest Service, Park Service and BLM. Dedicated funding for that center has been dropping off. Two critical positions are open but there is no funding to fill them. Bob Nordstrum thought they might go to senators as individuals. He asked for figures on the El Malpais NCA.

The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument out of the BLM Taos Field Office was added, and that one too is unfunded. Friends disappeared once the monument was established. Bob Nordstrum will talk about it to people he knows. Ed said besides funding, these places also need

management plans, including Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, where parking limits visitor numbers.

BLM is trying to acquire land by trade to complete a 20-mile section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

BLM will do archaeological work and a burn for the Black Mesa project on the back side of Mt. Taylor.

Forestry Work

Ed said fire is a very important issue and spins into several subjects. He sits on a governor's working group that meets quarterly to plan for woodland and forest areas. They are projecting to spend \$2 billion on firefighting in 2014, with significant threat to communities and to life. They are almost unable to deal with it. In North Idaho this year firefighters told communities they couldn't save them.

We need to figure out how to deal with this social/resource issue, Ed said. Trees burn down, blow down, or you cut them down. With drought, insects and environmental stresses, the forests are fuel sources. We need to thin, harvest and create products, jobs and electricity to benefit the public while protecting them. Danita said her office is working with Catron County and industry. We have the information needed to build wood-burning generator plants she said, so PNM is a huge potential solution.

Ed continued that we need to manage forestlands, protect communities and citizens, and leverage profitable products and jobs. BLM is working with counties, looking for champions, making agreements.

Bob Moquino said agencies need to sit down with tribes. And after fire comes the destruction of flooding, for example on Santa Clara and Cochiti Pueblo lands. Ed said there might be a need for a committee to address some of these issues.

Juan said he would miss Ed's passion and knowledge. The public doesn't understand, for example, wanting to save the tree but not aware of what was needed for the forest.

Todd Richards showed a map of the line between Cibola and Catron counties, Wild Horse Community. He said BLM was working with the Catron County Fire Chief, homeowners and homeowner associations, showing them how to, and even helping them to clear piñon, juniper and ponderosa from around homes, and to provide escape routes. They are building fuel breaks, with 300 homes and growing. Community wildfire protection plans are being updated with county, state and federal agencies. On the Malpais, there are multiple projects with partners—thinning, burning, leaving slash in the drainages to help against erosion, and selling the resulting firewood when they can.

The borders between treated and untreated lands are like night and day. Chip distributed a photo of land thinned and burned next to untouched land. BLM continued to meet with Acoma Pueblo about chemical pellets to kill brush and juniper, burning and escape routes. The issue is funding.

Ed said traditionally BLM has had about \$1 million for treating fuels, and now has very few dollars.

A 330,000-acre national conservation area (NCA) was shown on the next map. Todd said BLM has 45,000 acres planned for burning, with growing subdivisions. The strategy is to treat the north end of the NCA. There are 18,000 acres chemically treated and scheduled to burn in 2014. They're seeing mule deer and elk in burned areas because there's browse when the junipers are removed. Bob Moquino said the Acoma Reservation is overpopulated with elk. Todd said BLM is very interested in working with Acoma Pueblo. Ed mentioned BLM's very large masticator, and thought industry and communities would want to move up to that.

Ed said with Wilderness Alliance partners, BLM would continue to work with a landscape vision. There was discussion on the debris effect on soil and time for breakdown. The BLM masticator scatters widely, and scattered remains would be burned later.

Public Comment Period

Ed opened the Public Comment Period at 11:30 a.m.

Orin Safier, Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association & Las Placitas Association, said "New Mexico, Placitas, yes, New Jersey, no." He thanked and congratulated Ed Singleton and Tom Gow. He said as a community Placitas had a lot of access to BLM and that was unusual. Ed's and Tom's leadership made that happen. We didn't always agree, he said, but we communicated.

1. He was concerned about legislation on the Crest of Montezuma in the U.S. Senate and House.
2. Gravel mining was contentious, and Placitas was united against the mining and past lack of reclamation. For reasons of property values, etc., more mining was against all interests. He was glad to see Mr. Ortiz from San Felipe there because the Pueblo was also concerned about mining.
3. Pipelines were planned to go through a good portion of Placitas. The BLM Farmington Field Office determined that the pipeline would cause no significant impact. Placitas was concerned that an explosion or seepage into groundwater should have been taken into account. Farmington FO did not do an adequate job at assessing full impact to the community.

Ed responded that the Crest of Montezuma was there because the Albuquerque Field Office acquired it. He hoped that Sandoval County would be brought into the discussion because they still own a significant portion.

Tom said the legislation already has staff talking because the RMP might need adjustment. The information BLM has is available to be shared.

Ricardo Ortiz, San Felipe Pueblo, said he was thankful for the exchanges with Ed and Tom. The tribe closed on the deal with the Montezuma Crest. It involved significant areas for the tribe. While gravel mining would be financially helpful to the tribe, they are opposed to it because of wildlife issues. Wildlife was scarce in that area and the tribe was reintroducing wild game, using

the area as a sanctuary. It was also a culturally significant area, he said. The whole side of the Crest needed to be protected. This was very political. The tribe was trying to be neutral but that was difficult, with issues coming from all directions. The tribe wants to protect wildlife, and is trying to take care of the horse issue. They received hundreds of emails concerning horses, ranging from criticism to “let me help you.” Placitas had been working with them too, so they have that relationship and are trying to understand all aspects of this sensitive issue. The tribe would like to provide further feedback. He hoped their reports would be looked at and heavily considered. He said he works with the San Felipe Pueblo Administration to bring their message. They have the strength and wisdom to look at the issues honestly and fully. He hopes the working relationship with BLM and Placitas will continue with upcoming leadership. Communication, understanding and open mindedness will get us there, he said.

Ed asked Mr. Ortiz to take back to the San Felipe Pueblo Governor his congratulations on that land purchase. Tom will let the Governor know when discussions about the Crest take place.

Bob Moquino commended Ed’s land management approach for pushing the removal of tamarack at Acoma Pueblo. BLM provided free equipment and labor. Ed said Rio Puerco Field Office was working on removal of salt cedar, but ran out of funding. The Bosque del Apache Refuge lent them the equipment and labor, and Acoma Pueblo provided fuel. He thanked all involved for these good working relationships

Mariana Padilla from Congresswoman Lujan Grisham’s office greeted the RAC and BLM staff. She said Congresswoman Lujan Grisham was very interested in BLM issues and the RAC. Tom thanked her for attending the meeting, and said he would speak with her in response to her email.

Mary Clary asked how there could be a ruling of no impact on the Placitas pipeline. Ed said the ruling was “no significant impact.”

“How do you define significant, and for whom?” asked Jim Clary. People have to sit down and dialogue. You have to look at the risk. Ed said for that reason on major projects he is a proponent for doing Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).

Mary asked whether this would be revisited. Ed said this project was under appeal, so the organization could follow various paths, for example, defending its statement or doing an EIS. Tom said if anything happened in Placitas with any of these pipelines, the public would come in the door of BLM’s Albuquerque District Office, not Farmington Field Office—which decided this. He relies on the community to keep track of any trouble and notify the Albuquerque District Office.

Sandra Johnson said risk equaled the fallout after something happens.

Bob Nordstrum saw in the newspaper that the Kinder Morgan CO₂ Project wasn’t going to do loop lines. Ed said some loop lines were being done, but they might have moved some or not constructed some, for example, near the community of San Pedro.

The public comment period was closed at 12:01 p.m.

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks Fee Discussion

Tom Phillips, Las Cruces Field Office, distributed handouts on the Federal Lands Receptions Enhancement Act (REA), and the BLM fee proposals review and approval process. He explained that in 2004 the REA outlined how the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service would set up fees.

- The REA was set to expire in 2014, but now will expire in December 2015.
- The agencies authorized to charge fees under the REA are the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, BLM and the Forest Service.
- The REA brought consistency to how fees are applied.
- The REA's intent was to supplement funding needed to manage sites. Fees support maintenance, improvements, amenities and interpretive programs.
- The REA also determined that what's collected at a site is used for that site.

Tom outlined the types of fees for different kinds of sites, including no fee, standard and expanded amenity fees. The REA also addresses the sale of passes.

He discussed flow charts for the review and approval process. He said BLM needed to have a sense of public support to consider a fee increase. The BLM office would have to be able to show that to the RAC. Then RAC members, with a majority representing all three categories, would have to approve. If the RAC did not recommend setting or raising a fee, BLM could still set or raise fees—but with a written rationale to Congress for rejecting the RAC recommendation.

Bob Moquino asked about fees for tribal use of sacred sites on public lands. Tom said there is a provision for use of those lands by tribal members without a fee. Ed added that different sites have different requirements, for example, at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks it was agreed that military veterans would never pay for entry.

BLM considers public involvement in the fee-setting process essential. Tom Phillips reiterated that BLM must show public support of a fee. Clear notification of an explicit RAC agenda that addresses fee setting is vital to the process. Data gathered from visitors and public comment forms are used to inform the RAC in preparation for making its recommendation.

Bob Moquino asked whether there were flat rates, for example, for use of OHVs on public lands. Tom said the organizer of an OHV event paid \$100 for a permit, plus a percentage of entry fees. Outfitters pay a fee and 3% of gross. There is a set fee on standard amenity sites, currently \$5 per carload. BLM no longer issues a statewide permit. In Las Cruces, there are several sites near one another with repeat visitors, so one fee covers a year's use of all sites in that area.

The RAC will want to show its recommendation documenting support. Then BLM could apply that recommendation immediately. Ed said BLM has been talking with Cochiti Pueblo about this for a while. Cochiti Pueblo developed a short questionnaire for visitors to Kasha-Katuwe Tent

Rocks and has had 10,000 responses from users. The questionnaire asked, “Would you support an increase in fees? What amenities would you like to have added at this site?”

James Sippel added that the RAC would be asked for input not only on BLM sites but also on U.S. Forest Service sites in the area this RAC covers.

Ed said BLM staff has been working on proposed fees for a couple of years. He hopes to have new fees in place by January of 2015. BLM staff will have a proposal ready for the next RAC meeting, to be scheduled in May.

Updates on Lobos CO₂ Pipeline

Danita distributed outreach materials on the Kinder Morgan CO₂ Pipeline Project proposal. That pipeline will go to the oilfields in the Permian Basin. CO₂ is used in the oil fields to increase viscosity and make oil easier to transport. The proposal before BLM is for Kinder Morgan to build a 254-mile pipeline that crosses land managed by the BLM. Socorro Field Office has started meetings for the scoping period that ends January 29.

Socorro FO received an email from the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Office indicating that they might approve the line near Ramah. The biggest issue is that the proposed line also cuts across a lot of private land.

In scoping meetings held already, Danita said they had good comments and questions and a lot of people showed up. Meetings had been held in Quemado, Socorro, Roswell, Mountainair and Belen. Danita’s handout included how to make effective comments and a project timeline. She said BLM would look closely at environmental impact, including water, air quality, cultural resources, vegetation and wildlife.

Keith held up the map given to the RAC last May, and asked what prompted the changes. Danita thought cost was a primary reason for the changes, because this route cuts out 200 miles. Keith asked, “What happened to having one corridor where all this would happen?” Bob Moquino asked about damage that might be caused by burying the pipeline. Danita agreed it would cause damage. There are no prairie chickens or lizards in the area.

Keith asked, if this thing springs a leak would it impose a hazard? Danita had been told there were monitors along the pipeline. It was thought that a leak would start small and be quickly discovered. Ed said this company owns a lot of pipeline they’ve bought from others, but has not built its own lines. The company has had to be reminded that this is only a proposal, he said.

Ed said the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project is playing out in the newspapers. The military has taken a dim view of the final proposed route, and wants it moved north. An independent group would be evaluating the impact of the power line on military activities. What bothers Ed is giving the military control of land they have no control over. However, whatever route they want is probably going to be the route we get, he concluded.

Danita said a missile fell onto BLM Land. The military secured and cleaned up the area without informing BLM. Tom said two huge fuel tanks were jettisoned on BLM land. Bob Moquino said there are shells on the southern edge of Acoma land.

Subcommittees

Travel Management Plan

The travel management plan will involve interstate highways, state highways, county roads, and BLM-maintained roads. Ed reiterated that a committee addressing the travel management plan would be helpful. Chip read the objective of the Planning for Travel & Transportation Management workshop: “The instruction will enable the participants to better provide and improve sustainable access for public needs and quality experiences while protecting natural and cultural resources.”

Danita said the workshop would go through everything needed for a travel management plan. It’s about what lands are open and what lands are closed, best access and closing down alternatives.

Besides interstate highways, state highways and county-maintained roads, what other roads are necessary? Keith said as the population increases, wildlife disappears, and as drought comes and goes, controlled access is controversial—particularly for a public that hunts from a truck. He said in Jicarilla they closed off roads and took guns off the drivers servicing the oil wells, and wildlife exploded. He likes the idea of closing roads but keeping access open. He makes his roads difficult for trucks and ATVs to use.

Jim Clary suggested input from sportsman and hunting organizations. An all-roads-closed policy is wrong, he said. BLM should designate all-roads-open and decide what to close, rather than the other way around.

Ed clarified that lands had been closed, not roads. Discussion. Bob Nordstrum said the U.S. Forest Service was concerned about closed roads around Taos, but sportsmen are thrilled because wildlife has increased. Juan, Keith and Bob Nordstrum signed up to attend the Planning for Travel & Transportation Management workshops. Ethan Giedraitis also will participate.

Roundtable

Ed invited RAC members or BLM staff to share information.

Juan said newspapers had published articles concerning the New Mexico Land Commissioner wanting to purchase land, and hunters were opposed. Ed said he thought the land wasn’t purchased, it was given—which BLM cannot do. The issue is—if you give lands to the state, the county gets less income. In the past they compiled lists with the state of mixed ownership lands and the lists were extensive. BLM knows how to do these land exchanges, and has done a great number of them.

Tom said every acre of land in the Rio Puerco area has tribal connections. Ed added “or land grant connections.” Discussion. Bob Nordstrum said there were some private funds available for

access issues, for example, where there's BLM land behind private land. We're looking for people willing to sell or provide easement, he said.

Keith thanked Ed and Tom for their years of service to public lands. Tom said one of the pinnacles of his work was reintroduction of bighorn sheep. He thanked the RAC in return. Discussion. Bob Moquino thanked Ed and Tom for working with the tribes to get projects off the ground and get things done. Ed said he took pride in the people they'd hired who would continue to lead BLM into the future. Juan said he knew from personal experience that their interaction among agencies took a lot of work and created great opportunities for discussion and accomplishment.

Ed thanked Juan for his help and the continuing aid from Sandoval County. Tom said working with tribes was both challenging and fun! BLM had just signed a cooperative agreement with Santa Ana Pueblo to donate 700 tons of rock for Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks Monument, which would be transported by BLM and the county.

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.